



Chair (Vancouver DPAC) <chair@vancouverdpac.org>

DPAC on ongoing COVID measures

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Cc: "superintendent (Jan Unwin)" <superintendent@vsb.bc.ca>, David Green <dgreen@vsb.bc.ca>, David Nelson <dnelson@vsb.bc.ca>, "Vice-Chair (Vancouver DPAC)" <vicechair@vancouverdpac.org>

Dear Trustees,

Last week, we had our DPAC Executive Meeting. The topic of COVID safety is one that still concerns parents and our executive. DPAC would like to ask for your help in two ways:

- To promote and attain a safe return to schools after the winter break; for the Trustees to quickly and formally request that our provincial government release Rapid Antigen Test Kits to the VSB so that VSB can make available a kit of 5 Rapid Antigen Tests available to every VSB student prior to start of Winter Break. This is being done in similar sized school districts across Canada; for reference check out Hamilton-Wentworth District that has 49,520 students: <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/blog/rapid-antigen-testing-kits/>
- We would also like you to know that our executive passed the following motion:

"DPAC write a letter to the VSB asking for continuous air quality (CO2) testing at all of the portables (there are a total of 114) that are used by VSB students to either assure parents that the environment is safe and meets ASHRAE recommendations or provide mitigations to improve the environment."

The ask here is for the Trustees to find the monies (our estimate is approximately \$30,000) for this important air quality testing at their earliest opportunity, hopefully at either the Private Meeting or the Board Meeting on Monday, Dec 13, so that this testing work can begin in January 2022 as time is of the essence.

We are aware that newly built schools have real time, ongoing monitoring. All students should have access to safe, healthy classrooms during a pandemic. The CPHO has recognized that airborne transmission of COVID-19 is significant. Dr Katherine Smart, president of the CMA and Dr Henry, PHO, have stated that children are at risk of severe outcomes from COVID-19 and/or contribute to community transmission of the virus. Allowing classrooms to monitor the continued functioning of ventilation and filtration, allows the occupants of that room to take actions to minimize risk of transmission. If the occupants of a room are aware of higher CO2 levels, they are able to take actions to mitigate the risks. Monitoring CO2 levels validates the work that the VSB has done. Not providing that information equates to not providing a safe, healthy learning environment which is in direct opposition to the BC Ministry of Education's School Act and the VSB' own COVID-19 plan.

Looking forward to your action and thanking you in advance.

Thank you,

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Gord Lau
Chair, Vancouver DPAC

Honouring the traditional, unceded territory of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Peoples

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