Vancouver School Board

Board Meeting Report by Mia Liu

Oct. 24th, 2022

With over 170,000 ballots casted and 27 public officials elected, Vancouver has had an exciting month, and VDSC’s month has been just as busy. In this student trustee report I will provide an overview of VDSC’s Junior executive elections, our October leadership training retreat, and the upcoming Canley Cup Initiative. In the end, I will highlight student priorities to be identified and addressed in the remainder of this school year.

This year’s VDSC junior executive elections were extremely competitive. Our promotional efforts to reach students through social media proved effective, as we had a record number of 30 candidates run for nine positions, which, to date, have all been filled. These students come from across the district and are wonderful representations of the diverse student demographics within Vancouver. We will provide newly elected reps for VSB standing committees with an orientation meeting in the coming weeks and they will start attending VSB meetings in November.

Additionally, VDSC had its annual retreat of the year last Tuesday, Oct. 18th. It was a valuable bonding experience, and we proposed four core values for this council to uphold: respect, citizenship, equality, and responsibility. With these principles in mind, VDSC will soon launch its first project of the year: the Canley Cup, which raises funds and non-perishable foods for local charities.

Late this September, the VDSC senior exec team had the pleasure of visiting the GVFB’s Burnaby warehouse. We were pleasantly surprised by the amount of care the food bank takes in ensuring the nutritional value of the products, with specific food combos designed for different age groups to ensure balanced, nourishing meals that fits each population’s needs. In addition to the GVFB, the model VDSC will use to approach Canley cup this year allows each school to partner with a local charity or food hub of their choice, leading to more independence and individuality. Donations will be made digitally and/or physically, depending on each charity’s guidelines.

As an extension of VDSC’s past advocacy, I brought up the issue of student access to counselors and mental health resources at the last SLWB committee meeting. I was connected with the Director of Instruction for Learning Services, and District staff responsible for counselors and mental health have been invited to come speak to VDSC. I will follow up with this alongside our newly elected committee reps in the near future.

Further, VDSC is planning a survey for all 18 secondary schools’ student councils to identify their top priorities for this year. I will share the survey results, which will grant us insight into the students’ needs and wants.

Lastly, on behalf of VDSC, I thank current members of the board for their years of service to Vancouver students. The products of your work are and will continue to be valued for many years to come.

Thank you.