

**David Thompson Secondary PAC  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, February 16th, 2021**

**Attendance (via Zoom):**

- 7 PAC executive members (Regina, Manjit, Altan, Ian, Noor, Melody, Amy)
- 1 administrator (Principal Lopez), 1 Teachers' representatives (Persis Hui)
- 17 parents participating as Zoom attendees

Called to order at 7:00 pm by PAC Chairman Regina Prakash.

**Approval of previous PAC meeting minutes (January 19th, 2021):**

Motion to accept by Altan, seconded by Ian Macdonald. Minutes were approved.

**Principal's update (Mr. Lopez):**

- During the last week of January the school conducted the numeracy assessment for a number of Gr 10 students, as well as a catch up Literacy assessment for those students who might have missed it. This ensured that the students satisfy the Ministry's graduation requirements.
- Q2 (Quarter #2) ended and Quarter 3 (Q3) began. On Feb 1, 2021 the program changes for Q3 at David Thompson were laid out in a letter to parents, guardians and caregivers as pertains to the School District's announced changes to the educational program for your child beginning at the start of Q3.
- School staff went through the procedures required during a typical earthquake drill (students taking cover beneath desks etc.)
- Black History month was recognized in the school with some teachers relating this through lessons
- The District is now planning for next year, and consulting with stakeholders to determine what form next year's school schedule will follow. Nothing has been decided as of yet, much will depend on vaccination rollouts etc.
- Q2 report cards were released in MyEd beginning Feb 18<sup>th</sup>
- During the months of February and March, all grade 10 and 12 David Thompson students completed the Ministry led 2021 Student Learning Survey, giving the students an opportunity to provide feedback to the school of things that they like, concerns they might have etc.
- Students' Council has been running some events through Teams to help students feel more engaged
- The school has started connecting with neighbourhood catchment elementary schools to provide information for next year's new Gr 8 students
- There is a Grad committee working on the grad hoodie. The committee is still waiting for direction from the Ministry regarding what can be done as far as a ceremony. It will be dependent on the provincial health officer's guidelines. The school is thinking along the lines of the ceremony they ran last year.
- The VSB has hired an independent company to review the Vancouver Police Department's deployment of personnel who act as SLO's (School Liaison Officers) in Vancouver's schools. Trustees will review information and recommendations before making their decision. DT's officer is Constable Chan. The principal has seen firsthand the work Constable Chan has done at David Thompson in connecting and communicating with students. She's worked really

hard to build relationships with everyone in the building, including those students who may not at first have welcomed her presence in the school.

- School athletics haven't opened up due to the current health and safety guidelines. We're still in the same holding pattern that we've been basically in since September.

This past year has been extremely challenging for the entire DT school community. The principal noted the extra effort that teachers have made identifying students who may be struggling and in need of extra attention. Staff as well supported the Christmas hamper drive, and the NFL's Sock and YWCA's drive efforts. Alumni have also stepped up in a great way to help where they can. This positive energy in the school has been really appreciated.

Let's continue to pull together as best as we can to support one another and our children, and all school staff by remaining **Caring, Compassionate and Kind**.

The PAC is here to support the school staff and the students in any way or place where energy and resources are needed. Tough times don't last, but tough humans do. **Keep Hanging in There, Everybody!**

#### **VSB Staff Liaison Update from Persis Hui:**

Three ply masks were received from the district. We're still doing the regular hand sanitizing. The students are used to the safety protocols when they enter the classrooms. They understand that not only does it help keep their peers safe, but it also keeps themselves safe.

#### **PAC Treasurers' Update:**

No updates on the Treasurer's end other than waiting for some receipts from the some of the other committees to be submitted

#### **PAC Chair's Update:**

We still have a lot of receipts that we haven't received yet that need to be paid, so staff is asked to submit these ASAP.

We do have funds that we can still allocate. Another notice that will be forwarded to the staff for any requests and then we will review those. Ideally this should happen before spring break so that the PAC can complete the review it and then get the funds ready

#### **A Reminder**

Vancouver Coastal Health offers free youth clinics and youth counseling for those who need it. See VCH's website (vch.ca) for more information on which clinics offer these services, hours of availability etc.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:00 pm

**Next Meeting: Tuesday April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021**