



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

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## Delegation Board Meeting - pilot

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Mon, Jun 21, 2021 at 11:26 AM

To: Carmen Cho <carmen.cho@vsb.bc.ca>, "Oliver C. Hanson" <oliver.hanson@vsb.bc.ca>, Janet Fraser <janet.fraser@vsb.bc.ca>, Lois Chan-Pedley <lois.chan-pedley@vsb.bc.ca>, Estrellita Gonzalez <estrellita.gonzalez@vsb.bc.ca>, Fraser Ballantyne <fraser.ballantyne@vsb.bc.ca>, Barb Parrott <barbara.parrott@vsb.bc.ca>, Jennifer Reddy <jennifer.reddy@vsb.bc.ca>, Allan Wong <allan.wong@vsb.bc.ca>  
Cc: "Vice-Chair (Vancouver DPAC)" <vicechair@vancouverdpac.org>, David Nelson <dnelson@vsb.bc.ca>, "Suzanne Hoffman (Superintendent)" <shoffman@vsb.bc.ca>, David Green <dgreen@vsb.bc.ca>

Dear Trustees, senior staff:

I am writing to you on behalf of the DPAC with regards to tonight's agenda item which extends the Delegation Board Meeting pilot.

The pilot serves a useful purpose, and we believe that the public is well served by being able to present their concerns in meetings where all trustees are present.

DPAC has expressed a concern that stakeholders did not have standing at these meetings, and were unable to address or question delegations. We believed that the answers to clarifying questions posed by stakeholders could have been relevant to decision makers.

As the pilot extension proposes removing delegations from the standing committee meetings, we reiterate our concern and our request to have the opportunity to ask questions of the delegations at these board meetings in a way that delegation answers are heard by trustees and the public.

We further suggest that:

- the delegation meetings be scheduled a week prior to board meetings, so that they can respond to items brought forward at standing committee meetings and provide feedback to trustees in advance of making decisions.
- that delegations be permitted for committees in those months not included in the extension of the trial (September, December and May for example)

And finally, in thinking of parent/PAC delegations to committees, we disagree with the assertion "*In many cases delegations to committees could have spoken through, and been represented by, their appointed representative on the committee.*" Although this may be true in some limited cases, we have seen delegations:

- bring forward concerns that are important to their school community but not addressed on agendas, which precludes committee discussion
- present relevant, in-depth knowledge. School PACs will have detailed information of their sites. Further, it has not been my experience that stakeholders are permitted to present to committees in the same manner as delegations.
- present concerns that are outside of the purview or counter to the views of their appointed committee representative which are nonetheless an important part of public discourse.

Thank you,

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Gord Lau  
Chair, Vancouver DPAC

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

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