

Van Tech PAC Meeting Minutes

September 28, 2021, Via Zoom

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

PAC Executive: Amy Chuang (Chair), Shawna Deagle (Treasurer), Kyla Epstein (Secretary)

Attendees: ~15 Van Tech Parents/Family Members

Guests: Robert Moro (Principal), Sangeeta Kauldher (Vice Principal), Richard Edge (Vice Principal)

Regrets: Angela Bigioli (Teacher Rep)

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

2. Treasurer's Report (Shawna Deagle)
 - Getting familiar with the financial situation as take on the role
 - Waiting to hear from BC Gaming about this year's grant
 - Still have some disbursements to
 - Have ~\$19,000 carry over from last year; due to some activities not having taken place
 - At May meeting [received series of asks](#) and granted some while tabling others
 - Will have fulsome report at October meeting once we have a better idea of what funding for this year will be

3. DPAC Announcements (Amanda Hillis, DPAC Rep for Van Tech)
 - Used to be on DPAC executive; now on BCCPAC executive
 - DPAC had general meeting last week focused on new education plan; you should have a survey about the development of this new plan
 - Setting up a PAC 101; dates to be announced
 - Advocacy around masks; VSB voted to put masks in for K-3
 - <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

4. Principal's Report (Robert Moro)
 - Message from Angela (Teacher Rep)
 - Seeking clarification of teachers requesting funds from PAC for "FIT" time; could be classified as extra-curricular

- Seeing direction on this to see if possible
- This year...
 - Masks worn in school with some exceptions such as eating
 - Organized cafeteria to demarcate clear seating and then move folks on so others can use the space
 - Of course there is time being spent in hallways
 - Regularly reminding them that masks need to be on unless eating
 - Semester structure in place; four courses in each half of the year
 - From student perspective, hearing that generally like that format; time will tell
 - Teachers overwhelmed; new format; some don't have prep period
 - All-in-all; smooth start to start of the school year; still working out some timetable issues
- Welcome to Richard Edge, new VP
 - Came from John Oliver, was a Counsellor
 - Going to cover health and safety and Ed Plan

Richard Edge

- Excited to join VT community
- Focused on health and safety measures
 - Many are a continuation with absence of distancing but still encouraging spacing and using outdoor spaces
 - Overall students seem excited to be back
 - COVID-measures are part of health and safety but also connection and relationships are part of wellness
- VSB Ed Plan Outreach
 - Most families should have received email from VSB re: development of 2026 Education Plan
 - 2021 Education Plan coming to an end; used to be called "Strat Plan"; now "Ed Plan"
 - Provides continuity to the district
 - In information gathering process; survey for staff, parents, and one for students
 - Important for community to voice their needs
 - New addition – PACs can have a collective voice; PAC can put forward thoughts as well
 - District-wide plan but take the goals/tenants and personalize/adapt for Van Tech
 - There will be a second round of input later in the year once goals have been drafted
 - Deadline for the survey is October 11, 2021

Robert Moro

- Important to give input on that Ed Plan – five-year plan and many initiatives will look to that plan for guidance
- Sangeeta Kauldher here to talk about FIT

Sangeeta Kauldher

- In addition to change to semester model; VSB introduced Flexible Instructional Time (FIT) sessions
- Each school using different model
- VT surveyed parents, teachers, students to see what VT model would be
- Two different types of FIT
 - Extension – stay in class longer; different learning opportunities (e.g. longer lab, etc.)
 - Student Choice – students get variety of options and can sign up for something; could be curricular or might be extra-curricular; based on student interest, teacher passion; will evolve over semester
- Today was first Student Choice; had about 65 choices – e.g. knitting, 1:1 teacher support; Intro to Arabic, etc.
- Getting feedback as we go and will evolve model; seemed to be a buzz around the school
- *Question: Once a student signs up; do they do that activity for all the FIT sessions?*
 - Choices could change or might be offered again
 - Some are multi-session – e.g. Foodsafe certificate
 - Gives students way to connect; belonging
- *Question: Are activities across the grades?*
 - Some were but not all of them
- *Question: How can parents see list of activities?*
 - Posting in student hub in Teams
 - Can also put a sample in next newsletter
- *Comment: Great way to see teachers in a different light and see what else they have to offer*
- Agree; some students have also volunteered to lead sessions; hope to get more student involvement
- *There were a series of positive comments in the chat about student choice FIT.*

Rob Moro

- Commend staff and also great way for students to connect with each other and also with other teachers
- Research shows that building resilience is to build more connections with adults in the school
- Allows teachers to share their passions

- *Question: Who supervises the activities and students if a teacher isn't leading the activity?*
 - Yes, student will be supervised
- Similar to a student wanting to start a club; with teacher supervision

Q&A with Mr. Moro

- *Q: Will there be a parent teacher meeting this year? If so, will they be in person or by Zoom with teachers?*
 - We believe they will be in-person, masked
- *Q: Will there be more clubs this year?*
 - Clubs are active
 - Building a list right now
- *Q: What is happening with the trip to Strathcona for Grade 12*
 - At this point being asked not to do overnight trips
- *Q: Will report cards be paper or online? How do you access if don't have a copy of last year's reports?*
 - Report cards are online
 - Grade 8 & 9s have one format; more descriptive; senior grades get letter/percentage
 - To access last year's reports – can contact the grade-based counsellor or the record clerk in office and can get a copy emailed
- *Q: Is there a reason there are no microwaves in cafeteria/lunch room?*
 - Good question – will look into it!
 - Will see what happened to them
- *Q: Is there a PS4 in BASE space?*
 - Space attached to cafeteria; originally designed for grade 8s; looking at how to build access in for others
 - The space is being remodeled
 - Building in more activities
 - Don't think there is a PS4
- *Q/C: Looked at funding and saw SafeTeens; would be great o fund! Last year was tough year; incidents in past year; lots of exposure to online content; would be great if mandatory for all kids.*
 - Yes; last year Grade 9s didn't get to do it so looking at bringing program to both Gr. 9 & 10
 - Gr. 10 in Nov and Gr. 9 in April
- *Q: Will there be Grade 9 vaccination clinics offered? And will last year's grade nine's be included?*
 - Yes; will be sending out dates
 - Dec 8th for Grade 9s & 10s and then back up on March 1st
- *Q: Why are the lockers done by student sign-up instead of assigned? Causes some stress for students.*

- No perfect opportunity
- Provide students opportunity to get close to their classmates or their classes
- Two years ago put Gr 8s closer to homerooms but this year we were told we could use lockers only Fri before school opened
- Only have 1300 lockers for 1600 kids so went by grade (8s up to 11) then Gr 12 hallway
- Not perfect – tried for manageable
- *Q: With no longer rotating schedules? How will culinary arts work with helping out in cafeteria?*
 - That was tricky but think we have a solution; teacher making arrangements for group of students to start earlier and then other group to start later so overlap between lunch so can experience prep, serving, and clean up
 - Vending machines back and active
 - Staggered to allow for full student experience
 - Five blocks of foods in Semester 1 in P1, P2, P3 and in Semester 2 in P1 & P2
 - Students get to cycle through experiences
 - Sliced up semester into different pieces
- *Q: [SACY](#) – any changes?*
 - Same staff as last couple years; not feeling a staffing crunch there
 - Not sure what parent outreach will be taking place
 - Hope they can offer services through PAC meetings
 - Just confirming
- *Q: Can we get more information about the cafeteria card? is there a minimum of \$100 to be loaded?*
 - Lunch program prorated on monthly amount
 - Told to the office and then card giving to the student
 - Looking at cards that can be pre-loaded with certain amount of lunches – e.g. 20 lunches which would be \$140, \$7 per lunch; would allow for hybrid model
 - Will be testing next week and then can sell them
 - Lost card would be like losing cash; generally will replace, could be a fee but students will not go without lunch; could deactivate the card

5. Open Discussion

- Will look into SACY coming to a future meeting
- Will also look into inviting school nurse
- We have been discussing inviting various teacher departments to give us updates on different areas of the school
- Any requests for future PAC meetings?
 - You can also email us with ideas at chairvt@gmail.com
- *Q: What is DPAC PAC 101 workshop?*
 - Geared for parents – you can look under ‘resources’ on DPAC website

- How PACs are run and related discussions
- BCCPAC also updating their materials in this area
- *Q: Hoping for more information around Indigenous education and truth & reconciliation education? And anti-racism? What is there for parents?*
 - Unsure what DPAC planned for speakers; they usually do offer speakers/workshops, will get announced; DPAC has an anti-racism DPAC Slack channel you can request to join
 - We can bring in speakers in these areas for the PAC meetings as well; we can look into this for future meetings

6. Wrap Up & Adjournment (Amy Chuang)

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

Next Meeting: October 26, 2021 - watch for dates on the [website!](#)