

# POINT GREY SECONDARY

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## NEWS & EVENTS

April 5, 2019

[pointgreypac@gmail.com](mailto:pointgreypac@gmail.com)

### **Updated Monthly Calendar: April - June 2019**

To see the school monthly calendar please go the Point Grey website, home page, under School Monthly Calendar.

#### **INDEX**

- 1. Updated Monthly Calendar**
- 2. Homestay Families Needed**
- 3. PAC Meeting date change**
- 4. Homework Club**
- 5. LRFP Update – meeting with Trustee Carmen Cho**
- 6. VSB 2019/20 Budget**
- 7. Upcoming Calendar Dates**
- 8. PAC Contact Info**

### **Host an International Student - Join Langara Homestay**

Langara College invites you and your family to join our highly regarded Homestay Program by hosting a VSB international student this year. Our students come from Europe, Asia and South America - usually stay for five to 10 months, and are keen to experience life with a Vancouver family. Generous reimbursement is provided. Please call 604.323.5696 or email [homestay@langara.ca](mailto:homestay@langara.ca) for more information.

### **April PAC Meeting: Update & Dessert Night Thursday April 25<sup>th</sup> 7pm Staff Room**

We'll have an update on the VSB Facilities Committee meeting, a brief PAC meeting and Dessert Night - bring a sweet treat to share.

### **Homework Club**

Homework club is now being offered at Point Grey. It is every Monday and Wednesday in room 105 from 3:15-4:15. It is for students to come and get support with academics or do their work independently. There will be several peer tutors and teachers to support students with all subjects. Anyone is welcome. Snacks will be provided!

# VSB Draft Long Range Facilities Plan (LRFP) Update

On Tuesday April 2<sup>nd</sup>, Carmen Cho, VSB Trustee for PG, came to talk to the PAC about the LRFP. Overall the meeting was a very good one, thanks to all the parents who attended. There were a lot of thoughtful questions and Carmen did her best to answer them honestly. Below are some of the questions and answers that we recorded. We will include more comments in the coming newsletters.

**Q: *Has there been a revision to the LRFP draft?***

**Carmen Cho (CC):** No. Not yet. We have two public consultations coming up. The thought was, we shouldn't do a revision until we have the consultations on 4/11 (Kits) and 4/16 (VanTech).

The format will be similar to an Open House with information on the LRFP. Trustees and VSB staff will be there to gather feedback, take notes and answer questions. After that, we should be getting a revision of the LRFP.

April 17: next Facilities Planning Committee meeting. That will be an opportunity for Trustees to give input on changes we'd like to see in the LRFP.

**Q: *Parents still view this as a closure-focused report. That is the element that gets the most attention and space in the report, and many of the other recommendations get dismissed in the report. So this is how it's being interpreted by parents/students. It's frustrating to feel that the VSB is dismissing our concerns about the closure/consolidation issues.***

**CC:** Background on LRFP: This is a mandated document. The Ministry of Education (MoE) wants to see what facilities we have and how we're using them.

The challenge in Vancouver: our district is not full. We're at 83% capacity. MoE says you have some schools running under capacity. If we want funding for seismic upgrades/expansion (at particular schools), we've been denied by MoE because they say we already have capacity for those students (at other schools). There are pockets of space throughout the district.

**Q: *Can there be more pushback to the Ministry on its definition of capacity? Music and art rooms, sensory rooms for special needs, libraries – all these are valuable, instructional space.***

**CC:** I agree – a sensory room is just as valuable.

Capacity utilization:

There's a motion coming forward for area standards on behalf of all school boards in BC. When a new school is built, it's typically smaller. We're saying that doesn't make any sense. It should be the size that's needed. The motion asks that area standards get revised. Schools/classrooms have changed and area standards haven't been changed in many years to reflect that.

We're saying to the MoE: "We don't like the way you decide/calculate capacity. "

Richmond has similar issues. We're saying, this school *isn't* actually under capacity. We've gone back and forth about this. We can push back, but the MoE controls the \$\$\$. And then they can say, "You're just not getting the money."

**Q: Two comments/questions:**

1. It's short-sighted that the MoE is funding new or renovated schools with no music/art space.
2. It's concerning that the VSB is not sharing the basic formula from the private firm supplying the statistics. Especially when it's so contradictory to the BC Stats numbers.

***Q: I have had students at private schools here. They have great facilities, but these have no bearing on the education. It's about the teachers, the classes, the quality of education. If music and art are missing – that's a big piece! I'm worried that the VSB sees newer school buildings as (automatically) better. This is not about the best buildings. No money can build the same school quality as Point Grey. Our kids love their school and are proud of their community. Please make the best decisions so we can be proud too. (APPLAUSE).***

CC; A lot of the upgraded schools look exactly the same as they did before (retrofitted schools, such as Kerrisdale).

***Q: When we talk about "they/them" (the MoE) – "They" are people we elected! Rob Fleming is the Minister of Education.***

***Q: Parent Action Network has been looking at area standards. Next step – parents need to start talking to the Ministry about area standards.***

**CC: MoE area standards: Library, art or music rooms not used 100% of the time for classes -- not counted as a classroom.**

**Q: When will we have a final decision – close/consolidate/upgrade – for PG? What about a seismic update from the VSB staff?**

**CC:** At the April or May Board meeting. In theory, whatever is decided there could have meaning for us. (Seismic upgrade and/or closure). But even if Trustees agree on an LRFP draft that includes school closure, there are a lot more steps before decisions will be made about any particular school. Look at VSB's policy 14 on closure.

**Mr. Gill:** In September, there would be more school consultations/audits. Then the VSB would likely make a decision before January. Families could be notified by the end of November (2019).

**Send your comments in – flood that email.** Send your thoughts. That's what the email is there for. We want to hear feedback. I will certainly be delivering the messages we hear from you.

Tell them what you want. And come to the public consultation sessions April 11 (Kits) and April 16 (VanTech).

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**Send emails to Carmen Cho [carmen.cho@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:carmen.cho@vsb.bc.ca) and cc: [LRFP@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:LRFP@vsb.bc.ca)**

The PAC will have sample letters available next week for those who want them.

Then, as this is a Ministry driven requirement, please also send a letter to Rob Fleming, the Minister of Education, letting him know your views as well. The MOE is only funding the cheapest options for each school, which in new schools often means no auditoriums or gyms, no music or art space, etc. We should encourage the Provincial government to fully fund our schools and revise area standards.

1. Write to Rob Fleming, Minister of Education – [EDUC.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:EDUC.Minister@gov.bc.ca) or call 250-356-8247
2. The correct salutation is: Hon. Rob Fleming
3. CC: your MLA
4. Sign your full name, include your postcode and provide contact details – address, phone number and/or e-mail
5. Personalized letters carry more weight than petitions or form letters

## **Reminder from DPAC regarding VSB's 2019/20 Budget**

The VSB's 2019/20 budget will be presented soon and will require feedback from parents as to whether or not it reflects the correct set of priorities for the school district. Interested parents should register to speak at the meeting at Mount Pleasant Elementary on April 23rd. We will share details on how to register as they are known.

### **VSB Budget 2019/20 Timeline**

Tuesday, Apr 9 - Tuesday, Apr 30 – VSB Budget 2019/20 Public Survey

Tuesday, Apr 9, 7pm – VSB Plenary Student Learning & Well-Being/Finance Committee.  
Presentation of the 2019/2020 Preliminary Budget Proposals

Tuesday, Apr 23, 7pm – VSB Special Board Meeting/Committee of the Whole Mount Pleasant Elementary gym, 2300 Guelph St. Public consultation on the 2019/2020 Preliminary Budget Proposals

Thursday, Apr 25, 7pm – DPAC General Meeting: VSB Budget 2019/20 Rm 180, 1580 W. Broadway

Monday, May 6, 7pm – VSB Special Board Meeting. Report on DPAC general meeting and public survey.

First and second readings of the 2019/2020 Annual Budget Bylaw

Wednesday, May 15, 7pm – VSB Special Board Meeting/Committee of the Whole Stakeholder and Public Input on the 2019/2020 budget

Monday, June 24, 7pm – VSB Board Meeting Third reading and adoption of the 2019/2020 budget bylaw.

## Upcoming Calendar Dates

- Mon April 8th – 7pm Staff Room – PG Music Supporters Society Meeting
- Tues April 9 – Tues April 30 – VSB Budget 2019/20 Public Survey (more info to follow)
- Thurs April 11th – 6-8pm – Westside LRFP Community Consultation Kitsilano Secondary School
- Tues April 16<sup>th</sup> – 6-8pm – LRFP Public Info Session, Van Tech Secondary School
- Wed April 17th – 5-7pm VSB Facilities Planning Committee Meeting – Room 180 Vancouver School Board Education Center – 1580 W. Broadway
- Fri, April 19th – No school
- Mon, April 22 – No School – Earth Day!
- Thurs, April 25 – 7pm – PAC Meeting – update & dessert night!

Weekly Newsletter submissions accepted until Wednesday 8pm [pointgreypac@gmail.com](mailto:pointgreypac@gmail.com)

More information to be found on <https://www.pointgreyparents.org>

*We are grateful to live, work & learn on the unceded, ancestral territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil Waututh Nations.*