

Minutes of the VSTA Council Meeting

Thursday, February 24, 2022, 4:00 PM - Zoom

Attending:

Britannia	Shannon Less, Kailey Willetts, Cynthia Ganatra	Point Grey PW	Stefan Schmitt, Stacey Yip Nicole Duy, Tony Lee, Carmen Schaedeli
Byng	Shelby Calman		
Churchill	Erin Cullingworth, Connor Levesque, Karla Smedley	SET BC Templeton	John Thomson Jason Mark, Stefanie Seto
DLS	Katharine Shipley	Thompson	Damon Stoelting, Stephanie Tsui
Gladstone	Shirley Burdon, Lawrence Jakoy, Caitlin Davie	TTOC	Paul Falardeau, Christine McKinnon, Sam Ferguson
Hamber	Rohit Kumar, Bal Panesar, Stefanie Schoenfelder, Alex Stevens, Max Todd	Tupper U. Hill	Oliver Kollar Rob Bordon, Antonia Kuiper
John Oliver	Dave Hamar, Irving Lau, John Silver, Shaun Stewart, Kathryn Walks	Van Tech	Jelana Bighorn, Lindsay Donaldson, Nikitha Fester, Rod Ofreneo
Killarney	Stephanie Glynianyi, Beth Greer, Tanya Noble, Andrea Sum	VASS VLN	Omar Kassis, Nigel Amenu-Tekaa
King George	Jonathan Au, Matt Sinclair	Windermere	Lorraine Breton, Andrea Lee, Preet Lidder, Jonathan Wynn
Kitsilano	Jillian Maguire, Doug Smith		
Magee	George Kanavos, Tina Quan, Jesse Taylor	VSTA	Treena Goolieff, Alyssa Reid, Terry Stanway
Regrets	Michael-Don Borason, Spirit Lavallee, Sarah Ng		
Absent	Nadia Dale, Mike Hengeveld, Carl Janze, Mark Johnston, Alison Koyanagi, Joe Lee, Wes Lefsrud, Suzie Mah, Raymond Moy, Adam Rattray, Paul Wu		
Observers	Alex Duford, Aline Valverde, Ams Cantelon, Bobbi Loo, Brendan Chan, Bryan Green, Cassie tagseth, Cecil Baird, Christa Duttchen, COLLEEN SPRING, Danica Govorchin, Daniel Stutz, Deep Thind, Diane Ruest, Elena Hutchinson, Emerson Gaglardi, Erika Thompson, Eva Mazzei, Grace Sherman, Harkiran Aulakh, Ian Weniger, Jenny Zhu, Jesse Caswell, Jillian Maguire, Kaitlee Simonson, Kate Goodwin, Kelsey Bemister, Ksena Tatomir, Kyle Dempster, Kyle Ross, Lawrence Duong, Leanne Hagglund, Lee, Madeline Brewster, Mark Nakada, Mary Ahn, Matthew Friesen, Natasha Philibert-Palmer, Nekita Garcia-Gravel, Nimaya Fernando, Pavandeep Dhadwal, Romy Cooper, Ryan Peters, S Ali, Saiqa Mohammed, Sean Owen, Stephanie Lemmon, Stephen Charles Coderre, Talya Florian, Tina Lin, Tori Lemire, Trevor Stokes, Trish Mugford, Veronica Ma		

Matt Sin in the Chair

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

1.	BCTF Commitment to Solidarity (EC, 2020-12-10)
2.	Agenda Maguire/Lau THAT the agenda be adopted.....CARRIED
3.	Minutes of January 27, 2022 Au/Quan THAT the minutes of January 27, 2022 be adopted.....CARRIED

4. **Site Issues**

a) Kitsilano – J. Maguire

Approved Staff Committee Motions – The Collective Agreement states should admin choose not to follow advice from the Staff Committee then the admin needs to report the rationale.

b) Churchill- K. Smedley

Learning Hub- Churchill is moving towards a learning hub instead of students scheduled in a skills block. The teachers are very confused and have concerns. The concerns were brought to the staff committee multiple times. It is reported that students are struggling with the learning hub method. Action: IHTOs will look into this matter and report back.

c) VASS- N. Amenu-Tekaa

At the last VASS Staff Meeting, the following motion was discussed and a decision was made to bring to Council.

Members discussed the outcome of the Britannia situation and the effects on students and teachers. Seeking transparency from IHTO on the rationale of the incident. Many members of the Council and observers shared personal experiences. A letter from the Counselling Department was provided.

Motion:

Amenu-Tekaa/ McKinnon

THAT the 2021-22 VSTA In House Table Officers be fully transparent and be required to release a separate and distinct email with the entire VSTA membership providing all documents/correspondence related to the Britannia Secondary SOGI situation (i.e.-Britannia Teacher Letter, The Student Impact Statement, VSTA IHTO Apology Letter, City TV News link, VESTA Twitter feed, etc.)

Amendment: Add “immediately”.

Amenu-Tekaa/Noble

THAT the 2021-22 VSTA In House Table Officers be fully transparent and be required to release a separate and distinct email with the entire VSTA membership providing all documents/correspondence related to the Britannia Secondary SOGI situation **immediately** (i.e.- Britannia Teacher Letter, The Student Impact Statement, VSTA IHTO Apology Letter, City TV News link, VESTA Twitter feed, etc.....CARRIED

Amended Motion:

Amenu-Tekaa/ McKinnon

THAT the 2021-22 VSTA In House Table Officers be fully transparent and be required to release a separate and distinct email with the entire VSTA membership providing all documents/correspondence related to the Britannia Secondary SOGI situation immediately (i.e.- Britannia Teacher Letter, The Student Impact Statement, VSTA IHTO Apology Letter City TV News link, VESTA Twitter feed, etc.....DEFEATED

Reid/Ganatra

THAT Council suspends the rules of order to deal with brit site issue after current motion.....CARRIED

d) Britannia- K. Willets

K.Willets reported students, teachers and school community were harmed by the removal of the posters.

Willets/Ganatra

THAT Council endorses the following requests from Britannia 2SLGBTQ+ students:

1. A facilitated circle with all three VSTA IHTOs where students can ask questions and share impacts related to the poster removal.
2. Training for all Executive Committee members on SOGI rights and the responsibility of VSTA and VSB members in upholding these rights and the harm caused by ignoring SOGI voices. Training should also include doing this work while navigating cisgender, heterosexual privilege.
3. A commitment to clear and actionable consequences for staff and students that discriminate against marginalized groups.
4. Advocacy for a “safe contact” in schools who can advocate for students who are being harmed by VSTA members, and that this contact is provided with sufficient training and standing to effectively execute this role.
5. Advocacy for a SOGI in-service training for all VSB staff that is focused on creating safer classroom and school communities for 2SLGBTQ+ students.....CARRIED

Roberts rules resumed.

Kollar/Levesque

THAT the meeting be extended to 6:30 pm.....CARRIED

5. Britannia Poster Removal

The posters were removed in response to ongoing conversation between VSB Labour Relations and the VSTA IHTOs. T. Goolieff apologized to Council and observers for the harm done to the community by the removal of the posters and confirmed the action was not done out of hate, homophobia, or transphobia but recognize the impact of the poster removal caused harm.

A. Reid apologized to Council and observers for the harm done due to her part in the poster removal.

Orders of the day were called: 6:30pm.