Vancouver School Board

Board Meeting Report by Mia Liu

October 30th, 2023

In this report, I will be providing an overview of VDSC’s recent initiatives and discussions.

Early this October, VDSC concluded the Jr. executive elections of the 2023-24 school year. With 10 Jr. executives elected from 27 candidates, the successful committee representatives will soon attend an orientation meeting to be prepared for student representation on VSB standing committees. To ensure diversity in student perspectives, VDSC tabled motions to integrate a voting sustainability representative and a voting indigenous representative onto the council. Both motions will be voted on at the next VDSC GM in mid-November.

A treasured initiative, VDSC is excited to begin preparations for the CANley Cup fundraiser.

The Senior Executives have met with staff from the Greater Vancouver Food Bank to discuss the logistics of the initiative, and we look forward to the exciting events each school will host to support fundraising efforts for the greater community.

In addition, VDSC discussed ways to spread further awareness of the SLO program, so that students can understand how school liaison officers can support them in the school environment. Based on input gathered from VDSC representatives, some recommendations include social media introductions for SLO officers and adding short overviews of the officer’s name and purpose on school newsletters or websites.

At the annual VDSC retreat, members brainstormed the meaning of student leadership. Results of this discussion included the principles of diversity and inclusion, teamwork, and community-building. Such values will provide the basis for criteria to be included in the grant application for funds allocated towards youth leadership initiatives, which are currently under the development process. In discussing elements of the grant allocation model, VDSC considered potential funding caps and possible lenses of evaluation. Through these measures, VDSC aims to establish a holistic review process would help ensure diversity in projects funded and comparable opportunities for all students across the VSB. Leadership is chromatic, and the projects supported by the leadership grant should reflect youth leadership in its many forms.

To advertise this funding opportunity, VDSC filmed a promotional video to inform students of the context and purpose of the student leadership grant, which has since accumulated over nine thousand views. VDSC hopes to open applications for the student leadership grant this December, and we look forward to updating the board on our endeavors.