

Dear trustees:

Our last two parent meetings (March and April) have surfaced discussion, questions, concerns and an exec resolution about the Q4 secondary plan.

We will ask our questions of staff but would like you to be aware of general themes in parent concerns and the resolution made by our exec.

We recognize that this year has been a balancing act. DPAC has heard a wide range of parent concerns regarding the current secondary school schedule and the proposed changes for Q4.



We understand parents wanting more in-school time and the rationale behind some of the changes for Q4. The feedback we provided to senior management on potential schedule changes for post-pandemic mention a lot of the educational and mental health concerns with the current system. (link to feedback: <http://vancouverdpac.org/s/Final-report-back-on-secondary-restart-POST.pdf>)

What we are hearing is questions and concerns about the implementation of the Q4 plan. The main focus of concern is around students attending sessions outside of their cohort. Some are concerned that there will be no additional learning for those students that attend other sessions -- there is an expectation that there would be an educational benefit. Other concerns are focused on health and safety. Some communication has indicated that the VSB has been allowed up to 30 students in a class. There are concerns that the number of students in a classroom may grow in a way that exceeds the risk that parents are willing to accept, without them knowing. There are questions about how cohorts will be kept separate and social distancing maintained should students choose to attend an additional class session. Further, there are questions about how schools will organize and accommodate students that may wish to attend an additional class session. We understand that more students may need to be in the school for a variety of reasons and these students should be supported in a manner that keeps all families safe.

Our executive made the following resolution at our recent executive meeting.

**Given that the COVID19 pandemic today is very different than when the Q4 plan was made, and especially in light of the high COVID numbers in the community, where PHO has stated that all COVID is now more transmissible VOCs, DPAC does not support any increases in classroom density. We further support students receiving more remote instruction, and the bolstering of interactive, session-based instructional teaching online using, if necessary, additional pandemic funding.**

We look forward to hearing from staff how concerns regarding health and safety will be addressed. We continue to believe that synchronous remote learning would add to the resilience and capacity of the VSB in the future.

cc: Student Learning and Well-Being representatives

Gord Lau  
Chair, Vancouver DPAC