Vancouver School Board

Board Meeting Report by Mia Liu

Sept. 25th, 2023

In this report, I will provide updates on VDSC’s start up activities for the 2023/2024 school year and upcoming plans.

In preparation for the new school year, VDSC released a video on social media to better inform our student audience of the council’s mission, structure, and purpose. Through such efforts, VDSC aims to spread awareness of ways to get involved with the council and amplify the student voice, such as the opportunity to run and become a junior executive member this October and participate in the VSB Standing Committees.

Last June, VDSC identified the need for indigenous student representation in VDSC discussions. The senior executive team has since reached out to the Indigenous Education Department to obtain input on how to align this goal with the indigenous ways of knowing. We look forward to continuing our work with the Indigenous Education Department, as we seek to have a student, or students, from the Indigenous Education Council as formal liaisons within VDSC.

While embarking on new journeys, VDSC is excited to continue projects kickstarted this past year. With a newly elected council, VDSC will relay information released by the SLO Program’s MOU from the last Policy and Governance committee meeting. Elements of the MOU, such as the updated, EDI-centered training portfolio, revised attire, diversity in officer selection, and integration of annual feedback surveys, reflect input discussed at the student-based focus group facilitated by VDSC last February. VDSC is happy to learn of such developments and will continue to seek student representation in constructing the program's future refinements.

Finally, the VDSC Senior Executive has done some preliminary work over the summer regarding our involvement in the two Board motions pertaining to sustainability and student leadership initiative funding. Having connected with sustainability representatives from the VSB Sustainability Connection, we understand that the sustainability grants have a well-designed process in place for allocation to student-led green initiatives. VDSC is currently working with District Staff to draft fund-application themes and criteria to establish a similar process for the student leadership funds. In doing so, we strive to ensure that the student resources generously provided by the Board can be easily accessed to foster youth leadership and used to their greatest potential.

Thank you.