**Van Tech PAC Meeting Minutes**

**October 22, 2024**

**In person in the library and online via Google Meet**

PAC Executive: Lindsie Tomlinson (Chair), Arvind Ghataurah (Co-Chair), Julie Cole (Treasurer), Pam Dean (Secretary), Kelly Hamilton (Communications/CPF rep), Debbie Henry (DPAC rep), Ruby Langan & Angela Ruth (members at large)

PAC Members: Van Tech Parents/Caregivers & family members

Van Tech Staff: Robert Moro (Principal)

Meeting start 7:09 pm

1. Welcome and introduction by Lindsie Tomlinson, PAC chair

*We live, work, learn, and play on the unceded and traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and sel̓íl̓witulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations*

1. Accept September minutes (Lindsie Tomlinson)

Motioned, seconded, approved

1. Treasurer’s report (Julie Cole)

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| Van Tech PAC Account (Funds from the Gaming Grant) |
|  | Account Balance as of August 1, 2024 | 19,161.33  |
|  | Less Approved Disbursements from Previous Year | (5,284.25) |
|  | 2024 - 2025 BC Gaming Grant  | 32,060.00  |
| **TOTAL** | **45,937.08**  |

There is $19,161.33 left from last year’s gaming grant in the bank account.

$5284.25 is outstanding (owed to the school from last year’s funding allocations). New 2024/25 incoming gaming grant will be $32,060 and is expected in the next several weeks.

1. Principal’s report (Robert Moro)
* Tomorrow (Oct 23): photo retakes
* Nov 7: caregiver-teacher conferences; those with specific invites can book now; booking opens for everyone Oct 28
* Oct 29: Post Secondary Institution Day; various post secondary schools in attendance, providing information
* Self-reflections to be done by students (all grades) in November. Students need to reflect and put a goal in place for core competencies. This year it will be moved from the Teams platform to Spaces. Allows students to keep track of things they are proud of/doing well (portfolio); an area to write reflections and goals. Mostly electronic but paper option for those that need. This will continue throughout the school year (total of 3 reflections throughout the year). There will be communication to parents when this needs to be done. FIT freezes (a Tues or Thurs FIT where students stay with third period teacher) will be used to help students do this. Students can include things happening in their lives outside of school. Will follow from year to year.
* Athletics in full swing
* Professional Development Day this Friday Oct 25; students do not attend school this day
* Theatre company performance Nov 6
* Halloween fashion show (catwalk, judges, prizes) on Oct 31.
* Mental Health Family Night on Nov 19 at 7pm in the auditorium, organized by the counselling team (‘Screenagers Next Chapter’ film viewing with Q&A). An email was sent with further info.
1. DPAC update – Debbie Henry was the only DPAC rep in attendance. No update as of yet but there is a DPAC meeting Oct 30.
2. Funding requests
* Went through a general summary of last year’s spending allocations in terms of what departments were funded and what percentage of the funding they received
* The PAC does its best to distribute funds to as many factions of the school as possible.  Last year, 21 different departments received PAC funding with the top three being the music department (27% of total funds), the library (12%) and the curling club (10%)
* The balance in our account is $45,937.08. Half of the money can be allocated now (approx $23k), leaving the remaining half for requests received for the second semester (to be allocated at the Feb 25 PAC meeting).
* Went through all the current teachers’ requests one by one. The total comes to just over $31k so we cannot fund everything now.
* Made a note of those requests that are dated for the second semester and will defer those to semester 2 funding allocation.

**Discussion around funding decisions:**

* It was noted and agreed that we should not put personal biases into funding decisions as to what gets funded and what not
* It would be helpful to have a breakdown in the request for how much money per student that benefits from the funds (was noted that, for example, the cost of ice rental for curling is quite large and only benefits a small number of students)
* Was also questioned why we do the funding allocation twice per year rather than just once at the beginning of the year. Mr Moro explained that as we now have a semester system, it is sometimes hard to predict what will come up in the second semester. Changing to allocating all funds at the beginning of the year would require a discussion with teachers and would not be able to be implemented for this school year.
* It was mentioned that it would be helpful, at the end of the year/semester, to get feedback from the programs we funded to see how the PAC funds have benefited the students. Would help make decisions going forward.
* To not bias decisions, one suggestion was to take a set percentage off all requests to fit our budget. Some requests are only asking for partial funding and are doing some of their own fundraising to support costs. Do we give less to those not doing their own fundraising? Too difficult to go through all the requests and make these decisions.

**Summary of Funding Decisions:**

After removing all the requests that were for later in the school year (to be deferred to next funding allocation in February) and giving the library half of the requested budget (it was a full-year request; the remaining half can be discussed for next semester), it left us with requests totaling $24,104.31. We motioned to fund all of these requests. It was noted that this is the maximum amount of funds we are giving. The actual numbers often come in slightly lower so it should leave enough funds for the second half of the year.

Approximate allocations for the $24,104.31:

* 26% to the School Growth Plan for a school foyer mural created by BIPOC artists. More info here:<https://www.canva.com/design/DAGTM2DNdvY/DQyw6dXfAG-82j5Ck2u7IA/view?utm_content=DAGTM2DNdvY&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=editor>
* 23% Athletics
* 17% Music
* 10% Indigenous Department
* 9% Library
* 7% Clubs
* 6% Counselling Department
* 2% Grade 8 BASE space
1. Follow up from last meeting discussions

Parents have set up a Facebook group entitled “Van Tech Families” and can find info there, post questions, etc.

Meeting adjourned 8:40pm

Next meeting: November 26 at 7pm in the library and online