

Van Tech PAC Meeting Minutes

February 23, 2021, Via Zoom

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

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

Attendees: ~10 Van Tech Parents/Family Members

Guests: Robert Moro (Principal), Sangeeta Kauldher (Vice Principal), Angela Bigioli (Teacher Rep), Nick van Iersel (Counselling Department Head)

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. Treasurer's Report
 - Mid-year funding requests from teachers/staff
 - Nine requests – *pasted into the Zoom chat*
 - 1. School leadership asking \$400 for materials needed to do a "healthy relationship week" in May
 - 2. Counselling & diverse learning asking \$750 to pay for materials for an art therapist
 - 3. Garden club \$600 (2019-2020: \$1100)
 - 4. Cinematique artist in residence for grade 9 Video class (virtual workshops) \$600
 - 5. DSP resource to support lunch time interaction for CS students/ EA Practicum students with the diverse learning students asking \$900 to buy games, material to help the interactions
 - 6. Indigenous Education asking \$500 for materials to do 4 focus days on Indigenous Awareness (2017-2018, \$2475), (2018-2019, \$2500), (2019-2020, \$415)
 - 7. Supplies (\$1000) for grade 8 Base as it is now open from Tue to Fri during flex times
 - 8. Robotics club asking \$3000 for equipment (2017-2018, \$1100), (2018-2019, \$900)
 - 9. Leadership & Resilience program asking \$1650 - for bus transfer between school and Camp Summit in Squamish
 - Nick van Iersel provided additional context and information for request #2

- Angela Bigioli provided additional context on requests #5, #7, #8, #9
- Currently have \$28,000 not allocated; this is an \$9,400 request package
- May we usually request more but we aren't sure what this May will look like
- Leaves us with some money (~\$15,000) going into next year
- We don't know what will happen with future gaming fun so healthy start for next year
- *Motion to approve the nine requests identified above for a total of \$9,400* M/S/C
- Additional request from Drama Department for \$600; allocated but now requested to be rolled over to Sept 2021 due to delay in delivery
 - For Artist –in-Residence
 - *Motion to roll over \$600 allocation for the Drama Dept to Sept 2021* M/S/C

4. 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
- My last year on DPAC – looking for more folks to join!
- Nominations in June for next year's executive
- This Thursday is a GM with a presentation on focus on mental health – link in chat if you'd like to attend
- Annual budget town hall will be in April
- VSB - lots going on with secondary program; discussed at last night's VSB meeting
- VSB SLO Review report coming soon
- VSB starting a new strategic plan process – will be reaching out to parents for input to this process

5. Teacher Rep Report (Angela Bigioli)

- Had Finance Committee meeting; went over requests to PAC
- Talked about gaming/PAC funds not able to be used for curricular activities
- Some lack of clarity around what qualifies/doesn't
- *Provided clarity: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/sports-recreation-arts-and-culture/gambling/grants/info-faq-pac-dpac.pdf>*

6. Principal's Report (Robert Moro)

- Q3 changes
 - Moved to weekly rotation
 - VSB asked that teachers engage with students at least three times during remote week; those three times should be interactive, including a social aspect
 - Gr 8: two of those three should be F2F (face-to-face)
 - At Van Tech we decided that Gr 8s would come in on Tues/Thurs

- Letter sent to VSB Superintendent from Deputy Minister asking VSB to revisit that plan
- At yesterday's VSB meeting, trustees asked that district collect data in regard to the changes made in Q3 – data on student performance, attendance, emotional health
- Trustees saying that if changes going to happen, will be evidence based
- Health & Safety protocols
 - All students & staff issued 3-ply masks
 - Reviewed all H&S guidelines
 - Masks to be worn inside school at all times, in all areas – some exceptions if students in specific spot or eating/drinking
 - At VT we have a strong culture around wearing masks; you would see almost all mask wearing
 - Sanitize upon arrival
 - If forget mask; can get one from office
 - Proud we have established this safe culture
- Events
 - Black History Month: displays up in building
 - Pink Shirt Day tomorrow
 - Math contest today; Canada-wide
 - VT virtual talent showcase coming up
- Course planning
 - Held virtual meetings for students & parents
 - Videos online if you missed it
- Report cards went out last week – available online; instructions for access emailed out
- Welcomed teacher candidates from UBC & SFU programs; supporting them in their learning; following all pandemic guidelines

Q&A with Mr. Moro

- Q: Grade 8s – all 30 kids coming in for flex time all together?
 - No, still half the class at a time
 - Made adjustments to their timetables so in for AM or PM and don't have a break between; F2F and flex back-to-back
 - Adjustments of student schedules only done for Grade 8s
- Q: If we got more F2F time; would that mean getting rid of 15 student class size?
 - Confusion around providing more F2F time vs. increasing more instruction time
 - Two flex periods so can use both for F2F
 - Wouldn't have to increase density in a class space
 - Could have more students in building
 - If went to 80-100% F2F then density would be an issue
- Q via PAC email: Is year-end date still June 29th? Will there be classes until then or time off for proficiency tests like in other years?

- Can be some confusion
- Used to have provincial exams near end of school year; there was flexibility for studying
- Not the case for this year
- Slatted to go right to June 29th
- Some discussion about how to provide teachers time to wrap up and generating assessment/report cards
- Might be a couple days where classes would be relaxed – come in to hand in things; write tests
- Still to be confirmed
- Will provide info as soon as we know
- Trying to organize grad as well; last year had to run multiple times on multiple days; trying to do it on one day this year; may have to be a Saturday
- Q via PAC email: Parents asking if administration realizes that some teachers are not doing any live remote sessions; pre-recorded
 - I am not aware of that
 - I would follow up with teacher around why that's happening
 - Supposed to be interactive
 - Please let me know if that is an issue; can send via PAC or contact me directly
- Q: Thank you for the work you and staff doing for students. Read that might let us know this Spring what next year (2021/22) will look like; is that still the case?
 - District currently collecting data from teachers
 - What cherish from previous years? What moving teaching & learning forward in current model? What do you want next year to look like?
 - Group of administrators working together to shape next year
 - Hoping that in April bring a model forward to the district level
 - Will help us build a timetable and plan for staffing and for student requests
 - Ministry could change things; depending on public health orders and pandemic levels
 - Trying to develop a model that is best for teaching & learning but also be aware of pandemic protocols
 - Able to switch gears easily to whatever Ministry asks
 - Go with what is best for kids; make changes if we need to

7. Open Discussion

- VT PAC & Anti-Racism work
 - Previously asked if there is a VT Anti-Racism plan
 - Mr. Moro
 - Have anti-racism code of conduct at VT
 - Training teachers district wide
 - District work being done
 - Revamped code of conduct available in schools

- Is there a school lead on this?
- Ms. Kauldher:
 - Similar to SOGI; teacher leads at each school
 - Trevor O'Rourke is our teacher lead for Anti-Racism
 - Working with teachers around the district
 - Have teachers group within school interested in this work; had workshop in fall as staff group
 - Another discussion during recent in-service; structured training
 - Leading anti-racism discussions for staff taking place; examine bias; trying to create safe space to have these talks; centre on what can do to support students
 - Few teachers working with elementary schools on anti-racism activities between students
 - Did an anti-racism “scavenger hunt” around the building to look at how to make it more welcoming; walk in and see presence of colonialism right away; like an audit....also doing with students
- Mr. Moro: Started a student forum as well to talk about what kind of school they would like to see; build into school growth plan
- We as a PAC also have work to do in this area
- Can communicate with other PAC
- Open to talk about this here and ongoing at meetings; also feel free to send in suggestions to PAC email

8. Wrap Up & Adjournment (Amy Chuang)

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

Next Meeting: April 27, 2021, 7pm, Zoom