

Van Tech PAC Meeting Minutes  
November 22, 2022, via Zoom and in person

PAC Executive: Lindsie Tomlinson (Chair), Tina Kaminski (Secretary)

PAC Members: Van Tech Parents/Family Members; Amanda Hillis (Van Tech Rep to DPAC)

Van Tech Staff: Robert Moro (Principal)

1. Welcome, Introductions, Chair Remarks, General Announcements & Acknowledgements (Lindsie Tomlinson)
  - a. Land acknowledgement to honour the territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh
  - b. Welcome!
  
2. Accept the October 2022 minutes (Lindsie Tomlinson) M/S/C
  
3. Treasurer's Report (Shawna Deagle) – N/A  
Shawna was stuck in traffic and unable to attend the meeting
  
4. Teacher Rep Report (Angela Bigioli) – N/A  
Angela is sick and unable to attend the meeting
  
5. Funding Requests – review and allocate (All)
  - a. Money from the Student and Family Affordability Fund will be used to fund some of the requests made by teachers.
  
6. Principal's Report (Robert Moro)
  - a. Everything Rob will discuss is in the family bulletin that was sent to families on Nov 21.
  - b. Parent teacher conference will be on Dec 1 and in-person.
  - c. Looking for feedback from parents regarding the actual distribution on report cards. Are parents looking at the report cards? Feedback on electronic vs paper report cards.
  - d. Grade 9 immunization on Nov 30
  - e. Grade 12 grad photos between Nov 29-Dec 4 through Artona
  - f. Grad winter formal/dance on Dec 14.
    - i. Student and families have to sign code of conduct.
    - ii. Organized by the grad committee as a fundraiser
    - iii. Funds go towards subsidizing prom/dinner & dance at year end
  - g. Student and Family Affordability Fund
    - i. Ministry provided districts in BC with funds to help families with expenses
    - ii. District has provided schools an amount somewhat prorated to the population of the school
    - iii. Van Tech received \$100,000 to offset items for families like fees, to support families with food or support or provide specific students who may need clothes or glasses. Examples include soccer pleats and subsidized bus passes.

- iv. If families would like support, contact the student's counsellor who will triage and determine if the fund can help.
  - h. FIT is occurring on Tuesdays and Thursdays
  - i. Question from attendee about whether the Student Learning Fund can go towards lunch subsidies. Rob says yes.
  - j. Every year there is a hamper drive where families are provided with food hampers. The Affordability Fund can provide some support. We are already up to over 100 families this year.
  - k. Breakfast Club in the morning that serves over 100 students. Looking at expanding access to snacks after school.
- 7. DPAC Announcements (Amanda Hillis)
  - a. Amanda attended the BC PAC DPAC summit. Adding material for Grades 11 and 12 about sexual health and consent
  - b. Anyone can attend the DPAC meetings
- 8. PAC Bylaws/Guiding Principles (Shawna Deagle) – N/A  
Shawna was stuck in traffic and unable to attend the meeting
- 9. School Liaison Officer (SLO) Program (All)
  - a. Shahira Sakiyama:
    - i. After this new election, the trustees have made a motion to reinstate SLO program
    - ii. Several schools have been organizing and creating joint statements (e.g. Laura Secord)
    - iii. There is sentiment that a lot of racialized students don't feel safe in the schools with these representatives in the school.
    - iv. There are also testimonies from people who did benefit from the SLO program.
    - v. Asked if the VT PAC would sign the petition that was provided to the PAC Executive last week. Lindsie noted that we wanted to add this topic to the agenda as we were unable to speak for 1,600 students and parents.
  - b. Patricia Mortenson:
    - i. From someone who works in the child health system, they strongly felt that police officers are not the right professional to be in a child and youth system and that money should go to other professionals who actually have training on how to support children who are trained in child development and child social issues.
    - ii. Would advocate that there be more counselling services. There are only 5 counsellors at Van Tech.
  - c. In-person attendee:
    - i. Asked Rob what is the purpose of the SLO and the program in the school?
    - ii. Rob indicated there are multiple reasons and it ranges anywhere from making connections with students and helping them make good choices. Some students would rather approach an SLO than a staff at school with issues. Other students

will provide information or rumors. SLO can triage a situation that could escalate through the justice system. SLO can promote programs.

- iii. What is Van Tech's experience like with the program? Is it positive?
  - iv. Rob noted that it depends on the student as he is not privy to all the conversations.
  - v. If this board decides to put the SLO program back in, do the individual schools have any right of refuse?
  - vi. Rob noted he doesn't know how long it will take so he can't answer the question.
  - vii. Would it not just be exactly in the same form?
  - viii. Rob noted not necessarily
  - ix. Amanda noted that everything needs to be renegotiated. The motion that the trustees have put is to start consultation with the idea that it would be implemented next September. They would likely have a new memorandum of understanding.
  - x. Rob confirms that he doesn't know if he will have the right of refusal.
- d. Shahira Sakiyama:
- i. The release that the trustees sent yesterday is about how they intend to reimagine the SLO program
  - ii. Looking to see if anyone would be willing to sign and add their name to the document and pass that to the trustees before their vote on the 28<sup>th</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup>.
  - iii. Asked Rob what was the experience like between having and not having an LSO program. Did you feel a void in their absence or you feel there are services were filled in through a different format?
  - iv. Rob indicated both scenarios happened. It was taken care of through our safe and caring department and there were situations where it would have been advantageous to have a police officer due to timing (non-emergency line waits can last hours)
- e. In-person attendee:
- i. Previously when the SLO was in place, how often were they in schools? Is it full time? Is there an officer at school all day every day? Is there a phone number to call the SLO?
  - ii. Rob noted that typically the officer is shared. Officer is in and out but can be contacted on their cell if there are schools. Officer does not have office hours. Part of the role is to connect with the kids. They might show up at an assembly or hang out in the hallway.
- f. Email from parent who was unable to attend tonight:
- i. Consistent evidence that they may cause more harm than do good to BIPOC students
- g. Brandon Steele:
- i. Is a parent of a student, former school liaison officer and was head of the school liaison program
  - ii. Funding for the SLO program does not detract from other programs as it is a service provided by the Vancouver Police Department.
  - iii. It was a well-established program that had been around for 47 years.

- iv. Not an enforcement role; it is a safety role. It is a connection piece as in police officers are connecting with members of the community.
- v. Heavily supported by members of the BIPOC community, visual minority groups and other minority groups.
- vi. Likely will not come back in its former state. Police department would be very open to adjusting it
- vii. Asked parents who are putting out evidence-based arguments to provide that evidence
- viii. Shahira asked what training do officers get before going into schools
- ix. Brandon noted there is a 5-day dedicated course to connection building and resource building. There is a competition to be an officer and have to demonstrate skills and commitment to youth and community. Also, they go through a 5-day intensive program through the Canadian Police College which covers de-escalation and tactics. Officers also have to have an understanding of the use of the Criminal Justice Act.
- x. Amanda asked if officers are trained in restorative justice?
- xi. Brandon indicated that the police department have been doing a 2 day online program in terms of restorative justice.
- xii. Shahira asked if it includes trauma-informed approach, mental health needs or cultural sensitivity?
- xiii. Brandon indicated that the police department go through mandatory training every year. Just completed this year another component of sensitivity training and understanding traditionally marginalized community

#### 10. Open Discussion

- a. Shahira asked Rob how things are opening up again this year. Is there a process around accessibility to the auditorium? For example if we wanted to do a fundraiser in the auditorium, what is the process?
- b. Rob noted that if it is a PAC event, then Adam Turnings is the Vice Principal who looks after booking the school. He would need to make arrangements with rentals, not because of the cost, but for insurance purposes.
- c. Amanda asks to confirm that the school does not have a movie license.
- d. Rob noted that depending on the movie and whether you are charging to watch the movie, there are rights we need to be careful with.
- e. Sammy asked if they prefer food for hampers or dollar donations
- f. Rob noted that they prefer dollar donations through Cash Online because it goes a lot farther in terms of purchasing goods. He will ask Nick to send notices out.

#### 11. Wrap Up & Adjournment (Lindsie Tomlinson)

**Next Meeting: Tuesday January 24, 2022 @ 7pm in the library and online via Zoom**

Meeting ID: 837 5709 4015

Passcode: 406248