

VSB Voices

Community Feedback in Action

2024-2025
school year



With deep gratitude and respect, we are honoured to be learning and unlearning on the ancestral and unceded lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) & səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

About VSB Voices

At the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year, more than 1,200 parents, guardians and caregivers of students currently enrolled in VSB, as well as adult learners attending VSB schools/programs, signed up to provide their feedback through a new listening post: **VSB Voices**. Our aim was to provide meaningful opportunities for members of the community to share views and inform key matters impacting student learning and well-being. This new initiative was created to give the community a meaningful voice in shaping important decisions for our schools.

VSB Voices: Highlights from a year of listening



1231 VSB Voices members

Total participants: 755

Number of focus groups/ advisory panels: 3



Number of surveys: 2

Number of topics: 5

Throughout the school year, participants engaged about a variety of topics through surveys and focus groups. Their perspectives were invaluable in decisions affecting our public education system.

Accessibility advisory panel

Among the many engagement initiatives this year, the formation of an accessibility advisory panel stands out as a key example of how community input is shaping VSB's actions. In October 2024, we asked members of VSB Voices who identify as disabled or caring for a student who is, to join our accessibility advisory panel.



Accessibility advisory panel
joined 10 meetings

Nine members of VSB Voices joined other parents and guardians as well as staff and community organizations in a series of 10 meetings running through to the early spring. These sessions provided space for participants to share experiences, identify existing barriers and suggest ways to remove or prevent them. Based on the advisory panel's input, our three-year accessibility plan was developed. It includes four priority areas for focus and more than 20 action items to be achieved in the next three years. Read details in our [Accessibility Plan](#).

Family information sessions

Through a survey in December 2024, we asked about preferences regarding family information sessions. VSB Voices members provided feedback about potential topics and formats they would like to see.

Survey results highlighted a strong preference for live-streamed online sessions with interactive Q&A features, particularly during weekday evenings. The top topics of interest indicated by participants were mental health and well-being, digital literacy and scholarships. In response, VSB created a live version of our podcast, VSB: After the Bell. One of these episodes was on student mental health with Dr. Roberto Stassi, Psychiatrist in Chief at B.C. Children's Hospital and B.C. Women's Hospital. We also produced session focusing on digital literacy, online safety and AI – where families and caregivers submitted questions for VSB educators to answer. Stay tuned for upcoming family information sessions this year, on our [VSB: After the Bell](#), Live series.



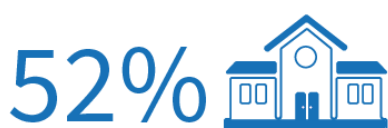
Financial planning survey development

Members of VSB Voices participated in a virtual focus group to help inform the 2025-2026 budget survey. During the session, we shared draft survey's questions and discussed ways to improve accessibility, understanding and applicability to a wide audience. Suggestions from the group were incorporated in the financial plan survey. The survey was publicly available and open for feedback between March 5-16, 2025.

Personal digital devices

In May of 2025, members from VSB Voices weighed in on whether VSB's personal digital device procedure was clear and if families believed it has had an impact in schools.

Survey feedback indicated that most families have a child who owns a personal digital device, and most of their children bring their devices to school daily. While most respondents found the VSB's procedure clear, many suggested improving information about the guidelines and expectations to staff, families and students. Respondents also identified a need for stronger enforcement and expressed interest in additional education for students about online safety. More than half of participants indicated they found the procedure positively impacted student learning and engagement, though fewer felt it had improved online safety.



OF PARENTS /CAREGIVERS
were elementary families



OF PARENTS /CAREGIVERS

believed that VSB's personal digital device procedure improved students' online safety



OF PARENTS /CAREGIVERS

were aware of VSB's personal digital device procedure at the start of the school year



OF PARENTS /CAREGIVERS

believed that VSB's personal digital device procedure improved student learning and engagement

Communication after tragedy

Following the tragic incident that occurred after the Lapu Lapu Day festival on April 26, 2025, VSB issued a series of communications to acknowledge the tragedy, provide information about supports for students, families and staff through an emotionally complex time. In June, we asked members of VSB Voices to provide feedback about the information they received in the immediate aftermath of the tragedy. This feedback will help guide our care-focused communications and support in the future.

Participants reflected that VSB's communication efforts were timely and emotionally attuned. At the same time, participants offered suggestions to strengthen communications in certain areas, particularly capacity supports for school-based administrators.

Conclusion

Throughout the 2024-2025 school year, members of VSB Voices shared valuable experiences, insights and views. Feedback and input from the VSB parent/guardian and caregiver community proved to be an invaluable resource for our school district. This feedback has shaped priorities and guided staff in better supporting and empowering students throughout their learning journeys.

Thank you to all members of VSB Voices who offered their perspectives and their time.

Visit govsb.ca/engagement to learn more about VSB Voices and our additional engagement initiatives.