

David Thompson Secondary School

PAC Meeting

Date: September 18, 2024

Location: Online via Zoom

Principal: Mr. Nick Akrap

Vice Principal: Mr. Albert Mann

Staff Liaison: Ms. Yashoda Reddy

Chair: Regina Prakash Singh

Vice Chair: Manj Mand

Treasurer: Sheila

Secretary: Shazmin Akbanie

Members at Large: Lydia Cheng, Rajvir Kaur Singh, Ama Weerasinghe

Guests Attending Meeting: 62

Meeting Started 5:36pm

1. Welcome

- a. Welcome Everyone to tonight's PAC meeting, this is the first meeting for the new school year, we meet once a month, usually the 3rd Wednesday of every month between 5pm and 6pm. We are very excited to meet and see so many new faces online and hope you can continue to join us every month and be part of the PAC. Meetings usually last about an hour.
- b. Nick Akrap has been our principal for 3 years, and he is very approachable. Thank Nick for everything.

2. Approval of Minutes for May 2024 approved by Sheila and seconded by Nick B. Thank you.

3. Update: Principal: Nick Akrap

- a. Welcome everyone to the 2024-2025 school year!
- b. Thank you to the PAC for organizing the Teacher Appreciation Breakfast today, it was very much appreciated by all staff and teachers.
- c. All students are back to school in a good routine and have settled in well at DT.
- d. DT was a summer school site, 24% of summer school students were from DT. DT will also have summer school options next year.
- e. Grade 8 Orientation took place on the first day and was led by New Face Leaders, (there is 90 of them from Grade 10-12). They will be hosting events throughout the year.
- f. Grade 8 Conference is on September 25, 2024. They will be doing activities around the schools Code of Conduct, which is CARES – Connections, Accountability, Respect, Encouragement and Safety. These are the values at DT and we hope students can follow and take these values forward with them in life
- g. Grade 8s will also participate in a pumpkin carving contest, and there will be a hot dog day – lots of events to help them integrate into the school and feel welcome.
- h. FIT is on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. This is instructional time and students need to check in on My Weekly Planner and state which class they will be attending, the

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teachers take this time to help students one on one, or if students missed a test or need to redo a test this is a good time to meet the teacher and catch up. It's a good time for students to work on independent or group homework. If the child does not attend FIT, parents will receive an email.

- i. Cell Phone Navigation has been implemented in schools. There is a traffic light policy. Green, Yellow and Red. No phones on site during class time, phones must be switched off or on Do Not Disturb Mode. The students can take their phones out if the teacher gives permission to use the phone during that class for an activity or research. Phones during class are not to be used for Snap, Instagram etc. during class. Students can use the phones at lunch. More information on this on the school website on the WAAG. If you have concerns, please feel free to reach out.
- j. Parents will receive a Weekly Newsletter from the school "WAAG" (Week At A Glance), giving parents an update of what's happening in the school. The newsletter is usually emailed on Fridays. You will be informed of Assemblies, Scholarships, Events, etc.
- k. Communication with Students is through Teams – Please remind your child to continue to check teams for up-to-date information.
- l. Vancouver School Board has switched to digital consent forms, we need parents to fill out the forms – especially if you are okay with your child's picture being in the year book. Please go onto to this site and give consent. Consent/Form Link: <https://myforms.vsb.bc.ca/> (you will need to enter your child PEN and Date of Birth).
- m. Literacy Assessment for Grade 12s will be coming up soon. Please check Teams for updates.
- n. Sept 26, 2024 – Kick of the Year Event the Student Council is hosting
- o. Oct 3, 2024 – Clubs Day in Gym (clubs will have displays) We ask students to join clubs and be part of the school. A list of clubs at the school <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/david-thompson/page/1219/clubs>

4. Staff Liaison: Yashoda Reddy

- a. Yashoda is the school librarian and has been a teacher at DT for many years, having taught Socials, English, Math and Science.
- b. Ms. Reddy's role is to communicate and liaise with the PAC from the teachers/staff at DT and she will attend all PAC meetings.
- c. Thank you to PAC for the breakfast today, on behalf of all the teachers and staff.
- d. There is about 1450 students at DT, a warm welcome to all.
- e. Councillors welcomed all the new comers, and are busy with time tabling and supporting students.
- f. Last week the Yokohama Science Frontier School (the sister school in Japan) was visiting and DT shares an exchange program with this school for the last 10 years. (this program went virtual during covid and it was nice to have face to face interaction this year). If parents or students want more information for this program the contact Ms. Tsui, also a teacher librarian or Ms. Reddy can give you more information.

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- g. New Faces Leaders are really helpful towards the Grade 8's in getting them familiar with the school, they also have quite a few programs for the Grade 8's to attend to feel welcomed. The library is holding a Grade 8 orientation this week.
- h. FIT Time – students need to register with their teacher, and can work with a teacher or in the library. Please remind you child to register!
- i. A brand-new large chest yard is not installed in the courtyard.
- j. Library is now available for in person PAC meetings.

5. PAC Update

- a. Introduction to PAC – welcome and we hope to have new members join the PAC as many of us will be graduating the PAC in 2 years. In order for the school to get funding from the Gaming Grant there must be a school PAC.
- b. Every year the PAC applies for the Gaming Grant in June and we are notified about the amount we get by sometime between October and November. Once the money is received these funds are distributed to the school clubs and the funds supports school sports. This is really important to for the school. Last year we received about \$26,000.
- c. The PAC positions are as follows:
 - i. Chair – Regina (re-elected 2024/2025)
 - ii. Vice Chair – Manj (re-elected 2024/2025)
 - iii. Secretary – Shazmin (re-elected 2024/2025)
 - iv. Treasurer – Sheila (re-elected 2024/2025)
 - v. Member at Large Nominated – Ama Weerasinghe, Lydia Cheng, Rajiv Kaur Singh, Kamal Kooner.
- d. New Members that are interested in the PAC, you will contacted by a member of the PAC, and we hope to meet with you soon. Please check your junk mail.
 - i. Kathy Lee
 - ii. Jas Bagga – interested in any role available
 - iii. Taiwo Afolabi
 - iv. Bee Bee Wong
 - v. Judy Gao
 - vi. Cathy B
 - vii. Gloria – interested in helping treasurer
- e. Its really important to be involved in the school and know what's happening in our student's community and get information from the principal and Yashoda – as our teenagers are not always open to share everything!
- f. There are a few events that the PAC hosts through the school year such as the Teachers Appreciation Breakfast, attending the Grade 12 Graduation and other events around the school.

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6. Roundtable Discussions/Questions and Answers

- a. Homework is teacher dependent. Some teachers give lots and some give none. Its best for you toe check in with your child and you can reach out to the teacher. Contact information for teachers is on the school website
- b. Encourage students to join clubs – regardless of popularity – show up for try outs and you never know. “You miss 100% of the shots you don’t take” by Wayne Gretzky – so show up to a club or try out and give it your best shot!
- c. In regards to Clubs – there is no limit to the number of people in each club, however students need to make sure they have a balance and can commit to each club properly.
- d. Every club has a teacher sponsor; however, it is up to the students to take initiative and be proactive. However, sometimes the students are stretched and therefore a new club doesn’t take off as intended. Join clubs that have a solid sponsor teacher.
- e. Don’t join a club to just put on your university application, you actually have to participate.
- f. Students have 4 courses in a term, 8 in a year. English, Science, French and Socials is split in these two terms. If you have taken a course in term one you will not retake it in term two.
- g. Report Cards are posted in the My Education Portal at the end of each semester, also students are given an interim report card and a mid term report card – all report cards are posted in the My Education Portal. Parents have access to these report cards and are informed through the WAAG and PAC meetings.

Meeting Adjourned – 6:48pm

Next Meeting Wednesday October 16, 2024 at 5:00pm, Nick will send out a reminder email.