

TWO TRUTHS AND A LIE

Which one is not true?

1

VSB is committed to the health and safety of all students. The program administrator will work directly with staff, including the school counsellor, to respond to any emergent needs that arise for students.

2

VSB admin intentionally made the intake pause announcement to the students without notifying the parents, abruptly resulting in immediate trauma among the students.

3

Since 2023, VSB administrators have repeatedly caused stress for UTP students by intimidating, threatening, and monitoring their private profiles and group chats.

THE MEMO

On January 26, while 41 UTP students and some parents were preparing for the traditional birthday celebration, and 100 applicants who had already gone through the last round of assessments, and another 200 applicants were anticipating the upcoming February 1 assessment, the VSB administrators were plotting to ruin those students' hopes.

The VSB admins intentionally waited until the parents who helped with the birthday party had left the school. They deliberately went to the students, declaring a 'exciting news' to them.

They brought in a psychologist, anticipating how devastated the students would be. They also informed the teachers' union in advance, knowing the intake pause would inevitably affect the staff structure and the program.

The original plan was to inform the students and parents simultaneously. However, the VSB administration intentionally made the announcement to the younger students only after the parents were no longer present.

Rollout plan

Date	Activity	Responsibility	Status
Jan 25 AM	Finalize Draft materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues mgmt plan • KMs • Letter to current students/families • Letter to applicants • Letter to stakeholders • FAQs 	Jiana – for VSB Scott/Meghan – for Ministry David – for UBC	Done
Jan 25 AM	Notify Premier's office	Mary	Done
Jan 25 PM	Notify Vancouver Secondary Teachers Union (so they can be in attendance on Jan 26)	Alison	Done
Jan 26	Heads up to ministry internal staff	Scott/Meghan	Done
Jan 26	Heads up to UBC leadership	David Shorthouse	Done
Jan 26 AM	Receive approval of materials	Jiana, Scott/Meghan, David	Done
Jan 26 @12:45 pm	Notify VSB trustees and stakeholders via email	Jiana Alison (District Parent Advisory Council, Vancouver Association of Secondary School Administrators) Helen (Trustees)	
Jan 26@1:00 pm	Notify TPGS staff in-person	Rosie and Ankie Vancouver Secondary Teacher's Association rep	
Jan 26@1:05 pm	Notify current students in person	Rosie and Ankie	
Jan 26@1:05pm	Notify students' families via email	Alison	
Jan 26 @1:10 pm	Notify applicants via email	Ankie/ OAA	
Jan. 26 @ 2pm	Heads up to UBC Faculty of Education admin related to program	Paula Sabti (UBC FoE)	
On going	Notify UBC/VSB/Ministry comms staff if media inquiry is received and align responses	VSB: communications@vsb.bc.ca Ministry media relations: [REDACTED] s. 15(1)(l) UBC: Matthew Ramsey	

System_Event 1/26/2024 6:00 AM

New member added and shared all chat history.

Alison Ogden <aogden@vsb.bc.ca> 1/26/2024 6:00 AM

Hi Everyone - sorry for the very late message but it's taken a bit of work to get all of the messaging together. The goal is to have all of the materials completed for release by 9 am tomorrow. Jiana will have a letter for you Ankie to go to all of the applicants for next year along with an FAQ sheet. I will share the key messages to help with your conversation with staff. Musica will be sending a letter to all current families as soon as I know you are speaking with the staff. Likely around 1:05. Carmen Schaedeli will be on site to support the teachers. Please ask Giovanna to send the letter to applicants at 1:10.

The FAQ directs people with questions about the review to prpadmin@gov.bc.ca. It also says, 'If families have a concern about their child's well-being, please reach out to program staff through your regular channels.' I will reach out tomorrow morning when the letters are ready to go.

Ankie Carswell <acarswell@vsb.bc.ca> +like 1/26/2024 6:18 AM

Ankie Carswell <acarswell@vsb.bc.ca> 1/26/2024 6:21 AM

Hi Alison,

I am concerned that if we send the applicant letter at 1:10 pm that it will get to the students before we are finished talking to the staff. It's a small circle and many are in touch with each other already. I think we need to finish talking or at least start talking to the students before sending to this year's applicants.

Rosie Poetschke <rpoetschke@vsb.bc.ca> 1/26/2024 6:26 AM

Hello! I do agree Ankie...we need to be able to be at least beginning to talk to the students.

Rosie Poetschke <rpoetschke@vsb.bc.ca> 1/26/2024 6:28 AM

I am mindful that parents will be onsite for the bday celebration and they may go directly and speak with their children.

Rosie Poetschke <rpoetschke@vsb.bc.ca> 1/26/2024 6:28 AM

A few thoughts for us to consider.

Alison Ogden <aogden@vsb.bc.ca> 1/26/2024 6:30 AM

Key Messages (to help with questions/follow up when families reach out)

TPGS admission pause - key messages

- We acknowledge and understand the concerns expressed by the community regarding the temporary pause in admissions to the TPSG program.
 - We want to assure you that this decision was not made lightly but was deemed necessary in response to a number of concerns that have been brought to the attention of the Ministry, VSB and UBC.
- The well-being of our students is, and always will be, our top priority.
 - The recent concerns necessitate a thorough and thoughtful review, and all three partners are committed to ensuring our actions are in the best interest of students' mental health and overall well-being.
- It is essential to allow the review process to unfold without presupposing its outcomes.
 - The review by Deetken Insight is a critical step towards understanding the complexities of the issues reported and determining the best path forward. It is imperative to give this process the time and space it needs to be conducted thoroughly and fairly.
- As mentioned in the information sent to you, the Ministry, VSB and UBC understand the importance of accountability and will share the findings and recommendations with families.

Alison Ogden <aogden@vsb.bc.ca> 1/26/2024 6:31 AM

Hi Ankie - absolutely - adjust the send time to the applicants - please send me a text when it has been done.

Ankie Carswell <acarswell@vsb.bc.ca> +like 1/26/2024 6:34 AM

Message edited: Alison Ogden <aogden@vsb.bc.ca> 1/26/2024 6:32 AM

I'm assuming then that we need to wait until you're talking to the students to send the letter to the families of current students.

Rosie Poetschke <rpoetschke@vsb.bc.ca> 1/26/2024 6:32 AM

Hello Alison Ogden! Will these key points form part of a common consistent message?

Rosie Poetschke <rpoetschke@vsb.bc.ca> 1/26/2024 6:32 AM

Alison Ogden

I'm assuming then that we need to wait until you're talking to the students to send the letter to the families.

I was just thinking the same

Alison Ogden <aogden@vsb.bc.ca> 1/26/2024 6:32 AM

Rosie Poetschke

Hello Alison Ogden! Will these key points form part of a common consistent message?

Witness Statement

January 29, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

We, Julia Du, Han Zhang, and Jennifer Cai, are submitting this formal witness statement following numerous complaints received by the UTP (University Transition Program) PAC from parents and students regarding an incident involving our students, Ms. Poetschke, Director of District Learning Services (DLS) at VSB, and Ms. Carswell, District Principal of UTP, on January 26.

On January 29 at 10:20 am, before school commenced, we had a conversation with Ms. Poetschke and Ms. Carswell. Here are the details of that conversation:

We inquired whether Ms. Poetschke and Ms. Carswell had met with UTP Y1 and Y2 students on the afternoon of Friday, January 26, without prior or subsequent notification to their parents. Both confirmed that they did.

We questioned if they informed the students directly that there would be no new students next year, contradicting the letter parents received from the Ministry, VSB, and UBC on January 26. Both confirmed this and reiterated in our presence that there would be no new students for UTP in the 2024/2025 academic year.

Ms. Poetschke and Ms. Carswell mentioned they brought a counselor to the school during their conversation with the students. We responded by highlighting that this indicated they anticipated the impact of their actions on the underage students. They could have informed their parents to attend the meeting but chose not to. Instead, they brought a counselor unfamiliar to the students, which was ineffective, as evidenced by numerous reports from parents about their children experiencing strong emotions, including crying, withdrawal, depression, and other emotional and behavioral abnormalities. Some parents sought medical support for their children. As parents, we assert our right to complain and report this incident.

We also inquired about the absence of the UTP counselor and the lack of adequate mental health support from a familiar and reliable source. Ms. Carswell confirmed that the UTP onsite psychologist was moved in 2018. We expressed our intent to continue pursuing the reasons behind this decision.

This conversation occurred on January 29, 2024, on the UTP campus. We affirm that this statement has been read by us and is true and correct to the best of our knowledge.

Witness: Julia (Kun) Du , Han Zhang, Jennifer(Zeng) Cai

Student Statement

January 29, 2024

The statement below is from students who are comfortable to share their experiences at the present time. It contains two parts, part 1 states the detailed scene of the incident and part 2 states the individual student's feelings(shared by the students and the parents):

Part 1

On 2024, January 26th, Friday, during the third block, beginning at around 1:00, both classes were given tasks overseen by ToCs (Teachers on call), while the teachers were unexpectedly absent. 30 minutes later, both classes were called to bring a chair into the English room and settle down with all teachers present. The principal, Ms Ankie Carswell, stood in the front of the room next to two sitting strangers, who she introduced as her colleague, Ms Rosie Poetschke, and a counselor introduced as Paula.

Ms Poetschke began with the claim that she has some "exciting news" for us. She proceeded to explain that over the next few weeks, people from a company hired by the VSB would come in and review our school. They would view our attendance, stand in during our classes, and evaluate our curriculum. The reason for this was explained that over the years, VSB, the Ministry of Education, and UBC had received emails eliciting concern for the mental health of students in UTP. This review conducted by an external company would last eight weeks, beginning the next Monday, and a report would have to be written before implementing changes. However, because the review would last for such a long time, admissions will be canceled and Year 1s will not be admitted next year because changes could not be implemented by September. Year 1s and Year 2s would not be affected by this and will have the opportunity to graduate into UBC. Ms Poetschke read aloud an email sent to parents reiterating what she had explained and students started to ask her questions.

What is the worst possible outcome?

She claimed that she didn't want to assume.

Has there been any consideration on how much impact this would have on the tradition?

For example, Year 1 students learn from Year 2 students.

The question was redirected to the company completing the review and students were told to ask the company.

Why are we only being informed now, three days before the review, two being a weekend?

The VSB, Ministry of Education, and UBC have put a lot of thought into this. I also have only received this information these past couple of days.

Is there any slight possibility of having applicants next year?

She didn't want to completely undermine the possibility, but claimed it is currently very unlikely for it to occur.

After a gap year, will Year 1s be admitted again?

She couldn't say.

What support for mental health will be put in place during the review?

If you reached out, the Uhill counselor would be available and the VSB can also be contacted.

When did many of these mental health reports come into the VSB?

Rosie responded, 'I don't know, I couldn't tell you that'. Later on, about 5 minutes later, she clearly mentions that many of mental health complaints had been received during winter break.

What were the times that the emails regarding the mental health of students came in?

Students were told that this information is 'private and confidential' but it is important to note that in the email sent to parents, it claims that these emails came over the winter break and in early January.

Many other questions were also answered with confidentiality or redirected to the company they hired.

Students were also invited to speak with the counselor, sitting cross-legged beside Ms. Poetschke, should the students need support. 20 minutes of questioning later, students returned to their classrooms at 2:20. Supervised by ToCs, Year 2s had a work block while Year 1s proceeded to have a math test scheduled to occur at 2, which had to be cut down by around a third because of lack of time.

Part 2:

— I felt stress and disappointment at the sudden news. I could feel tears well in my eyes and I could see worry in my classmates eyes too. I was shocked and confused and didn't understand why this was happening so suddenly. After returning to the classroom, I and many of my classmates felt distraught throughout the math test.

— I was shocked after hearing the news. I struggled to comprehend why the year 1s were being canceled for my year, which was honestly something I was looking forward to next year; being able to connect and mentor the new year ones. My classmates mentioned that some students received their UTP invitations in my year only a few weeks before orientation, so I didn't understand why they felt the need to halt all applications, other than "it might take longer than expected". I can definitely say that I was incredibly disappointed and frustrated after hearing the news, and I noticed that all of my classmates and peers were shocked by this news as well.

— After receiving the unexpected and sudden news on Friday afternoon, I felt a mix of surprise and sadness. Considering that next year we will most likely only have half of the students in this program participating in school work, clubs and other activities together, I felt sad. Additionally, I also noticed that some other students were surprised, sad, and frustrated.

— I'm feeling a whirlwind of emotions right now. The sudden announcement of the cancellation of our beloved program has left me shocked and speechless. I feel a deep sense of loss, as if something precious has been taken away from me. The sadness is overwhelming, and I find myself shedding tears over the abrupt end of something I held so dear. The future now seems uncertain and intimidating, filled with questions about what comes next. I'm scared of what lies ahead without the program that meant so much to me.

— When I tried to talk to my kid about it after school last Friday, he tried to act as usual but his voice was shaking. He loves going to school, always telling me how awesome his classmates are. But after what happened on Friday, he was just quiet and down, very upset during the weekend until now. He said he wished it was all just a bad dream.

— Right after receiving the email about the assessment being paused, I got a call from my child. He was crying and said, 'Mom, do you know what happened at UTP today? They canceled the admissions.' I tried to comfort him by saying it was just a pause. But he told me the VSB staff had said there would be no new students in September. He was very anxious and crying, and he mentioned that two of his classmates were crying beside him.

— My son said he could not even fathom the coldness that must permeate those people who came to school and announced the decisions with no regard for the devastating effect they would have on the children at UTP. He broke down, extremely frustrated and angry. He was shaking when he came back home, furious and heartbroken. I'm heartbroken for him and for how this is affecting him.

Many UTP students experienced anxiety and panic following the sudden announcement, which appeared intentionally timed to affect children aged 12 to 14. The UTP PAC submitted an official complaint to the VSB, but the staff's misconduct was ultimately disregarded.

This is very ironic given the VSB's claims that they prioritize protecting youth mental health when they made the decision to pause the intake.

THE MEMO

On January 28, the night before the UTP PAC decided to organize a rally to protest the sudden pause of the intake, 4 UTP students were visited by the police and received warnings.

Some of them were called to a meeting with the VSB Safety and Caring District Principal the following day, and were instructed NOT to mention the issue to anyone. If VSB believed the situation was urgent enough to involve the police, they needed to notify all families about the emergency in accordance with the school safety protocol. But they didn't.

Additionally, the police confirmed that the so-called bomb threat was based on a screenshot that could not be proven real and lacked context.

More than one families have confirmed that the screenshot of the messages might have been edited by stitching together several days' chat records and removing the context.

All of these students suffered from the sudden police visit and the stress of being asked to remain silent, while VSB did not show any concern for those students' mental health and well-being.

The statement from one Y1 family, who was visited by the police and instructed by VSB not to tell the truth to anyone.

Our son is a Y1 student of the University Transition Program (UTP). As you have already known, on Friday, January 26, VSB unexpectedly announced the program intake pause to the students without prior consultation with the parents.

On Sunday evening, January 28, my family had a shocking police visit. Two police officers came and said someone reported my son. They were there to give him a warning because he made some emotional statements on Discord in a private chat group of twenty Y1 students.

We were called to the principal's office in U-Hill the next morning. Before the meeting, my son thought he was there only because of an emotional comment he made after the Friday announcement. The principal, Mrs. Carswell, nevertheless, mentioned the "bomb threat" that my son wrote on Discord.

Puzzled, my son asked the time the message was posted.

Pulling out the phone to check, Mrs. Carswell replied "I can't show you the snapshot in order to protect the identity of the one who reported it. I believe it was posted this past Wednesday."

"Oh that...We were talking in the context of a video game. I do Minecraft and games like that and I was also fascinated by the physics of bombs. I was mentally calculating the radius of a bomb. It was really just a thought exercise... like anyone who is interested in the science of anything," my son explained.

The two district principals there reassured us there would be no reprimands. The meeting ended quickly afterwards and we felt understood and had the chance to explain. However, we were also told not to mention the meeting to anyone nor discuss the incident within the UTP community.

Therefore, we were shocked to learn recently that this police incident was escalated to a "serious mental health and school safety issue" by VSB. We would like to give our side of the account so you could understand what really happened.

Sincerely,
Very concerned parents

From: [Ankie Carswell <acarswell@vsb.bc.ca>](mailto:acarswell@vsb.bc.ca)
To: [Alison Ogden <aogden@vsb.bc.ca>](mailto:aogden@vsb.bc.ca)
[Rosie Poetschke <rpoetschke@vsb.bc.ca>](mailto:rpoetschke@vsb.bc.ca)
[Iqbal Gill <igill@vsb.bc.ca>](mailto:igill@vsb.bc.ca)
Date: 2024-01-29 4:15:26 PM
Subject: RE: [REDACTED] s. 22

VSB District Principal - Safe and Caring Schools

Hello everybody,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
I recognize that we would have had to deal with it regardless.
[REDACTED]

s. 22

Thank you all for your support.

Ankie

Ankie Carswell

District Principal, Provincial Resource Programs

BC Children's Hospital School Programs
GF Strong Rehabilitation School Program
Canuck Place School Program
Peak House School Program
Transition Program for Gifted Students
Vancouver School Board
1580 West Broadway
Vancouver, BC V6J 5K8

[REDACTED] s. 15(1)(l)

[website](#)

My day may not be similar to your day. Please do not feel obliged to respond outside of your normal working hours.

With deep gratitude and respect, I am honoured to be learning and unlearning on the ancestral and unceded lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) & səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation). With this acknowledgement comes the commitment to truth and engagement in ongoing acts of reconciliation.

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From: Alison Ogden <aogden@vsb.bc.ca>
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2024 5:39 AM
To: Rosie Poetschke <rpoetschke@vsb.bc.ca>; Ankie Carswell <acarswell@vsb.bc.ca>; Iqbal Gill <igill@vsb.bc.ca>
Subject: Fwd: [REDACTED] s. 22

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From: Alison Ogden <aogden@vsb.bc.ca>
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2024 5:38:07 AM
To: Helen McGregor <hmccgregor@vsb.bc.ca>
Subject: Fwd: [REDACTED] s. 22

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The Vancouver Police Department contacted VSB in the midnight after they just visited the four students involved in the so-called "bomb threat."

From: GOBILLOT, Joe <joe.gobillot@vpd.ca>
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2024 12:08:22 AM
To: Alison Ogden <aogden@vsb.bc.ca>
Subject: [REDACTED] s. 22

This email originated from outside of the VSB. Do not click on links, attachments or reply to emails from unknown sources.

Hi Alison, just wanted to give you an update on the situation,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Everyone I spoke to seemed to take the warning seriously.

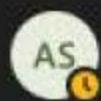
I will be concluding this file [REDACTED] s. 22

Please let me know if you have any questions or need anything else.

Take care,

Joe Gobillot
Constable # 3416
Operations – District 4 Team 9
Vancouver Police Department
Tel: [REDACTED] s. 15(1)(f), 22
Email: joe.gobillot@vpd.ca

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Stuart-Crump, Alison Chat 3 more +



Stuart-Crump, Alison 1/26 12:19 PM

sorry im not sure what is happening with my teams today - I'm sending messages and then they aren't 'sending' until like an hour later 😊

if there was ever a sign it's a Friday, that's a sign

1/26 12:20 PM

i hear yah.

Stuart-Crump, Alison 1/26 2:46 PM

Monday's 1pm meeting did come through to me yesterday 😊

1/26 2:46 PM

i made the mistake of sending it from the Board room's calendar so i didn't have it in mine lol - i'll just update things now

Stuart-Crump, Alison 1/26 2:47 PM

ah gotcha - never noticed but then again, i haven't properly read half my emails from the last two days

January 29

The chat record of UBC Provost and Vice President Office staff showed they were notified by VSB about the so-called "bomb threat."

1/29 1:46 PM

ok here's a plot twist. I'm out for a walk past Nitobe garden and there's an RCMP car parked outside the President's house

Stuart-Crump, Alison 1/29 1:47 PM

maybe it's protocol after a report like that is received?

while the file makes me so annoyed, I also find it incredibly interesting
LOL

1/29 1:53 PM Edited

yeah it probably is protocol - we have to have had other times when such situations have happened.

000188

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2024 9:59 AM
To: Joseph.Gobillot
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Case # 2024-16038

The correspondence between the parent of another Y1 student, who was visited by the police despite not mentioning anything about a bomb. The parent clarified this and proved that the original screenshot was edited and taken out of context.

Dear Sir

My name is [REDACTED] is my son. On Jan 28, Sunday, we were visited by two police officers who gave my son a verbal warning regarding his (alleged) improper comments in a chat group on Discord. As it was at night and happened unexpectedly we only had a hasty glimpse of the screenshot (the “evidence”). Now we would like to see it again and if possible we need a copy of this “evidence”. We are seriously concerned about the integrity of this screenshot, which we believe has been edited / manipulated from the original chat records. We are also highly concerned about the motivations of whoever reported this case to RCMP. The boy has been very upset after the police visit and is sick now. So this is an urgent matter. Please help. Thank you for your time and efforts.

From:

Date: 2024-02-02 8:00 a.m. (GMT-08:00)

To: "GOBILLLOT, Joe" <joe.gobillot@vpd.ca>

Cc:

Subject: FW: Case # 2024-16038

Good morning sir.

I hope the below email has found you well. Kindly please help advise whether and how we will be able to get a copy of the screenshot, based on which my son was accused of his improper comments online.

We believe this screenshot is a manipulation of the original chat records. In the original records someone did mention the word "bomb" out of a typo and then a joke, while my son's negative comments towards VSB took place nowhere near this typo. Someone has put together the negative comments towards VSB (my son's and others') around the "bomb" typo and joke and created a scenario that the kids were plotting something bad.

Please let us confirm this. We totally understand and accept the police's suggestion to the kid that he should behave himself online. But still we need to figure out the fact. Thank you.

Best Regards,

From: GOBILLOT, Joe [mailto:joe.gobillot@vpd.ca]

Sent: Friday, February 2, 2024 8:26 PM

To:

Subject: RE: Case # 2024-16038

Hi

I tried calling but was not able to get through. I understand your concern that the screenshot may have been edited, however we don't have any indication of this, so we had to treat it at face value. I understand that your son did not make direct comments about any "bombs" however he was grouped in with the individuals that were. We had a chance to speak to those involved in making those comments.

For what it's worth, I want to make it clear that your son is not in any trouble. This was simply a joke that was taken out of context, and we understand that. This was meant to be treated as a lesson for the students to watch what they say in group chats as messages can be screenshotted and sent around without context.

I hope that makes things more clear. If you would like to speak over the phone, I'm working night shifts for the next 4 nights and my number is 604-307-9795

Take care,

Joe Gobillot

Constable # 3416

Operations – District 4 Team 9

Vancouver Police Department

Tel: 604-717-3987

Email: joe.gobillot@vpd.ca

From:

Date: 2024-02-03 10:09 p.m. (GMT-08:00)

To: "GOBILLOT, Joe" <joe.gobillot@vpd.ca>

Cc:

Subject: RE: Case # 2024-16038

Good evening Joe.

C

Sorry for my bothering. If you can't share a copy of the screenshot, can we meet you in person and see it again? We are now very sure this screenshot was deliberately made up by someone rather than the true chat records. And the purpose of this false report to the police was to use the police to threaten my son and me away from taking part in a rally against VSB, which had been scheduled the very next morning.

As I recall from what I has ly saw during the police visit on the night of Jan 28, the screenshot showed that someone men oned he would take a "Bxxb" to school, and my son said "fxxx VSB" near that comment. However, the original chat records on the server did not show this scenario at all. According to the original chat reocrds, the men on of the Bxxb took place on Jan 24, and derived from a typo in the first place. Near this Bxxb comment, my son never said anything related to VSB. My son's "fxxx VSB" comment took place on Jan 26 after VSB announced that they were closing down my son's study program. And on Jan 26 no one ever men oned the word Bxxb. Therefore it is obvious that the screenshot is a fake evidence. Some one had manipulated people's comments made at different me into one page.

After the police visit, the kids were shocked and scared and many quit this chat group immediately. The admin of this group (my son's classmate) shut down the server at once, and blocked any one from accessing the data. That's why we can s ll see the intact original chat records now.

As I said, the whole case is a conspiracy. VSB is trying to close down my son's study program claiming that the students in the program had "mental and emo onal issues". The PAC strongly disagree with VSB and was planning a rally and protest on the morning of Jan 29, which did not actually happen according to the PAC's last minute decision. What a coincidence that some one made a false report to the police exactly the night before the scheduled rally, and meanwhile showing that these kids indeed had emo onal issues. Clever but shameful!

We are considering a counterclaim to the person or organiza on who made this false report to the police. The kids are innocent and don't deserve a police warning at all. They have been deeply hurt by this incident.

Sorry I may have written too long. Kindly please understand the situa on and share your advice. Thank you and have a good one. We trust in jus ce and we trust in RCMP.

Best,

From: GOBILLOT, Joe [mailto:joe.gobillot@vpd.ca]

Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 12:37 AM

To:

Subject: RE: Case # 2024-16038

Hi I think it would be easier to explain over the phone however I'm not able to get through to you.

As I mentioned, your child is not in any trouble. We were given information and we had to speak with those involved. Your son was in the group chat, so we needed a Police officer to speak with him to find out what this was all about.

As this was a Vancouver Police file, we had to send a Richmond RCMP member to your residence to speak with your son. I'm not sure what the Richmond officer said, but I will reiterate that we are not accusing anyone of making threats. The only reason your son is involved in this file is because he was in this group chat, and therefore we believed he would be able to provide context.

As for the conspiracy allegations, there's no way we could prove that. I understand the tension that is present with the PAC and VSB.

That being said, when someone makes these types of allegations, we have to treat it seriously until we can prove otherwise. I hope that makes sense. There's no way for us to prove ill intentions from the VSB making this report.

I hope that clears things up.

Joe Gobillot

Constable # 3416

Operations – District 4 Team 9

Vancouver Police Department

Tel: 604-717-3987

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THE MEMO

These are not isolated incidents of VSB administrators intentionally harming UTP students' mental health and well-being through intimidation.

On January 18, 2023, just 9 days after the district principal started her new position, she singled out and intimidated a student representative of UTP.

The student was threatened by the district principal and told she could not write letters to the UBC president and senators to advocate for UTP when the 2023/2024 intake was paused.

The 14-year-old student experienced fear and anxiety for months following the intimidation incident. The UTP PAC submitted formal complaints to the VSB superintendent, trustees, and DPAC; however, there was no response from the VSB administration. The district principal faced no repercussions for her severe misconduct as a school administrator.

Respected trustee and superintendent, DPAC,

We are writing to address the unacceptable and unprofessional conduct of District Principal Carswell. Initially, parents were willing to overlook the repeated disruptions to class, but an incident on Jan 18th, has changed our perception of the prior interruptions. On that day, a student was wrongfully singled out and unduly intimidated by this representative of the VSB. This interaction has caused prolonged emotional distress for the student and their family.

We would like to express our concerns about the District Principal's abuse of authority. As described in the incident below, she attempts to use her position to force students to comply with her wishes. This raises concerns that she will further abuse her power to influence teachers and supervisors to bring about prejudiced consequences, such as manipulating student records or report on students in a biased manner in retaliation for their advocacy.

On Jan. 18th, at approximately 12:40pm, teacher Dr. Ludmila Shepelev instructed a student to go to the office of District Principal, Ankie Carswell. The student was not comfortable with the situation and left the door ajar, but Ms. Carswell demanded that the door be shut.

Ms. Carswell told the student emphatically that they were not to write letters to any UBC representatives regarding their concerns. The student left the meeting in tears and spent the remainder of the day in a highly distressed state.

The parents reached out to the PAC for support and the following day, two PAC representatives confirmed with Ms. Carswell that the incident had occurred. Ms. Carswell described the topic of discussion as "confidential". Ms. Carswell also stated that this kind of conversation was commonplace between herself and students.

The student, along with a peer, was voted to represent their classmates and to contact members of the UBC community regarding recent changes made to the UTP program without notable consultation. However, this student alone was singled out and removed for admonishment during class time leading to confusion and concern among the entire UTP community.

University Hill Secondary School Code of Conduct Violations

1. Disruption of the classroom or learning environment.

The student was ostensibly removed from a History lesson as a reprimand for actions that did not represent any clear demonstrable misconduct. The removal follows a pattern of class disruptions whereby Ms. Carswell has repeatedly delayed or paused classes for times ranging from 15-45 minutes through the course of the first several weeks for teacher meetings and to question students. This shows a great disrespect to the pressure the students are under as they prepare for provincial exams.

2. Physical violence, intimidation, bullying or harassment

The student should not have been isolated behind a closed door without an adult representative. The words, actions and demeanor of the District Principal were all used to

intimidate the student. The student should not have been told to refrain from actions that were clearly within the student's rights.

3. Behaviour that interferes with the general welfare of students or the learning environment of the school.

The District Principal did not consider the mental or emotional welfare of the student in this encounter. The student was participating in an act of community advocacy in a mature, positive and respectful manner. Far from recognizing the admirable initiative or the educational value in such actions, Ms. Carswell chose to use the moment to reprimand the student. The student has lost confidence, and now struggles to trust their own instincts at a time when they should most be encouraged to grow and explore.

Professional Standards for BC Educators Violations

1. “Educators care for students and act in their best interests... Educators treat students equitably with acceptance, dignity and respect.”

It is difficult to see how removing the student from class, causing shame and embarrassment and demanding they cease advocating on behalf of their community demonstrates “caring for”, “dignity and respect”, or acting in the best interest of the student..

2. “Educators act ethically and maintain the integrity, credibility and reputation of the profession. Educators are role models. Educators are held to a higher standard...”

It is immensely unethical to chastise a student for an act of communal advocacy - astoundingly so when the advocacy involves calling for due process in light of questions surrounding VSB management of UTP.

3. “Educators understand and apply knowledge of student growth and development. Educators are knowledgeable about how children and youth develop as learners and social beings. Educators demonstrate an understanding of individual learning differences and needs.”

The District Principal does not appear familiar with the asynchronous development of the highly gifted student. She single-mindedly focused on curtailing the actions of the student which she had judged by some unknown criteria as inappropriate. And yet she disregarded the emotional wellbeing of the student. If Ms. Carswell looked beyond the content of the student's advocacy, she would have seen what a huge depth of learning was involved in the process of the student's actions. That she chose to rebuke the student rather than embrace the student's actions as a teachable moment, is in conflict with the Professional Standards for BC Educators.

4. Educators value the involvement and support of parents, guardians, families and communities in school.

If Ms. Carswell did indeed value the involvement of the parents, she should have invited them for a conversation PRIOR to engaging with the student. When the PAC approached Ms. Carswell, rather than encouraging a community approach to exploring resolutions, she pushed for the parents to speak to her independently. Seeing as the student was acting on behalf of her community, this action is at heart a completely unacceptable attempt to isolate and thereby intimidate the student from Ms. Carswell's role as a position of authority.

5. “Educators have the knowledge and skills to facilitate learning for students, including learning experiences that reflect individual context and local environments. Educators value collaborative practice.”

Every part of this statement from the Professional Standards of BC Educators is in conflict with the events of Jan 18th.

Ms. Carswell's act of singling out a student and admonishing them behind closed doors, is of grave concern to all the parents with regard to the safety of their children's mental health. The UTP program serves students who are neurodivergent, many of whom are acutely perceptive to this type of treatment. The use of intimidation, threats, and bullying by a district principal will have serious negative impacts on these students. It is important for students to feel seen, respected by and collaborated with, as opposed to dismissed, intimidated and controlled by those in a position of authority.

We believe that such behavior from an educator should not be tolerated and should be thoroughly investigated. We look forward to hearing back from you regarding the parents' concerns.

Sincerely,
UTP PAC