

Van Tech PAC Meeting Minutes

May 25, 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), Sonja Rondestvedt (Vice Principal), Angela Bigiulli (Teacher Rep), Nick van Iersel (Counselling Department Head), Liz Krieg (Indigenous Education Teacher), Jelana Bighorn (Teacher), Trevor O'Rourke (Teacher)

1. Welcome, Chair Remarks, General Announcements, & Acknowledgements (Amy Chuang)
 - Land acknowledgement to honour the territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tseil-Waututh
 - Welcome!
 - Always open to new ideas; please don't hesitate to reach out to us at chairvt@gmail.com

2. Treasurer's Report

- Update on current status = \$19,000 remaining for this year
- Shared screen & posted in the chat – *summary of items requested and PAC executive recommendation to fund. Provided background on asks.*

Funding Requests for Fall 2021:		Asking	Suggsted Approval	
1	Here4Peers Sep-Jun	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	
2	Boys Group Oct-Jun	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	
3	Breakfast of Champions Mar-Apr	\$ 600.00	\$ -	<i>Table until October</i>
4	Golf Team Spring '22	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	<i>Table until October</i>
5	Music Dept Sep-Jun	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -	<i>Table until October</i>
6	Safe Teen Oct~	\$ 10,972.50	\$ 3,500.00	
7	Math Contest Sep-Jun	\$ 1,153.00	\$ 1,153.00	
8	Outdoor Ed Fall	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	
9	Library	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	<i>Table until October</i>
10	Music Therapy	\$ 900.00	\$ 900.00	
11	Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROV) Club	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,500.00	
12	Indigenous Awareness Events	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	
13	Diverse learning	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	
14	Indigenous Learning Murals	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	
15	Leadership	\$ 900.00	\$ 900.00	
16	Diverse Learners	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 1,600.00	
17	Annual bursary	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	
18	Annual scholarship	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	
		\$ 44,275.50	\$ 15,603.00	

- Given current allotment – don't have ability to fund full ask
- Total suggested amount more than usually approves in May but currently sitting at \$19,000
- Want to keep some money to carry over to next year
- Also usually approve the \$500 bursary and \$500 scholarship
- Total amount would be \$15,603

- Notes:
 - #13 – Program to make rocket launchers, part of STEM program, for supplies
 - Sonja / #16 - Diverse Learners - Sensory equipment for multiple learners in various programs.
 - Nick / #1 – Here for Peers went well even with COVID
 - Nick / #2 – Focusing on diverse students; food – good way to coax them to attend
 - Nick / #3 – This year had about 33 teachers nominated students in covid version; decided to do gift cards instead 100x\$10; teacher made \$300 donation; hoping next year to be in cafeteria
 - Nick / #6 – can follow up more later – the \$10K+ is the all-in costs – 660 kids experiencing Safe Teen; couldn't do it with grade nines; did approve us with \$1500 earlier, hoping to carry over; would be doing this year and next year's 9s; Rob confirms can move ahead with the program

Motion: To approve the funding requests as outlined above

M/S/C

3. Presentation: Liz Krieg (Teacher)

- *Slide show: Indigenous Awareness Events & Skateboarding*
- Provided background
- Events during week of June 21st
 - Morgan Guerin
- PAC support been key
- Why Skateboarding?
 - Aligned with work being done by Push to Heal: <https://vimeo.com/281117753>
 - Embodied way to learn and heal from trauma
 - Doing after school drop ins for this on Wednesdays; going well; open to all (after sign waiver)
- We were hoping to take kids to Camp Summit but couldn't due to COVID
- Hoping to use funds to initiate a program at VT
- Connecting with Nation Sea Skate and Writer's Exchange – see what kind of programming can do

Motion: To approve redirecting the \$800 previously approved for Camp Summit to this program M/S/C*

**NOTE: At the time of the meeting it was thought that the amount previously approved was \$800. After the meeting it was revealed from checking previous records that the amount was actually \$1060.50. The Executive confirmed that there is sufficient funding so will uphold the full \$1,060.50 and redirect that amount to the skateboarding program.*

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
 - Wrapping things up for the year
 - This Thurs. – GM and marking Asian Heritage Month, EliminateHate will be doing event – register on DPAC website!
 - Working on succession planning
 - Check out the upcoming calendar
 - VSB voting on budget tonight
 - Capital plan stuff coming up at VSB as well
 - Join DPAC to find out more; can even just attend and listen

5. Teacher Rep Report (Angela Bigioli)
 - Seeking some clarification
 - When Nick asked about SafeTeen program – was awarded \$1500 back in October; combined into tonight's \$3500?
 - Yes
 - Met with finance committee; will look at PAC requests and see how things are going
 - Trying to align up with PAC meeting timings
 - Set timeline for next year for request reviews? More clarity will help with that.
 - *Typically, we know about gaming by end of September*
 - *Usually do first financing in October for 2nd semester use*
 - *Jan we look at March-June usage*
 - *May we look at Fall term*
 - *Some that we typically do*
 - *Let us know if term model doesn't work anymore if want us to move to semester funding review*
 - Thank you to funding provided!

6. Teacher Guests: Equity & Inclusion Work at Van Tech (Jelana Bighorn, Trevor O'Rourke)
 - Things have changed in our environment and important for us to adapt
 - Trevor; School level
 - Teacher affinity groups running; creating safe space for folks are less likely to be directly retraumatized; work through strategies; allies can figure out how to support; lots of resource sharing including increased professional development
 - Jelana
 - BIPOC – Black, Indigenous, People of Colour; One way to provide an umbrella term for folks who are non-White
 - Have BIPOC space; not about having the same experience but space to connect

- Also White Teacher Affinity/Ally groups meeting
- Trevor
 - Bunch of interdisciplinary stuff going on
 - E.g. Psychology teacher reached out about how to decolonize psychology as area of study; looked at resources and see how can apply it in meaningful ways; also done collaboration around science stuff; looking at languages around gender expressions have changed over time within language
- Jelana
 - School Social Justice club looked at decolonizing the space itself
 - For Indigenous students – the trauma of what happened at residential schools is deep; unfortunately, VT looks like that old infrastructure; murals coming into the spaces; celebrate contributions of learning made by BIPOC folks
 - Bring in new stories – Metis folks, champions for justice, etc.
- Trevor
 - Crew of teachers helping students build the process of it; moving towards more input being provided
 - Increasing representation in our public spaces – displays, main foyer, etc.
 - E.g. Black History Month displays; announcements for Ramadan; etc.
- Jelana
 - Different folks talking on celebrations
- Trevor
 - Also thinking about next steps
 - Continuing decolonization of spaces and representing more diversity in the physical space of the school
 - Building vocabulary throughout the staff and student population
 - Been discussing having PAC help out with having presenters to come into the classes and provide an honourarium; no Dept has allocated funds for this; wondering about a PAC-funded speaker series
- Jelana
 - Fast paced times and a lot of information in this area; often folks can feel scared to do that work; being able to bring in some experts from outside; teachers can see it modeled in front of them; could come back to PAC with formal request
- Sharon
 - In past – decide how much would pay per speaker and how many speakers per year and then ask for the lump sum
- Jelana
 - Lots more happening; gaps but trying to create scaffolding spaces
- Kyla
 - Q: How do you balance doing this work with having a sense of togetherness or connection for BIPOC folks but also not ignoring the realities of the differences between the groups? E.g. Today is the 1-year anniversary of George Floyd's

murder, this is a day when the school should be specifically recognizing what it is like for Black students and staff

- Jelana
 - Shouldn't be ignored that experiences are different even when different kinds of experiences occur across groups
 - Population of school is predominantly Asian; Asian Studies courses regularly full!
 - How can we meet needs of different groups...knowing we haven't met all
 - Hearing from students is really important in this
- Trevor
 - Grapple with this a lot – how to do this in a way that allows students to be expressed individually but also reflect how to use privilege to bring folks up
 - Scaffolding questions with students; prepare to talk about this stuff with power, privilege, positionality
 - Start by making it accessible and can share experiences
- Kyla
 - Q: Great to hear about decolonizing and increasing representation in the space. Have you talked at all about using Indigenous language for signage inside the school?
- Jelana
 - Hadn't talked about this but this matters
 - English can never capture this true beauty of this land
 - The local language was designed for this land
- Sharon
 - Q: Does VT have Indigenous name? Saw this happen at another school.
- Jelana
 - Used to have mascot – been removed
 - Conversation will need to happen for this
 - Interesting information came out about George Lister – founder of school – important to look at relationship to that history
- Liz
 - Having Morgan & Shane involved in the school is important for this
 - Process is one of trust
 - Need to make sure done in relationship and in build strong connections
- Kyla
 - Do you have a story you would be willing to share with us about this work that is important for us, as parents, to know?
- *Jelana, Liz, Trevor - Shared a personal story each about what this work has meant to them in their work at VT*
- Amy
 - Thank you for coming tonight; hope you'll come back
 - Each have stories to share!

- Would love to be more involved in VT's work in this area

7. Principal's Report (Robert Moro)

- Thank you to Jelana & Trevor for insights; always impressed with everything happening behind the scenes
- Inclusion & equity going to try and address and weave into School Growth Plan
- School Growth Plan update
 - Thank you for participating in the survey
 - Top three themes (for both parents and students): alleviate stress and anxiety; engaging students in learning and planning for future; foster sense and belonging
 - Teacher top three were similar
 - District has informed schools that can move current growth plan forward to next year but we are going to make some changes based on input from the surveys
- Held Virtual Talent Show last week
 - Great job by the students; congrats to the winners
 - Always amazed at students
 - Hopefully can do it live next year!
- Update on semester model
 - District going to semester model
 - Got details in timetable – will have two sessions called “FIT” – flexible instructional time (50 min) on Tues (wrapped around 1st & 2nd periods) & Thurs (wrapped around 3rd & 4th periods) – opportunities to get ahold of their learning
 - Could have assemblies during that time or make up tests; students could stay longer in electives and work on projects
 - Still look at school specific timetable
- Preparing for grad – pods of students; repeat throughout the timeslots; will decorate and have events related to grad; photo opportunities
- Mid-quarter reports will come out on June 4th and then final marks around June 29th
- Update on RV situation along Slokan; City of Vancouver is helping those folks more away from the site; will update parents through a letter home; there may be protests so consider using the west side of the school instead

Q&A with Mr. Moro

- *Q: Pushing out content to let kids/families know that about vaccine eligibility?*
 - Letter went out to families
 - Providing info when asked
 - Can talk more with VPs to push out

8. Elections for PAC Executive (2021-22)

- Thank you to Sharon for years of being Treasurer!

- Shawna Deagle interested in joining as Treasurer
- Kyla willing to continue as Secretary
- Amy willing to continue as Chair but it will be last year as child is graduating

Motion: To approve Shawna Deagle as 2021-22 PAC Treasurer and Kyla Epstein as 2021-22 PAC Secretary

M/S/C

Motion: To approve Amy Chuang as 2021-22 PAC Chair

M/S/C

Motion: To approve Amanda Hillis as the Van Tech DPAC rep

M/S/C

9. Open Discussion

- Thank you from Sharon to school administration for support for child
- PAC thank you to Sharon for years of being Treasurer
- PAC thank you to school administration and staff for this unusual year
- Mr. Moro thanks to the PAC

10. Wrap Up & Adjournment (Amy Chuang)

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

Next Meeting: September 2021 - watch for dates on the [website!](#)