


Vancouver District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) wishes to acknowledge the ancestral, traditional & unceded Indigenous territories of the Coast Salish Peoples, in particular, the Squamish, Musqueam, & Tsleil-Waututh First Nations on whose territory we work, live & play.



School Restart Town Hall
with **Suzanne Hoffman**, Superintendent
and members of VSB District Staff
Wednesday, September 2nd 7-9 pm

A Virtual Meeting via Zoom

[Video response](#)

Carmen Cho
VSB Board Vice-chair

[Video response](#)

Suzanne Hoffman
VSB Superintendent

[Video response](#)

Health & Safety Questions

Health & Safety Questions

(VCH) PHO recommendations regarding return to school

- Please provide a summary of PHO recommendations for back to school with regards to physical distancing, masks, ventilation and learning groups.
 - Given the current literature and recommendations for physical distancing, masks and ventilation in other venues, how is the current plan safe for students, staff and families?
 - Are there any emergent studies that might change PHO recommendations?



[Video response](#)

Health & Safety Questions

(VCH) PHO recommendations regarding return to school

- What happens if a student or staff shows symptoms at school?
 - **(VSB) Short-term actions:**
 - **Assessment:** If a child has a cold symptoms, can they return to school and if so when? Is a medical note or negative COVID test result required?
 - **Notification:** How will we find out if anyone tests positive in our child's cohort? In the school?
 - **Actions taken:** Who needs to isolate if someone in cohort tests positive? The entire cohort? The entire household of each cohort member?
- What happens if somebody in the student or staff bubble shows symptoms or tests positive? (Same bullets as above)



[Video response](#)

Health & Safety Questions

(VCH-VSB) Cohorts / Bubbles

- How do learning groups work with family bubbles? Will children be expected to socially distance with kids not in their learning group outside of school? For example, families with children at different schools.
- Considering the possibility for overlap of cohorts, is there any guidance to school administrators to work out mutually acceptable arrangements with the specific school-age care programs serving their school communities?



[Video response](#)

Health & Safety Questions

(VSB) Physical distancing

- Summary - physical distancing, physical barriers, scheduling
 - Will plexiglass (or equivalent) barriers be installed throughout schools?
 - Has the VSB explored utilizing additional non-VSB spaces for learning to allow more physical distancing between students? E.g. community centres, music halls, etc.
 - What specific provisions (e.g., purchase of canopies) and curriculum / schedule changes have been implemented to increase outdoor learning?
 - How are you planning on keeping [elementary] kids socially distant while eating their lunches? Are they allow to talk while they eat? Will there be any plexiglass or shields in place when children eat?



[Video response](#)

Health & Safety Questions

(VSB) Masks

- Summary - VSB mask use, provision and policy
 - Sample parent questions/comment:
 - Will there be any efforts to try to reduce educational staff from pressuring, coercing students into wearing masks all day?
 - Sample parent question/comment:
 - We want you to allow students to wear masks.
- Will the VSB consider making masks mandatory for all teachers and students in the classroom?



[Video response](#)

Health & Safety Questions

(VSB) Ventilation

- Summary - VSB steps on ventilation
 - How many schools have efficient HVAC systems?
 - What HVAC / ventilation / proper HEPA filtration / air quality measures have been taken in our schools? Has VSB obtained/ordered any air purifiers?



[Video response](#)

Health & Safety Questions

(VSB) Bathrooms/handwashing

- Summary - bathrooms
 - How many times throughout the day will washrooms be cleaned?
 - Comment on bathroom tap styles and upgrades
 - Will there be paper towels provided in the washrooms instead of hand blowers?
 - How will social distancing be enforced in the washroom especially during peak periods (recess and lunch)?
 - Will extra time be provided for breaks given the requirements for handwashing?



[Video response](#)

Health & Safety Questions

(Trustees) Advocacy

- Are trustees able to impact the rules for mask use in schools?
- Will VSB or the Board be asking the province to fund additional teachers/staff to resource the needs of the district if it is found - upon implementation - that the current delivery model is insufficient in meeting health & safety protocols?



[Video response](#)

All Schools Restart Questions

All Schools Restart Questions

(VSB) Technology

- Will there be a parent portal in Microsoft Teams so that parents can participate in their child's learning without using their child's password?
- Why are we not delivering and recording online streamed classes to more students?



[Video response](#)

All Schools Restart Questions

(VSB) Standardized Testing

- Will all standardized testing take place this year? What adaptations will be made due to COVID?



[Video response](#)

All Schools Restart Questions

(VSB) Substitute staff

- How will the concerns about substitute teachers moving between cohorts be addressed?
- How do we ensure that all staff are comfortable calling in sick with the knowledge that their absence will be filled?



[Video response](#)

All Schools Restart Questions

(VSB) Comfort around Risk

- If my child doesn't feel comfortable in a situation that is more risky such as group team work or participation in PE without face masks, can my child opt out of these activities?



[Video response](#)

Health & Safety Questions

(VSB) Continuity of Learning

- How will students be supported educationally if they need to stay home for an isolation period?
- How many sick days can a student have?



[Video response](#)

All Schools Restart Questions

(VSB) Social concerns

- Has there been any consideration to the equity issue resulting from children needing to stay home if they have any signs of illness? Some parents will be severely affected by this while others are easily able to stay home.
- How will we remove the stigma that may be associated with a child testing positive or needing to isolate?



[Video response](#)

All Schools Restart Questions

(VSB) Stages / Localized Impact

- What is the VSB plan if the infection rate is high once school is opened? Can VSB or a single school move to Stage 3-type system if the local infection rate increases?
- How has Stage 3 protocols and VSB's plan for that stage changed since June? What about Stage 4 compared to May?



[Video response](#)

Elementary Restart Questions

Elementary Restart Questions

(VSB) Immunocompromised students

- Summary - available programs
 - What options are there for students to keep their spot in but aren't ready for in-class learning or have immunocompromised family members?
 - What options are there for students with high risk due to a medical condition?
 - [What options are there] for special needs students with compromised health? My child is enrolled as cross boundary, and I do not want them to lose a spot at their current school. Would a one-on-one support worker still be dedicated to help them virtually as they did in the spring?



[Video response](#)

Elementary Restart Questions

(VSB) Learn From Home Transition Option

- Summary - transition option
 - After school starts, will families be able to remove their children from in-person instruction to the transition option?
 - Will any in-person supports be offered through the transition option?
 - How will students transition back to school?
 - How long is the transition option supposed to last? When can students be reintegrated in their class? What if parents aren't ready to reintegrate for the entire year?
 - Will the lessons and school work be exactly the same as their classmates who are attending class in person?



[Video response](#)

Elementary Restart Questions

(VSB) Learn From Home Transition Option (cont.)

- My child is in the school with a Choice program. With option 4, will the student continue the Choice program from home until transitioned back to class?
- Will the transition program include any outdoor social connection opportunities to support mental health while learning remotely (e.g. could they attend some form of recess or gym classes outdoors at their regular school)?



[Video response](#)

Elementary Restart Questions

(VSB) Transition option: Students needing additional supports

- How does the transition option compare to the hospital homebound program?
- How will the transition option support students with diverse abilities? (e.g. Will they still be connected to EAs and/or resource supports if that is typically part of their IEP?)



[Video response](#)

Elementary Restart Questions

(VSB) Elementary class size, hybrid options

- Why aren't the schools considering reduced class sizes to allow for increased distancing?
- Are individual schools given the flexibility to implement a hybrid model if that works for their school community? For example, half day classes for half of the class. And if not, why not?
- Will kids opting for the delayed entry online learning still need to attend the sept 10 orientation day?
- Is information available about how the orientation day will work?



[Video response](#)

All Schools Restart Questions

(VSB) Childcare for Essential Workers

- How are you supporting before and after school care for essential health care workers? My son's school has frozen all new after school spaces and I cannot work without childcare.
- Will there be ESW care for the first school week? I'm a parent who's also a teacher and I need to be back on the 8th. Can my child be taken care of that week?



[Video response](#)

Elementary Restart Questions

(VSB) Changes in the classroom

- In my child's school pre-COVID, the students moved from one class to another for Art, Mandarin, and Music. How would this work this year? Would the teacher move from one class to another instead so that students can stay in their own desks?



[Video response](#)

Secondary Restart Questions

Secondary Restart Questions

(VSB) Immunocompromised students, remote options

- What options are there for students with complex medical conditions and/or immunocompromised family members in secondary?
- Why isn't there a remote option or transition option in secondary that keeps the students connected to their school?
- Why is secondary school not full time in-person classes?
- What remote options are there for courses that aren't offered through VLN and retain connection with their secondary school?
- How will students in self-isolation or home sick be able to keep up with classwork?



[Video response](#)

Secondary Restart Questions

(VSB) Instruction

- How many hours of instruction will students receive per day/week/quarter?
- Does the VSB Restart Plan offer the minimum hours of instruction required by law? If so, how? It is not at all clear how "Flex Time" qualifies as a learning activity.



[Video response](#)

Secondary Restart Questions

(VSB) Schedules

- How will programs outside of core academic subjects (electives, clubs, sport, theatre, band) be adapted to give students a balanced school experience, rich in social interaction and times to look forward to?



[Video response](#)

Secondary Restart Questions

(VSB) Schedules (continued)

- What percentage of students will benefit from instruction during 'flex time'? It appears to be a up at the expense of instructional time for most students, and it hugely increases the overlap between learning groups.
- Will students ever be scheduled for just Flex A and Session 2 or Session 1 and Flex B?
- What will secondary school band look like? Will it be limited to 30 students? Will it be just a quarter or use flex time?



[Video response](#)

Secondary Restart Questions

(VSB) Transcripts

- How will Grade 12 students be able to apply for university with only two courses per quarter and registration deadlines in January? How will this work with only 2 courses per quarter or would they be allowed more courses?
- What provisions will be made to ensure that the graduating classes will not be unfairly compromised compared to other school districts due to this quarter system?



[Video response](#)

Secondary Restart Questions

(VSB) Volunteer Hours

- Volunteer hours required for graduation - obviously hard for students to gain employment or volunteer hours for the next year or so. How can we have this requirement temporarily suspended?



[Video response](#)

Secondary Restart Questions

(VSB) Diverse Learners

- The K-12 operational guidelines state that students who require more support in school must have full-time, in-class instruction available without delays. How will you ensure that this is set up in an inclusive, manner for IEP students in regular classes from the start of the year?
- Will IEP students and diverse learners be given first priority to shift their courses in the quarter system, especially for those who are capable of very good marks but typically struggle at certain times of the year or with compressed formats? If schools are not willing to accommodate to help shift courses for those that need it, are there other options to take some courses?



[Video response](#)

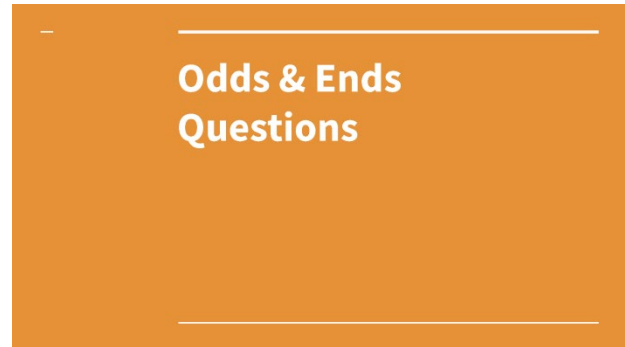
Secondary Restart Questions

(VSB) Diverse Learners (continued)

- How will my child with severe special needs be kept safe and healthy while at school, in their life skills program? Will they be in their own learning group?
- Will students who have a study skills block have this throughout the year rather than just a single quarter?



[Video response](#)



Odds & Ends

(VSB) Odds & Ends

- What is the best way to get information about all what is going on?
- I'm not exactly sure what my child's PEN number is. Where can we find out what it is?
- What is the VSB considering on spending the newly announced federal funds on? Do we know how much VSB will be getting and any spending parameters?
- Will fundraisers such as Hot Lunch be permitted?



[Video response](#)

Odds & Ends

(VSB & Trustees) Long Range Facilities Plan

- COVID-19 has sparked many conversations about the tension between efficiency and resilience, and nowhere does that seem more relevant than in school facilities. Given that we are told to expect more, not less, pandemics of this nature in the future, what changes to the LRF are being planned to accommodate the safety concerns around the inability to practice physical distancing that are being raised by parents and teachers?



[Video response](#)