

Minutes of the VSTA Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, December 9th – 4:00 pm – VSTA Room B

Attending: Michael-Don Borason, Paul Falardeau, Treena Goolieff, Omar Kassis, Rohit Kumar, Shannon Less, Sarah Ng, Bal Panesar, Alyssa Reid, Carmen Schaedeli, Katharine Shipley, John Silver, Matt Sinclair, Terry Stanway, Jesse Taylor, Kathryn Walks, Jonathan Wynn

Regrets: Lindsay Donaldson, Nikitha Fester, Carl Janze, Spirit Lavallee, Rod Ofreneo

Office Staff: Liz DeLong

Chair: Jesse Taylor

The VSTA acknowledges that we work and live on the unceded joint traditional territory of the ʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətaʔt (Tseilif -Waututh) Nations.

1. **BCTF Commitment to Solidarity (2021-12-10, EC)**

2. **Agenda**

Reid/Borson

THAT the amended agenda be

adopted.....CARRIED

Add:

Unfinished Business

MOTION

THAT VSTA not hold any meetings in locations that require a vaccine passport, as this is neither a requirement of our employer nor of the PHO, and furthermore is an infringement on civil liberties.

3. **Minutes of November 18th, 2021**

Borson/Wynn

THAT the minutes of November 18, 2021 be approved. CARRIED

4. **Reading Time**

5. **President/Vice President**

6. a) **Approval of Draft Financial Audited Statement ending July 31, 2021.**

By-law 3.9.d. [The Treasurer] Shall submit an audited report of the accounts and financial conditions of the Association and of all monies received and disbursed for the previous financial year at Executive meeting not later than December of that year.

Reminders:

- EC will need to create a budget for the year in January.
- This document is last year's – can be used as a tool for future planning.
- The budget does not need to be presented to the members.

President and Vice-President Salaries (Page 7 + 15)

EC had a thorough discussion on the following:

- IHTO's receive the same salary as a regular teacher –IHTO have longer days – Email has added to the workload tremendously. IHTOs are paid for additional weeks worked in the summer 1-4 extra weeks in July, 2 weeks in August
- Some locals pay their IHTO's higher to compensate
- Adding an IHTO: raise member fees – VESTA went from .85 to .88 to add an IHTO.

Overall Take Away:

The Finance Committee will meet in New Year to create a new budget for the coming year. This budget needs to pass through EC then Council.

Silver/Ng

That the VSTA EC accept the draft of Financial Statements for the year ended July 31, 2021.....CARRIED

b) **EC – Open House Opportunities**

Current Successful Zoom Open House

J.Wynn hosts a zoom for life skills' teachers every 6 weeks. This has been very successful for teachers to come together to share concerns/questions from across the district.

IHTOs ask EC members to consider creating opportunities like this for subsets of teachers and invite IHTOs to attend and support as possible.

8. c) **Library Motions**

Motion 1:

Ng/Less

THAT VSTA ask the VSB to include on its SOA a line item that provides staffing to all secondary schools with a minimum of 8 blocks of library.....CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion 2:

Ng/Kassis

THAT the VSTA assert that the VSB provide VASS with a Teacher Librarian to manage online and hard-copy resources for staff and students..... CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

d) **21 Things You Didn't Know about the Indian Act Book Club Motion**

Goal:

Allow teachers the opportunity to educate themselves further through a school wide book club. Purchase books from an indigenous bookstore.

How it works:

The books will be housed at the VSTA office and then rotated within the schools. Allowing any teacher in the district the opportunity to participate.

Ng/Walks

That the VSTA purchase twenty-five copies of *21 Things You May Not Know about the Indian*

Act and that these books be held as a book club set that will be made available to staff and furthermore, that this purchase be used as the basis for an application to the BCTF Aboriginal Initiative Grant to establish three more book club sets of 25 books each.....CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

e) **Susan McIntosh Memorial Fund Motion**

VSTA acknowledges her tremendous service in the district and would like to honour Susan and her work.

Stanway/Reid

THAT the VSTA donate \$500 from the donation budget to the Susan McIntosh Memorial Fund.....CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

f) **Equity Audit**

Previously, the idea was started to work towards an equity audit. VSTA would like to do this with an external Canadian company – and are seeking an indigenous company.

Discussion Questions EC needs to think about:

- What is an equity audit?
- What information is gathered?
- Conversations on leadership, policy, governance, and space inclusive.
- What does VSTA do with the information? How to improve practice.
- What are other locals doing?

g) **VSB Non-discrimination and anti-racism report**

O. Kassis and R. Kumar attended the meeting together. Discussion on having someone from EC be released and take the time to read the report.

6:03pm orders – Dinner break until 6:13pm

h) **Grievance Update**

6:03 **DINNER BREAK**

9. **Standing Committees**

a) **TTOC – Paul Falardeau**

Failure to Fill survey is out

Falardeau/Borason

THAT the VSTA Executive Committee request that an Ad Hoc Committee/Working Group be struck with two TTOCs from VESTA, two TTOCs from VSTA, and two people from the VSB SFE department to discuss ongoing SFE issues.....CARRIED

Reoccurring Issues:

- Job shopping and the process of job postings.
- Unclear of who gets to see the postings first and what time they are released.
- Teachers using their prep to cover absent colleagues.
- TTOCs are reporting low amounts of work.

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

C. Schaedeli acting as chair for the WLCB report

Semester System:

- Reporting: frequency of reports is too much in a semester system; this is doubling the amount of work for teachers.
- Solution: NID before reports to give teachers the time to prepare.
- VSB is clear they are committed to the semester system for next year.
- Teacher burn out – there is language for the semester system B26 talks about semester system being 5 blocks.
- Eric Hamber recently took a survey of their staff to see how they are feeling.
- Something to note: Magee was the last to change from semester previously and they had 5 blocks.

Idea from EC:

Reach out to the district student council to survey the members.

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

Takeaways:

- Would like two big drills.
- New radios have been purchased – two channels dedicated just to Vancouver installed in the econ center.
- Natural disasters are becoming more frequent – emergency protocols need to be prioritized – drills have been lacking – schools need to be better prepared.
- Police response when dealing with students is too aggressive.
- Nothing has changed with covid protocols.
- No new information on booster shot.
- Safe and caring schools program – no information no contact.

d) **Professional Development** – *Kathryn Walks*

District Planning Suggestions:

- Description of temporary funds.
- More FAQs.
- Larger venue with better sound.
- Pro D planning session in April 2022

Silver/Shibley

Prior to vote meeting the Chair reminded the meeting that 2/3 required to change the agenda THAT EC extends the meeting five minutes until 7:05pm.....CARRIED

e) **Social & Environmental Justice** – *Sarah Ng*

Takeaways:

- The Employer is creating written policy that will codify their current practice around students who are “ordinarily residents” in Vancouver who also have precarious immigration status
- Policy on menstrual products in washrooms and universal washrooms. The intention is there however, there is a lot of vandalism with the products.
- SEJ is looking at ways to streamline the field study process to make the process more accessible to all teachers.

f) **Technology** – *Carl Janze sends his regrets*

g) **Indigenous Education** – *Spirit Lavallee sends her regrets*

12. **Orders of the day were called at 7:05 pm**

Next Meeting: January 13, 2022– Carmen Schaedeli in the Chair