

Van Tech PAC Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2021, Via Zoom

Upcoming meeting dates on the [website](#).

PAC Executive: Amy Chuang (Chair), Sharon Henderson (Treasurer), Kyla Epstein (Secretary)

Attendees: ~11 Van Tech Parents/Family Members

Guests: Robert Moro (Principal), Angela Bigioli (Teacher Rep)

1. Welcome & Introductions (Amy Chuang)
 - Land acknowledgement to honour the territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh

2. Chair Remarks, General Announcements, & Acknowledgements (Amy Chuang)
 - Welcome!
 - Always open to new ideas; please don't hesitate to reach out to us at chairvt@gmail.com

3. DPAC Announcements (Amanda Hillis, DPAC Vice Chair)
 - <http://vancouverdpac.org/>
 - You can sign up for the DPAC newsletter online and follow on social media
 - Any parent can come to DPAC meetings as an observer; see the calendar on their website
 - This week's general meeting will focus on Anti-Racism and will include special guest speakers
 - Lots of work on the Long Range Facilities Plan (LRFP); VSB passed it yesterday but without adopting DPAC's recommendations
 - Kyla / Comment: Kudos to the folks involved in DPAC who have done so much work to develop recommendations for the school board on how to improve the LRFP; very disappointing to see some Trustees vote to adopt it while voting against adoption of the DPAC recommendations

4. Treasurer's Report (Sharon Henderson)
 - \$49,000 available
 - Disbursed about \$4500 so far
 - \$21,000 already allocated but not expended
 - We will likely look at more requests in February

5. Teacher Rep Report (Angela Bigioli)
 - Thank you from teachers and teacher sponsors for the funding requests fulfilled
 - Music program with DSP, ski programs, etc.
 - So appreciative

- Requests getting ready for February
- Question: How are teachers doing at this stage?
 - All over the board
 - Expecting the move to one-week rotations
 - Some anxiety about other changes
 - Concerns about how to keep up with the sanitizing needs
 - Admin has been good with support and getting information out
 - Still some anxiousness
 - Hoping Q4 doesn't change, would be hard to see another change

6. Principal's Report (Robert Moro)

- Upcoming Q3 changes
 - Move to 1-week rotation (instead of 2-week cycle) of remote and face-to-face (F2F)
 - District is saying that door is open for Q4 changes; might need additional pivoting
 - Depends on Provincial Health Officer orders
 - During 'remote' rotation; three sessions – two interactive, one with social component
 - Many teachers were already doing that; may seem tweaks and new things introduced
 - For Grade 8s: two of those 'remote' sessions will actually become F2F; 3rd one up to teachers if it is remote or also F2F
 - At Van Tech; decided Grade 8s will come in on Tuesdays and Thursdays to avoid holidays/PD days
 - Again, 3rd one is up to teacher based on what is happening in course; teacher will inform students
 - Changes open the door to having more F2F for Grade 9-12; not mandated by district
 - Some teachers are having students come in, may see some increases there
 - Health & safety: continue to follow guidelines
 - Looking to maintain level of cleaning that currently have
 - Administration is looking at a schedule so that spaces can be targeted
 - Plan was endorsed by Vancouver Coastal Health and working with District on issues for specific departments/areas
 - High stress time for teachers; wrapping up Q2 getting marks done; extended timeframe for getting marks in and posting – likely around Feb 17th
- Other things going on
 - Grade 7 parents & guardians invited to info session on Feb 1st; Split up between French immersion and non-immersion; happening remotely
 - Jan 28th: course selection sessions happening online with the counselors

- Hoping to be able to deal with this by March Break, including cross-boundary applications so can determine enrolment
- Grade 10 numeracy assessment – started this week; shifted class times so make sure they can come in safely and do this
- Continue with breakfast club; thank you to Angela & leadership students who coordinate this
- Student Hub: students can get help
- Angela / some departments adjusting schedules
 - Leaving spaces empty if needed so cohorts don't cross
 - Move and shift spaces as needed
 - Teachers working hard to make adjustments so it stays safe
 - Basketball & badminton up and running for training – waiting to hear more about athletics so focusing on training right now

Q&A: Principal's Report

- Q: Will Van Tech be open or closed for cross-boundary applications for Grade 8?
 - Unsure as of right now
 - Could be that only siblings but still don't know
- Q: Any idea if planning next year with the quadmester (quarterly) system?
 - Number of administrators on a steering committee; I am part of it
 - Discussing what Sept might look like
 - Considering various models
 - Will need to be a model that can change/pivot based on pandemic situation
 - Looking to take best of old linear model and the model now of having students in fewer courses at a time and seeing what we can do
 - Collecting data as well to get information to make decisions
 - Also look at research on different models
 - No model is perfect
 - Confident that we will get one that maximizes learning
- Q: Is the Numeracy 10 assessment the same as the FSA exams from the province?
 - Similar type test but not part of the FSAs
 - Schools can use information to make adjustments on delivery on skills in mathematics
 - Required for graduation
 - Students can repeat it if they choose
- Q: When will the Literacy one be?
 - Looking at April
 - Also need to provide 'make up' and for Grade 11s that haven't written it
- Q: Will the new 3 remote interactions happen during the Flex periods? e.g. if the Face to Face Class is AM will the remote time also match and be AM, during Flex AM?
 - When we slice the class in half it doesn't work out perfectly because of the alphabet

- Looking at making timetable changes so they can be back to back
- So if in for F2F then in for remote in AM
- That's for Grade 8s
- If happens in Gr 9-12 then students may have to leave and come back
- Q: How was the decision made to move to 1-week rotation? How will this affect the ability to contact trace, especially with new more contagious variants of the virus?
 - Thought was that if have 2-week remote than there is an incubation period but at this point VCH are deeming it to be safe to come in weekly
 - Contact tracing so far hasn't shown transmission within the school; so far been due to community exposure
- Q: When will schedules come out?
 - Will put out a new schedule before Q3
 - Timetable changes only where needed
 - Figuring out attendance process

7. Announcements

- Looking for a new PAC Treasurer for the next year
 - Sharon (Treasurer) – moving on at end of year as child will be graduating
 - Hoping someone new will take on this role
 - Interested? Contact us! chairvt@gmail.com
 - Sharon can onboard you if you let us know before the end of the year
- Contacted by a parent group of children doing Option 4
 - Group mostly elementary students
 - If you're interested:
 - <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1epeScIg5Ib5Idwh5h5znb3ccb9Y0ggHEC8NC1tkANeY/edit?usp=sharing>
 - Support group for parents and students
- VPD School Liaison Officer Review
 - There are calls to remove these officers from schools due to the fear, anxiety and trauma that their armed presence provokes; especially for BIPOC individuals
 - The school board has hired a consulting company to review this program
 - If you want to give feedback please contact Trustee Chan-Pedley (lois.chan-pedley@vsb.bc.ca) and ask to be connected to the consulting company

8. Wrap Up & Adjournment (Amy Chuang)

- Please send us topics you'd like to discuss: chairvt@gmail.com

Next Meeting: February 23, 2021, 7pm, Zoom