

Van Tech PAC Meeting Minutes

April 27, 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
 - Interested in becoming an executive member? Let us know!

3. Treasurer's Report
 - Report posted on website: <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/vancouver-technical/Families/Parent-Advisory-Council/Pages/Default.aspx>
 - Currently have about ~\$10-12,000 to disperse in the next round; will look at this at the May meeting for items for the fall use
 - Heard that next year's gaming allotment will be the same
 - Have learned that we may not need a separate bank account for gaming anymore – looking at closing to save the fees

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
 - Executive meeting on May 6th – all welcome to come
 - May 20th – BCCPAC coming in to talk about parent advocacy and appeals process if you disagree with decisions made by teacher/principal/district; learn about Section 11 appeals; learn about parent and child rights
 - May 27th – DPAC general and a focus on Asian Heritage and Eliminate Hate: <https://www.eliminatehate.org/>
 - BCCPAC AGM coming up and parent conference coming up at end of month – check out what they are doing: <https://bccpac.bc.ca/index.php/conferences1/conferences>

- Currently serving on committee looking at Framework for Enhanced Student Learning; comes from a ministry directive

5. Teacher Rep Report (Angela Bigioli)

- Thank you for funding provided
- Seeking some clarification – for May PAC meeting – requests are for September use?
 - Yes
- English Dept member request – Ashley Adamson – here for request for Q4
 - Hoping to make hallways more creative spaces
 - So many grade nine English classes this quarter
 - Bring them together, along with Summit 10
 - Have them bring up favourite novels
 - Paint each locker as spine of the books
 - Hope is that other wings of the school will take this up and paint lockers in themes of subjects
 - Some delay in getting the lockers ready; some funding has come from Principal's budget; also waiting to hear about funding from Home Depot
 - Hoping PAC can support this as well
 - Total costs for 150 lockers would be about \$2000; still needing \$1500
- *Discussion & questions*

Motion: To fund \$1,250 to the English Department for locker painting as spines of books M/S/C

6. Principal's Report (Robert Moro)

- Q4 changes came into effect today
- Had some students lost but found their way
- Grade 8/9s coming in every day and have option to attend both AM & PM
- Grade 10-12s – option of coming in on Tues & Thurs during flex time; teacher has option to have them come in or do a remote lesson
- Q3 marks coming out on May 3rd – published to MyEd
- Decided on grad dates – June 16/17, over two evenings – similar to last year and looking at streaming live
- Week prior is a Grad Week with some events for Gr 12s
- Student Council doing a drive for families in need
- Fine Arts week with various activities
- District announced looking at semester model; all depends on situation with virus
- Last night VSB passed motion to end VPD School Liaison Officer program; will lead to some changes; “hope VSB & VPD can redesign another program”
- District announced administration moves for next year; Van Tech affected – Sonja is becoming a Principal (Hudson elementary); we will get Richard Edge as a new VP, he is currently a Counsellor at John Oliver

- *Q: For Grad fee, what are we getting? Is it the same fee as a typical year?*
 - Decorations, photo, streaming, recording, gown, etc.
 - Typical year wouldn't have filming but would be in a different venue
 - Costs of streaming balanced out to venue

- Special topic #1: School Growth Plan (Sonja Rondestvedt)
 - Hoping for feedback from parents
 - *Slide deck*
 - Growth plan was inherited by current administration
 - Currently have eight goals; typically, only focuses on 2-3
 - Themes within current goals
 - Students participated in online forum on growth plan and filled in surveys; students gave some great input on both content and survey design!
 - Interesting to be reading feedback
 - Also staff/teacher feedback
 - Got examples of how existing goals are living out
 - Trying to drill down to 2-3 goals
 - *Shared some of the survey feedback; questions included: Do adults in the school treat all students fairly? Is school a place where you feel like you belong? At school, how many adults do you feel care about you?*
 - See that many students feel a sense of belonging and being treated fairly; also learning that students may not know adults well but many remote
 - Also got feedback from staff on prioritizing current goals – top ranking including fostering a sense of belonging; alleviating stress/anxiety; and creating a culture of care
 - Now coming to parents for feedback – link will go on website and come out in school communique: <https://forms.office.com/r/jSxV8SRX6k>

- *Q: How does this data compare to the Grade 10 Student Learning Survey data for Van Tech?*
 - Pulled some questions from there and broadened it to other grades
 - Grade 10s felt less of a sense of belonging than current 8/9s – interesting because we really focused on them because joining in a remote/pandemic year
 - Still getting more data coming in so sifting through it
 - Were surprised how much Gr 8s have created an online community this year; believe this added to their sense of belonging

- Looking forward to hearing input from parents!

- Special topic #2: School and Course Fee Schedule; 2021-22
 - *Shared on screen*
 - Basically staying the same except Flex Humanities program; weren't certain if big field trip will happen, will deal with it if/when it happens
 - District just sent out an email and can communicate to parents

- Note that planning on phasing out agenda book with move to electronic use
- If can't provide services/events due to pandemic we won't charge for them

Q&A with Mr. Moro

- *Q: Any word on Gr 9 immunizations*
 - Unfortunately, still hadn't been contacted
 - Expected to hear from VCH about pop-up
 - Still haven't heard anything
 - If you do have a family doctor; suggest you contact them
 - Could roll this year's Gr 9s in with next year's if needed
- *Q: Any update on the new track being put in by the city?*
 - Ongoing project, Athletic Director working with them
 - Not sure about timeline but project is going ahead
- *Q: What impact will the SLO decision have on Van Tech?*
 - Won't know until look at it more closely
 - Understand that VPD might have SLOs not be in schools but be connected and supporting schools
 - VPD also run number of programs that support students; not sure which ones will continue
 - Don't want to be presumptuous; up to VPD to decide what services will offer
 - Will impact the school from impact of having SLO there to talk to students, mentor them, and provide them with feedback; also does that with parents; one thing for students to hear from counsellor or administrator and another thing to hear from SLO; believe it is going to be a negative impact; time will tell; hope VSB can work with VPD and RCMP to support kids
- *Q: Heard VPD talking about sex trafficking in schools; are we actually seeing that? Issue at Van Tech?*
 - No; not aware of any direct association to our school
 - Sometimes see students need some kind of support
 - Lucky but doesn't mean not out there in community
 - Always need to be attentive to what's going on
- *Q: Any issues with VSB budget, any impact on staffing? Get more folks in? Worried about losing staff that run specific programs?*
 - This point getting course requests in order
 - Now starting to allocate blocks of time to cover
 - Will take shape and then determine need for courses, teachers, etc.
 - Getting our staffing this Friday so we can know what changes/adjustments need to make
 - For both teaching and school-based resource
 - Understand it is going to be tight across the district
 - So far don't see losing any specialized teachers or putting programs in jeopardy
- *Q: Will classes go right to June 29?*

- Marks due a bit sooner but classes will be in session
- Figuring out last couple days if need to help students wrap up items
- Might be adjustment to schedule for that if needed
- *Q: When will Q3 final marks to on MyEd?*
 - May 3rd is the goal
 - Gave teachers some extra time and extra time for students to hand in materials
- *Q: If VSB comes up with a schedule for linear classes in semester model? Have you discussed what might be linear/full year model?*
 - Meeting tomorrow to figure out details and also waiting for District to give information on linear courses but also something like this year's "flex time"
- Once we know then we can discuss as staff to see what courses would best be linear

7. Open Discussion

- *Discussed the end of the SLO program; shared variety of perspectives*
- *Discussed keeping PAC meetings online even after the pandemic to make it more convenient; maybe occasionally do in person to socialize and meeting each other*
 - *Have guests, presenters, etc. to drive up attendance*

8. Wrap Up & Adjournment (Amy Chuang)

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

Next Meeting: May 25, 2021, 7pm, Zoom