

Minutes of the VSTA Council Meeting

Thursday, October 28, 2021, 4:00 PM - Zoom

Attendance:

Britannia	Michael-Don Borason, Shannon Less, Kailey Willetts	SET BC	John Thomson
Byng	Shelby Calman	Templeton	Carl Janze, Jason Mark
Churchill	Nadia Dale, Mark Johnston, Connor Levesque, Karla Smedley	Thompson	Damon Stoelting
DLS	Katharine Shipley	TTOC	Paul Falardeau, Christine McKinnon
Gladstone	-	Tupper	Oliver Kollar
Hamber	-	U. Hill	Rob Bordon, Antonia Kuiper
John Oliver	Dave Hamar, John Silver, Kathryn Walks	Van Tech	Jelana Bighorn, Lindsay Donaldson, Nikitha Fester, Rod Ofreneo
Killarney	Stephanie Glynianyi, Beth Greer, Tanya Noble	VASS	Nigel Amenu-Tekaa, Omar Kassis
King George	Jonathan Au, Matt Sinclair	VLN	-
Kitsilano	Zoe Higgs, Danniell Lin, Doug Smith	Windermere	Lorraine Breton, Andrea Lee, Preet Lidder, Jonathan Wynn
Magee	George Kanavos, Tina Quan, Jesse Taylor	VSTA	Treena Goolieff, Alyssa Reid, Terry Stanway
Point Grey	Stacey Yip	Observers	Madeline Brewster, Sam Ferguson, Joyce Shih, Tracy Romano
PW	Nicole Duy, Tony Lee, Carmen Schaedeli	Regrets	Spirit Lavallee, Sarah Ng, Lisa Pacheco, Bal Panesar, Stefanie Schoenfelder

Matt Sinclair in the Chair

The VSTA acknowledges that we work and live on the unceded joint traditional territory of the *w̓məθkʷəy̓əm* (Musqueam), *Skwx̓wú7mesh* (Squamish), and *səlilwətaʔt̓* (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

1. [Commitment to Solidarity](#) was read aloud.

2. Election of Chairs

As per VSTA By-Law 4.7 “Council shall be co-chaired by two Staff Representatives”, one of the co-chairs elected at September’s Council meeting was not a Staff Rep. As a result, Council will elect a second co-chair at this meeting. The Chair proceeded to call for nominations from the floor.

O. Kollar challenged the Chair for permitting another election. The member believed the unelected candidate from September’s Council election should be acclaimed as the new 2nd chair.

The Chair stated that he was executing his duties by following the agenda as placed before him.

Goolieff/Reid

THAT the Chair be sustained. CARRIED

After further discussion, the Chair ruled that the two Co-Chair positions would be voted on again.

Matt Sinclair put his name forward, and after calling three times for further nominations, Omar Kassis and Preet Lidder accepted nominations from the floor. A poll was launched and Matt Sinclair and Omar Kassis were elected as Co-Chairs to Council for 2021-22.

3. Agenda

Reid/Au
THAT the agenda be adopted..... CARRIED

4. **Minutes of September 23, 2021**

Quan/Goolieff
THAT the minutes of September 23, 2021 be approved..... CARRIED

5. **Site Issues**

a) **Students filming staff** – going viral – T. Noble, Killarney

It was reported that students have filmed staff and posted audio and video clips on social media. The concern was brought to the admin and their response was that the VSB position is that teaching is a public act.

Goolieff – stated they were aware of the concerns and have brought the issue to BCTF for advice.

b) **Failures to Fill** – C. McKinnon, TTOC

McKinnon/Levesque

THAT VSTA Staff Representatives collect data on Failures to Fill at their respective schools, inclusive of date, time, subject of classes without TTOC coverage, as well as instances of attempts to book TTOCs being discouraged. CARRIED

c) **Part Time Teachers** – O. Kollar, Tupper

Part time teachers this semester teaching 4 classes with no prep. They are worried that might not get a prep next semester. What is the policy around getting these teachers a prep that is coming down the line, so that it is equitable for all staff?

TG: Part time teachers do not have a prep block. We are concerned about the semester schedule and the impact semester has on teacher workload, and the further challenges for part-time teachers. We are talking with the Employer about this and will continue to raise this at labour management meetings.

d) **IEPs** – C. Ganatra, Britannia

Concerned with the number of designated students in class. Teachers are also unclear whether these are students 'count' as defined by the Jackson Arbitration on Special Education Designations.

e) **Workload impact as a result of Numeracy and Literacy exams** – L Donaldson, VT

Teachers who have computer labs as teaching spaces continue to be dislodged to accommodate Literacy and Numeracy exams. This relocation negatively impacts teachers' ability to deliver curriculum to their students as it is often reliant on the use of technology.

6. **President / Vice-Presidents Report**

a) **Semester Schedule**

A. Reid reviewed a summary of the 350 responses to the Semester System & FIT survey.

MOTION: Smedley/Levesque

THAT the VSTA oppose the semester system due to the negative impacts related to:

- Students' ability to master skills and curricular competencies;

- Content retention;
- Balance of student schedules;
- Connection-building between students and staff;
- Student and staff work-life balance;
- Teacher burnout;
- Lack of prep time; and
- Equity for early career teachers, part-time teachers and TTOCs.

AND THAT we support the return of the linear system for the 2022/23 school year and beyond. CARRIED
 Kailey Willetts voted in the negative

b) **FIT**

A. Reid reviewed a summary from the 350 responses to the Semester System & FIT survey.

c) **Unused 2020-21 Remedy Agreement**

An agreement has been signed with the Employer regarding unused 2020-21 Remedy. Schools will receive funds on Nov 1. Members may submit their receipts at their school before May 31. The reimbursements will be signed off by Admin and Staff Rep. Unused funds will be sent to VSTA, and VSTA will decide how best to use the funds to help members. The ability to donate your funds may be brought for school-based discussion.

d) **VTF Bargaining**

Goolieff/Reid
 THAT the meeting move into Committee as a Whole..... CARRIED

Shiple
 THAT the meeting rise from Committee as a Whole and report that Bargaining was discussed. CARRIED

Move to timed items.

RAFFLE! John Silver/Cynthia Ganatra

7. **VSTA Committees**

a) **Indigenous Education – Spirit Lavallee (regrets)**

Next meeting November 1st meeting

b) **Health & Safety – Michael-Don Borason**

Review of report in meeting materials: COVID 19 Update; Fall BCTF H&S Membership Online Survey Results; Violence in the Workplace Prevention; Things to Remember.

c) **Professional Development – Kathryn Walks**

- Half the schools attended the Pro-D planning session yesterday, and the other half of the schools will attend on Nov 3. We go over the basics and highlight the changes to the handbook. The Employer will post the handbook on Sharepoint on Nov 3.
- PSAs were well attended this year.
- Working offsite and working from home: Teachers may opt to be offsite as prior to the pandemic, but we are not permitted to work from home. Both unions would like to

change this, but management is not willing.

- Next meeting: November 22.

d) **Social & Environmental Justice** – *Sarah Ng (regrets)*

Report in meeting materials: Welcome & Introductions; Sanctuary Schools Pending Update; Field Study Streamline; Financial Support for the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation at the Vancouver Art Gallery; Big Goals for the Year.

November 2 meeting moved to the 9th.

e) **TTOC** – *Paul Falardeau*

Report in meeting materials: TTOC Tech; PTOCs, Job-shopping and SFE; Growing Committee
Ryan Peters was acclaimed to the committee. November 17 next meeting.

f) **Working/Learning Conditions & Bargaining** – *Jesse Taylor*

TG: chaired that last meeting. Student Reporting Policy has implications. Please take time to review it.

g) **Technology** – *Carl Janze*

No report.

Ganatra/Levesque

THAT the meeting be extended to the 6:15PM.....DEFEATED

The Chair ruled to suspend Roberts Rules of Order.

8. **Unfinished Business**

President / Vice-Presidents Report

e) **School Finance Committees**

Sample 'School Funds' and 'Flex Funds' financial reports were presented. The District has agreed that these reports should be made available to school finance committees on a monthly basis. Lunchtime Zoom meetings will be scheduled in the new year for Finance Committee chairs and interested Staff Reps to discuss how these reports might inform the Committee work and the work of Staff Committee.

9. **New Business**

a) **Motion**

The motion was withdrawn.

Orders of the day were called at 6:10 pm.