

Van Tech PAC Meeting Minutes
Wednesday September 24, 2025
In person in the library and online via Google Meet

In attendance:

PAC Executives: Lindsie Tomlinson (current Chair); Arvind Ghataurah (current Vice-Chair); Julie Cole (current Treasurer); Pam Dean (current Secretary); Kelly Hamilton (current Communications and CPF rep)

PAC Members: Van Tech Parents/Caregivers & family members, in person and online

Van Tech Staff: Roberto Moro (Principal); Leanne Hagglund (Van Tech teacher rep); Mr. Robin Roberts & Ms. Kristen Quesnelle (Indigenous Education Team)

Meeting start 7:05pm

1. Welcome and introduction by Lindsie Tomlinson, PAC chair

With deep gratitude and respect, we are honoured to be learning and unlearning on the ancestral and unceded lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) & salilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

2. Accept minutes from last meeting, May 2025

Motioned by Julie, seconded by Kelly. Accepted.

3. Introduction and update from the Van Tech Indigenous Enhancement Workers

- Robin Roberts (enhancement teacher; rroberts@vsb.bc.ca) and Kristen Quesnelle (enhancement worker; kquesnelle@vsb.bc.ca) support Indigenous students and families at the school.
- There are close to 100 Indigenous students at Van Tech
- Once per month, they have organized a 'coffee morning' to help Indigenous families connect with the school, in the All Nations room (320). These are casual gatherings, meant to create a safe space and sense of community.
- Another project they are working on is with the Museum of Anthropology (MoA). At a field trip to MoA last year, some students were able to gain a connection to their backgrounds in a way they don't usually in school. MoA is collaborating and helping to bring Indigenous belongings into the school to help students learn more about their background and a connection to their culture.

Discussion:

- PAC can help share information about programs available for Indigenous students and families
- Hoping to increase engagement of Indigenous families while being aware of some family's apprehensive feelings around school (from history of residential schools)
- How can the PAC encourage more Indigenous involvement on the PAC? Once the coffee mornings become more established, someone from PAC can attend. Someone from family morning could come to PAC, online if that feels more comfortable.

4. Introductions and General Remarks from the PAC Chair – Lindsie Tomlinson

Overview of what the PAC does. Biggest thing we do is to allocate the gaming grant money. The school receives the money based on the number of students in the school. Teachers submit

funding requests to the PAC. The requests for Semester 1 will be discussed and voted on at the October PAC meeting and Semester 2 requests at the February meeting.

We also try to create a space for parent involvement and a school community as well as student welfare.

We are always happy to have parent volunteers take on new projects, suggest ideas for parent workshops and expand what the PAC can do for the school community.

5. Financial update – Julie Cole

- Last year we had \$51k in gaming funds to allocate (\$19k leftover from previous year and \$32k in 2024/25 funding). The current balance remaining from that is now \$14k. However, \$13k of that was approved/allocated but has not yet been dispersed. Some receipts are still coming in. The actual balance could be as low as \$1,223. We will find out more in the next month.
- New gaming grant money for this year (approx. \$31,000) expected in the near future
- Bursaries were something no longer allowed under the gaming grant. We did a small fundraiser through Donald's market to cover two \$500 bursaries to graduating students. We also provided treats for the teachers at an end-of-year coffee morning. Balance in the general account is \$396.
- Full financial report amended to the end of the minutes

6. Principal's Report – Roberto Moro

- Reminded parents that research shows when parents get involved in the school, not only is it beneficial to your students but also to the school as a whole
- 1570 students this year (1620 last year). The trend is for the enrollment to drop slightly. Gaming funds will be affected as they are based on enrollment numbers.
- Around 100 staff. All positions filled.
- It has been a smooth start to the school year.
- Activities: Summit students at Timberline camp this week; some PE classes are doing kayaking field trips; student council is very active (spirit week this week); student council elections for grade 8 rep will be announced this week.
- Go Cards were given out this week. These are used for general ID, for taking out books in the library, ID at Van Tech events. Photo retakes will be on Oct 29.
- Clubs Day will be Thurs Oct 2 in the cafeteria at lunch time. Students can go check out all the clubs that are at the school. Grade 8s will all go during the afternoon FIT on that day.
- A lot going on for the Grade 12 students. Look at the Grade 12 channel on Teams for info.
- Canadian Universities event on Mon Sept 29 for Grade 11 and 12 students
- September 30 is the Day for Truth and Reconciliation. No school that day. There will be assemblies on Sept 26th
- The first learning update will be published on MyEd on Oct 9
- Earthquake drill on Oct 16

Question: Is it only the choice programs that have field trips? Mainly, yes (for longer / overnight trips). The PE department does do one-day (Deep Cove kayaking, sailing). Up to teachers to take on a field trip.

7. Teacher representative update – Leanne Hagglund (school counsellor)

- The school has in the past put on several Family Nights. These were based on the 'Screenagers' trilogy

- Goal is to have an event for families to come to the school and also for helping families navigate parenting in the digital world (dealing with screens/social media and the teenage years)
- Building from past events, the school counselling team are planning 2 upcoming Family Nights. Dr Suzanne Simpson will be leading them. She was a panelist at the last Screenagers event in May. She is an educator and a parent who has done her doctoral research on youth and mental health.
- First event will be Thurs Nov 27 at 7pm in the school auditorium. Topic will be discussing how parents can support their child's mental health in today's world, understanding your child's mental health, and strategies to get 'on your child's turf', with tangible action items and tools for parents
- The second event will be sometime in May. Topics centered around how to show up for your kids and build trust.
- 2 hour events. There will be emails and promotion leading up the events with invites being extended to other schools. Parents will be asked to RSVP to get an idea of numbers.

8. PAC Executive Elections

The following were nominated, seconded, and elected:

Chair – Lindsie Tomlinson

Vice-Chair – Kelly Hamilton

Treasurer – Julie Cole

Secretary – Pam Dean

DPAC (District PAC) rep – Shakirat Kareem

Members at Large – Arvind Ghataurah & Claudine Matlo

DPAC rep is voted in by secret ballot. They are the go-between from the District PAC and the school PAC. Each school can provide one rep who can have a vote on issues, etc. DPAC general meetings are once per month online.

9. Closing Remarks

To get in touch with the PAC, email questions, comments, and suggestions to chairvt@gmail.com

There is a Van Tech family Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/vantechfamilies>

This group was just started last year and we are hoping it will start to get used more

Next meeting will be for funding allocation for Semester 1 and will be on Tues Oct 21 at 7pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12pm

Van Tech PAC Financial Statements

2024 - 2025 School Year

September 24, 2025 PAC Meeting

Van Tech PAC Gaming Account

Account Balance at August 1, 2024	19,161.33
2024 - 2025 BC Gaming Grant - Received November 2024	<u>32,060.00</u>
Total Gaming Funds Available for 2024 - 2025 School Year	51,221.33

Gaming Account Disbursements

August 2024	-
September 2024	-
October 2024	-
November 2024	4,384.25
December 2024	-
January 2025	8,465.01
February 2025	-
March 2025	
April 2025	4,229.32
May 2025	5,737.84
June 2025	14,117.05
July 2025	
Total Gaming Account Disbursements	<u>36,933.47</u>

Van Tech Gaming Account Balance at July 31, 2025	<u>14,287.86</u>
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Gaming Funds Approved (but not Disbursed) for 2024 - 2025 School Year

August 2024	
September 2024	
October 2024 (\$24,104.31)	4,668.68
November 2024	
December 2024	
January 2025	
February 2025 (\$20,558.99)	7,445.40
March 2025	
April 2025	
May 2025 (\$950.00 for September 2025)	950.00
June 2025	
July 2025	
Total Gaming Funds Approved (but not Disbursed) for 2024 - 2025 School Year	<u>13,064.08</u>

Total Gaming Funds Available	<u>1,223.78</u>
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Van Tech PAC General Account

Account Balance at August 1, 2024	855.96
General Account Disbursements	
August 2024	-
September 2024	-
October 2024	-
November 2024	-
December 2024	-
January 2025	47.90
February 2025	-
March 2025	
April 2025	(869.10)
May 2025	57.02
June 2025	
July 2025	1,223.50
August 2025	
Total General Account Disbursements for 2024 - 2025	<u>459.32</u>

Van Tech PAC General Account Balance at July 31, 2025, 2025	<u>396.64</u>
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Total PAC Funds Available for Disbursement at July 31, 2025, 2025	<u><u>1,620.42</u></u>
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