**Van Tech PAC Meeting Minutes**

**Sept 17, 2024**

Approximately 26 parents in attendance in person plus more online

Van Tech Staff: Robert Moro (Principal)

Meeting start 7:05pm

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. Principal’s report (Robert Moro)

* Call out for parent involvement, encouraged parents to have a say
* Introduction of new personal electronic usage rules (students are not to have personal devices on during class time). Easing into this. Parents to be mindful of not contacting students during class times (we can call the office if we really need to contact a student during class time). Lenient between classes if using, for example, to sign up for FIT.
* FIT (Flexible Instruction Time) – Mon/Fri morning FITs are less rigid but Tues/Thurs afternoon FITs have to be signed up for (i.e. with a class teacher, library) and students must not just be hanging out in the hallways, etc.
* Many forms that parents need to fill out at the beginning of the school year are now online (e.g. Media consent and yearbook consent forms). Note that if you don’t consent to the yearbook photo, your child’s photo cannot be in the yearbook.
* Please visit <https://myforms.vsb.bc.ca/> and enter your child’s PEN and birthdate to give consent (or decline) for each form.
* Parent asked whether it is still possible to get last year’s yearbook. Suggested to contact the teacher in charge, Nigel Reedman [nreedman@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:nreedman@vsb.bc.ca)
* Breakfast club: Room 215 every morning. They keep track of how many students stop by and what grade but do not keep track of who comes by. Bagels, milk, juice to grab. Q from attendee about how it is funded? Funded by Vancouver Sun (adopt-a-school). Fruit is supplemented by Firefighter fund.
* Students do better in school if they feel connected to the school. Options: sports, clubs, volunteer. Athletics for the fall has started. Clubs day on Oct 3 in cafeteria to see all the clubs available.
* ProD Day this Friday Sept 20 (students do not come to school this day)
* Collaborative days (first one was yesterday Sept 16). Teachers work on various initiatives and programs. Chance for staff to meet and collaborate. Students do not attend either first period or last period.
* Family Affordability Fund. Government is providing to schools to help families pay for things that involve learning (school supplies, fees, field trips, athletics, almost anything happening with the school). Good to get word around to families that this is a new initiative and available.
* First semester parent-teacher conferences will be Nov 7

1. Financial update (Julie Cole) – Full update planned for next meeting. We have money left over from last year’s gaming grant and will find out beginning of October if we get this year’s grant.
2. PAC Executive Elections (led by current chair, Lindsie Tomlinson)

* PAC in high school is very different from elementary school as there is no fundraising involved. We (hopefully) get a gaming grant every year and decide where that money goes, based on requests from teachers in each semester. The rest of what we do is up to us (guest speakers, etc).
* Intro to the Van Tech PAC and what positions are needed on the PAC executive
* Noted that there currently is no teacher rep on the PAC but Angela Bigiolli (last year’s rep) will still collect teacher’s requests for funds
* The following were nominated, seconded, and elected:

Chair – Lindsie Tomlinson

Co-Chair – Arvind Ghataurah

Treasurer – Julie Cole

Secretary – Pam Dean

Communications Coordinator and CPF (Canadian Parents for French) representative – Kelly Hamilton

DPAC (District PAC) reps – Debbie Henry, Mary Carmen, Safiann Khan

Members at Large – Ruby Langan, Angela Ruth, Emily Villavicencio

1. Schedule for PAC meetings for this school year

September 17

October 22 – financial allocation meeting

November 26

January 28

February 25 – financial allocation meeting

April 29

May 27

1. Open Discussion. Sharing of ideas, thoughts, what do we want from the PAC meetings?

* Food and refreshments at PAC meetings
* Indigenous parent circle. Reach out can be via the PAC page on the VanTech website.
* Parent Facebook group. Carolin Rigby and Emily Villavicencio offered to help set this up.
* More events like the ‘Screenagers’ put on by the counsellors last year. Something like that for the students? One parent mentioned that teenagers say they are told not to do things (vape, etc) but don’t get told WHY they shouldn’t do these things. Mr Moro says he can bring this up to the counselling dept for events for students. PAC can help fund this. PAC can organize events like this geared to parents.
* A parent comment that students need to understand the body first (opportunity in science classes to talk about body systems and then the effect of drugs on those body systems)
* Question on whether there is a ‘high school equivalent’ to Saleema Noon that we can get to come in
* PHE (Physical & Health Ed) class is where health discussions take place in the school. Some teachers bring in counsellors to help with certain topics.
* Question as to why info on harmfulness of vaping only given to those caught vaping?
* Comment that youth would listen more to other youth
* Look into SACY (Supporting and Connecting Youth Substance Use Prevention Initiative) and if there are resources/events they can help with. SACY has an addictions worker that is in the school 3 days per week. Suggestion that local nursing students could also be a good resource as knowledgeable and closer in age to students.
* Reminder to observe the upcoming National Day of Truth and Reconciliation (Sept 30) and to wear your orange shirts in recognition

1. Closing remarks

* parents in attendance were provided the opportunity to write down their name and email address for receiving more info from the PAC; those online can email
* email [chairvt@gmail.com](mailto:chairvt@gmail.com) to contact the PAC

Meeting adjourned 8:05pm

Next meeting: Tuesday October 22 @ 7pm in the library and online