

TWO TRUTHS AND A LIE

Which one is not true?

- 1** Given the nature of the concerns, which highlighted negative impacts on students' mental health and well-being, the intake was paused and an external review was launched.
- 2** After stigmatizing the entire UTP community with mental health issues and successfully pausing the intake, VSB secretly removed the 'concerns on mental health issue and well-being' from the website during the spring break.
- 3** A very small group of parents who reported conflicts among adults to VSB triggered the intake pause. They made false accusation, share private screenshots and disclose group action plans and with VSB.

Admissions paused – no intake for 2024/2025 pending external review. [Learn more >>](#)

2024 Jan Screenshot

Transition Program for Gifted Students



BC Ministry of Education and Child Care
Provincial Resource Program

External Review

The Transition Program for Gifted Students is undergoing a formal external review. Several concerns about the program have been brought to the attention of the Ministry, VSB and UBC, and most recently these concerns highlighted negative impacts on the students' mental health and well-being. Given the nature of the concerns raised, the Ministry and the VSB, in consultation with UBC, have decided to pause admission into the TPGS for the September 2024/2025 intake to allow time for completion of the program review and examination of recommended changes.

We understand that this decision will come as a surprise for 2024/2025 student applicants and their families. We appreciate that students have put a lot of effort into their applications, and this pause of the

Admissions paused – no intake for 2024/2025 pending external review. [Learn more >>](#)

2024 March screenshot

Transition Program for Gifted Students



BC Ministry of Education and Child Care
Provincial Resource Program

External Review

The Transition Program for Gifted Students is undergoing a formal external review. The Ministry of Education and Child Care and the VSB, in consultation with UBC, have decided to pause admission into the TPGS for the September 2024/2025 intake to allow time for completion of the program review and examination of recommended changes.

Thank you for understanding as we work through this review. Questions about the review can be directed to prpadmin@gov.bc.ca

The Vancouver School Board acknowledges that we work, teach and learn on the unceded and traditional territory of

From: [Alison Ogden <aogden@vsb.bc.ca>](mailto:aogden@vsb.bc.ca)
To: [Ankie Carswell <acarswell@vsb.bc.ca>](mailto:acarswell@vsb.bc.ca)
Date: 2024-01-28 12:45:51 PM
Subject: Re: immediate updates to the website

These are good to go. Thanks Ankie.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Ankie Carswell <acarswell@vsb.bc.ca>
Sent: Sunday, January 28, 2024 11:27:01 AM
To: Alison Ogden <aogden@vsb.bc.ca>
Subject: immediate updates to the website

Hello Alison,

Here are the changes I want to make to the website www.transitionprogramforgiftedstudents.ca

Please let me know if there should be additional or different messaging.

Thanks so much,

Ankie

Hello [REDACTED] s. 22

We had an announcement late on Friday afternoon about the Transition Program and as a result, need to make some amendments to the website.

1. On the Admissions Page
 - a banner across the top that is pinned and will be visible wherever you scroll – “Admissions paused – no intake for 2024/2025” with a button that takes you to another page with the explanation (see number 3)
 - In Large Group Assessments – please put “No session on Feb 1, 2024”
 - In Offers – please put “Admissions paused for the 2024/2025 school year”
2. Disable the online application form. Don’t remove as we may resume applications at a later date. If the same banner “Admissions paused – no intake for 2024/2025” could go on this page, that would also be very helpful.
3. We need a new “back page” with the info about why admissions is paused. The information is as follows:

The Transition Program for Gifted Students is undergoing a formal external review. Several concerns about the program have been brought to the attention of the Ministry, VSB and UBC, and most recently these concerns highlighted negative impacts on the students' mental health and well-being. Given the nature of the concerns raised, the Ministry and the VSB, in consultation with UBC, have decided to pause admission into the TPGS for the September 2024/2025 intake to allow time for completion of the program review and examination of recommended changes.

We understand that this decision will come as a surprise for 2024/2025 student applicants and their families. We appreciate that students have put a lot of effort into their applications, and this pause of the program intake will be disappointing to many. This decision was made with careful consideration and reflects the gravity of the concerns raised as well as our dedication to prioritize the well-being of students.

Thank you for understanding as we work through this review. Questions about the review can be directed to prpadmin@gov.bc.ca

s. 22 Thank you, [REDACTED] Please invoice to: Transition Program for Gifted Students, to my attention at the address listed below for the time these revisions will take. I understand that I have not yet renewed a maintenance package with you so will be billed at the hourly rate.

With appreciation,
Ankie

Ankie Carswell
District Principal, Provincial Resource Programs

**March 12,2024 UTP PAC meeting minutes
recorded how the VSB district principal denied
or twisted all the facts.**

- Why pause the program when there is an ongoing review? This is an unheard of practice with other PRP programs. **Whom** should we go to for **more transparency** of all these important decisions?

Mrs. C: We could reach out to the three undersigned authorities in the letter; namely **Mary Shaw** from the Ministry, **Alison Ogden** of VSB and **David Shorthouse** of UBC since it was a joint decision made by VSB, UBC and the Ministry.

- Why didn't the principal **handle the concerns** when it was only from 1 or 2 families? Why wait and collect the so-called "evidence" and pause the admission?

Mrs.C: (Unanswered)

- **How did VSB, UBC and the ministry learn about the concerns from the parents? Were they shared by you?**

Mrs.C: All the concerns were directly addressed to all three of them.

- **What was the severe concern received during the winter break causing the pause of the admission? Was the concern investigated?**

Mrs.C: I don't know.

- Will the students be **interviewed alone** by the reviewers?

Mrs.C: The online survey will be shared with students, parents and alumni; students will only attend family interviews.

- Will the **admission restart** after the review if the review ends in June?

Mrs.C: I can't say. I don't know what decision will be made after the review.

- **Why did VSB associate the review with "mental health" issues and publicize it on the website? Did they consult any medical professionals or psychologists before stigmatizing the UTP students with the medical term?**

Mrs. C: I was the one commissioned to put the banner and the words are not in the banner.

- Parents pointed out the link where the words "mental health concerns" are clearly written on the **webpage**.

Mrs.C : They are the same words written in the VSB letter that was sent out.

- Was there any professional consultation with psychologists before the statement was published on the website?

Mrs. C: No, there was no prior professional consultation. Mental health was not investigated and psychologists were not consulted.

- One parent shared he was stigmatized by this unproven public statement at his work place by coworkers who know he is a current UTP parent. Without professional consultation, isn't it a **privacy violation** of the students?

Mrs.C: (made a note that she will look into this)

There are also questions in regard to **fundings** to various activities throughout the school year. A few points to note:

- Mrs. Carswell stated that PAC could collect **donations with suggested amounts** for PAC funded activities. The donation amounts should be **optional** and not mandatory. PAC can collect the donation separately for each event or as a lump sum to cover associated costs for the events. Parents can also opt out of these activities.
- For **school funded events**, they are **mandatory** and all students are required to attend and therefore, the fees should be paid by all families and be collected via Cash Online. It's normal practice at public schools to collect **graduation fees**. In the case where families are having financial difficulties, they could contact the principal and their fees could be covered by **school funds**.
- For events that are hosted **collaboratively** by the school and PAC, the responsibilities and funds are **shared** between the two parties.

For instance, **Celebration of Learning (COL)** at the end of the school year is a major school event with PAC support. The school and PAC invite guests as a joint effort. While the school hosts the COL morning ceremony, PAC prepares and funds the decoration, photography and food for students and teachers during the day. It is also PAC's efforts ordering and organizing graduation hats, yearbooks, trophies and gifts etc. PAC also arranges and pays for the evening banquet. All students are **required** to attend the ceremony; however, families have the **option to opt out** of the PAC funded items as well as the evening banquet. Sale of tickets to the banquet is a way of **fundraising** to cover the expenses.

THE MEMO

VSB refused to recognize UTP PAC on October 18, 2023, despite describing PAC in the May 2023 offer letter as "very involved in organizing experiences for the students, social activities, and events for the entire UTP community and some fundraising."

This action was taken to stop UTP PAC from acting as the representative of UTP parents because PAC questioned why the intake, curriculum, program name, and website were changed without any notification or consultation with stakeholders at beginning of the school year. Later on, VSB reported their conflicts with UTP PAC to UBC, distorting the truth.

VSB exaggerated the conflicts among some parents, escalating adult issues into student issues. Their goal was to shut the doors to 300 applicants and damage the program. The entire UTP community was stigmatized because 1-2 individuals reported "mental health issues" without any investigation.

With the help of a small group of parents, VSB spied on parents' and students' social media, using stitched, context-less screenshots to accuse innocent parents and students, causing significant damage to the entire program.

TPGS Admission Pause Issues Management Plan

Background

The Transition Program for Gifted Students (TPGS) (commonly known as the University Transition Program or UTP) is a Ministry of Education and Child Care Provincial Resource Program. The TPGS is an academically accelerated program resulting in early graduation that was initiated in 1993 in Vancouver and has been a Provincial Resource Program since 1995. Typically, students in the program complete the requirements for the BC Graduation Program (Dogwood Diploma) by age 15. The program admits a maximum of 20 students every year. Usually, about 200 students apply.

Funding and policy direction for Provincial Resource Programs, including the TPGS, is the jurisdiction of the Ministry. The Vancouver School Board (VSB) is the host school district for the program and provides staffing and administrative oversight for the program. The University of British Columbia (UBC), Vancouver campus, is currently the host site and provides space for this Provincial Resource Program to operate.

Current situation

There have been recent concerns voiced about negative impacts to the mental health and well-being of students in the TPGS. A student newspaper reported on the matter in 2021, outlining concerns about curriculum and mental health support in the program. **Concerns regarding parent intimidation and bullying have been raised, along with the observed impacts of such behaviour on students within the program. Some parents who have reported these concerns have requested to remain anonymous due to their expressed apprehensions about potential reprisals and the potential effects on their children's post-secondary opportunities.** Additionally, a comprehensive review of the program has not been conducted since its inception, despite advancements and developments in gifted education pedagogy over the last 21 years.

In January 2023, to help address these concerns, and in alignment with other Provincial Resource Programs, the TPGS was assigned dedicated support of a district principal, replacing the program coordinator. However, further concerns about the program continue to be brought forward to the Ministry, VSB and UBC. Given the nature of the concerns raised, the Ministry and VSB, in consultation with UBC, made the decision to pause admission into the TPGS for the September 2024/25 intake to allow time for completion of the program review and examination of recommended changes.

The Ministry has contracted Deetken Insight to conduct the review, which will begin immediately. Deetken Insight will work with VSB and UBC to provide opportunities for students and their families, as well as staff and alumni, to participate in the review process and ensure their voices are heard. The review is expected to be completed in the spring of 2024. Results of the review will be shared with families and staff along with next steps for the program.

From: Shorthouse, David <david.shorthouse@ubc.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, October 25, 2023 1:14 PM
To: Stuart-Crump, Alison
Subject: FW: Letter to "UTP" parents
Attachments: Transition Program for Gifted Students Meeting 10.19.23.pdf; Transition Program for Gifted Students 10.19.23.pdf

2 of 3. I'm not going to respond to this

The UBC senior administration did not respond to the letter when VSB brought the PAC issue to them, following VSB's sudden ban on the UTP PAC to prepare for their subsequent actions.

From: Rosie Poetschke <rpoetschke@vsb.bc.ca>
Sent: Thursday, October 19, 2023 5:09 PM
To: Hare, Jan <jan.hare@ubc.ca>; Shorthouse, David <david.shorthouse@ubc.ca>; D'Silva, Reginald <reginald.dsilva@ubc.ca>
Cc: Jody Langlois <jlanglois@vsb.bc.ca>
Subject: Letter to "UTP" parents

[CAUTION: Non-UBC Email]

Good evening Jan, David and Reg,

Please find attached two letters sent a short while ago to parents of the Transition Program for Gifted Students "UTP" program. I know that we have a joint meeting upcoming in the next few weeks with the Ministry of Education and Childcare, but if you would like to schedule a meeting before that time to discuss the contents of these letters, then please do not hesitate to reach out.

Regards,

Rosie and Jody

Rosie Poetschke

Director of Instruction—Learning Services
Vancouver School District
1580 West Broadway, Vancouver BC V6J 5K8
e: rpoetschke@vsb.bc.ca | p: 604-713-5202



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Honoured to be working and learning together on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) & səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

IMPORTANT INFORMATION - PLEASE TRANSLATE

Informations importantes - Veuillez traduire	• 这是一份重要信息 — 请找人为您翻译
Mahalagang Impormasyon - Paki salin sa sariling wika	• Thông tin quan trọng - Xin tìm phiên dịch
ମହତ୍ଵପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଜାଣକାରୀ-ମିହରବାନୀ କରକେ ଅନୁଵାଦ କରେ/କରିବାକୁ	• ମହତ୍ଵପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଜାଣକାରୀ - କୃପ୍ୟା ଅନୁଵାଦ କରେ
Información importante - Por favor traducir	• 重要な情報-翻訳してください
중요한 정보 - 번역 부탁드립니다	• معلومات مهمة - الرجاء الترجمة
معلومات مهمة - لطفا ترجمة كنيد	• Важная информация - переведите, пожалуйста

October 18, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians of the Transition Program for Gifted Students,

Since the beginning of the school year, there have been questions raised about the Transition Program for Gifted Students (the “Program”). District staff have met with some families of students in the Program and have shared information via email, but there continues to be inaccurate information presented by certain, sometimes unidentified, individuals in emails and on social media.

I am writing you today to provide you with a few updates that were shared with three parents/caregivers on October 18, 2023.

First, I need to make you aware that the four PAC co-chairs are not a recognized Parent Advisory Council. The Board has no record of the parents of students in the Transition Program for Gifted Students ever applying to the Board to become a PAC, nor does the Board have a copy of the Constitution and Bylaws of the PAC, which must be developed in consultation with the principal. Until we receive an application to form a PAC and a copy of the Constitution and Bylaws, the Transition Program for Gifted Students PAC will not be recognized by the VSB.

In addition, I am writing to let you know that the hot lunch program will no longer be permitted at the program site until it has been determined that compliance with VSB Health and Safety requirements have been satisfied. Until then, no further hot lunches will be allowed. Please be advised that the hot lunch parent group has no authority on behalf of the Transition Program for Gifted Students or the School District, to conduct fundraising activities under the auspices of a PAC until a PAC has been formally established.

Next, we are aware of certain social media posts that are defamatory of school district staff and that there has been a breach of individuals' rights of personal privacy in relation to highly sensitive matters and which also breach the school district's intellectual property rights. We have already taken steps to have such posts removed, but reserve all further legal rights, including to obtain the IP addresses from which such posts were made, and to protect the interest of our employees. We encourage you to let us know the identities of the individuals making these posts so appropriate action can be taken.

We also understand that the non-sanctioned PAC co-chairs have collected fees in the amount of approximately \$500 per student enrolled in the Program on behalf of the non-sanctioned PAC. The school district is not aware of how those funds are being collected and accounted for, nor who is

responsible for them and their disposition. While we investigate this matter further, I want to inform all parents/caregivers of the Transition Program for Gifted Students that the group holding itself out as the PAC have no authority to do so until the conditions above are satisfied.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge District Principal Ms. Carswell in her role as principal and educational leader of the Transition Program for Gifted Students. She has worked alongside the program staff to implement changes in alignment with the teaching and learning guidelines set by the Ministry of Education and Childcare, as well as to ensure the health and safety of all students within the program.

I fully understand that this letter may raise questions and as a result, please do not hesitate to contact me in confidence, directly.

Sincerely,



Jody Langlois

Associate Superintendent

On October 18, VSB sent a letter to all UTP parents declaring the current PAC, which has been active for over 20 years, unrecognized. They twisted the truth by quoting many minor issues and fake accusations.

October 18, 2023

The letter that VSB sent to the four co-chairs was different from the one sent to the parents. The four co-chairs were invited to VSB on October 18 by VSB administration, under the pretext of discussing important topics that PAC had asked them to clarify. However, during the meeting, they were subjected to verbal bullying and threats from the VSB administration.

22

Thank you for meeting with us on October 18, 2023, concerning the Transition Program for Gifted Students (the "Program"). We discussed several matters pertaining to the Program and parental involvement. The purpose of this letter is to summarize the discussion and provide an outline of processes for moving forward.

On the matter of the desire for parents to act as the Transition Program for Gifted Students Parent Advisory Council (PAC) at our meeting I shared information pertaining to the *School Act* and informed you that you are not able to operate as a PAC for the Transition Program for Gifted Students. I acknowledge your disagreement.

The Board has no record of the parents of students in the Transition Program for Gifted Students ever applying to the Board to become a PAC, nor does the Board have a copy of the Constitution and Bylaws of the PAC, which must be developed in consultation with the principal.

Part of my due diligence as an Associate Superintendent is to ensure direction and decisions are made accurately, based on legislative guidelines. Following our meeting, I sought further clarification on this matter. The information provided to me has impacted the information originally shared with you. In consultation with the VSB Secretary Treasurer's Office I was able to determine that if you meet specific criteria you can apply to the Board to become a registered PAC given the Transition Program for Gifted Students is a Provincial Resource Program. You can find the criteria and additional information on the BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils website <https://bccpac.bc.ca/index.php>. Should you be successful in your application to become a PAC, please provide Ms. Carswell with the necessary documentation so that we can move forward with the process. Until we receive an application to form a PAC and a copy of the Constitution and Bylaws, the Transition Program for Gifted Students PAC will not be recognized. I hope you find this clarification helpful.

At our meeting we also discussed communication on specific topics. Specifically, the issues of the program name change, curricular change and the field trip. I clarified during the meeting that these matters have been addressed appropriately and will not be revisited.

The hot lunch program was reviewed, and I clarified that the provisions of a hot lunch program will not be supported until it has been determined that compliance with VSB requirements are satisfied. I respectfully request that parents do not enter the facility for the purpose of providing hot lunch until proper procedures and requirements are in place. Parents will be advised that the hot lunch parent group has no authority, on behalf of the Transition Program for Gifted Students or the School District, to conduct fundraising activities under the auspices of a PAC until a PAC has been formally established.

Moving forward, the District remains concerned with certain posts that are defamatory of school district staff and that breach individual's rights of personal privacy in relation to highly sensitive matters and which also breach the school district's intellectual property rights. As such, steps have been taken to have such posts removed. It is unfortunate that the posts were subsequently reposted. I must advise you that the District reserves further legal rights, including to obtain the IP addresses from which such

posts were made, and to take action as is necessary to protect the interests of our employees. We encourage you to let us know the identities of the individuals making these posts so that appropriate interventions can be taken. If you are unwilling to provide this information, it is appreciated by the District if you act in good faith and ensure that such conduct does not continue. Again, we will share this information with parents of students in the Transition Program for Gifted Students.

Finally, the District is very concerned by the students' fees initiated by parents. It is our understanding that you, whilst acting under the term of PAC co-chairs, have collected fees in the amount of approximately \$500 per student from students enrolled in the Transition Program for Gifted Students. The school district is not aware of how those funds are being collected and accounted for, nor who is responsible for them and their disposition. We are required to investigate this matter further, including, as necessary, a forensic audit, and will inform all parents/caregivers of the Transition Program for Gifted Students that the school district is unaware of to whom the funds are provided and how they are accounted for and expended.

In closing, we do wish to establish a productive relationship with parents/caregivers of students in the Transition Program for Gifted Students. To do so, we seek your support in ensuring parental actions align with the VSB Code of Conduct, Administrative Procedure 350. I encourage you to share the information provided with members of your community.

Sincerely,



Jody Langlois
Associate Superintendent

October 18, 2023 meeting

35 messages

UTP PAC <utppacexec@gmail.com>

Fri, Oct 20, 2023 at 2:27 PM

To: Jody Langlois <jlanglois@vsb.bc.ca>

Cc: Rosie Poetschke <rpoetschke@vsb.bc.ca>, utp2024parents@googlegroups.com, utp2025parents@googlegroups.com, utppacexec@googlegroups.com, Ankie Carswell <acarswell@vsb.bc.ca>

Good afternoon Ms. Langios,

We are writing in response to the letter for reference dated October 18, 2023 to the UTP PAC co-chairs concerning the recent decision by the Vancouver School Board. Below are our responses to the points raised in your letter.

First of all, it would be much appreciated if you could clarify if this letter represents your personal stance or is it the official position of the VSB? Please advise.

Recognition of UTP PAC

Concerning the status of the UTP PAC, the UTP PAC was legally established many years ago and has been recognized by various institutions, including government authorities. It is also essential for us to point out that our co-chairs and chairs of the PAC committees have been elected by all the parents in accordance with the PAC bylaws. As such, it stands to reason that the individuals occupying these positions are unequivocally representatives of the parent community associated with UTP.

Interestingly, we have been acknowledged by VSB until our October 18, 2023 meeting, where we were informed that a school can only have one PAC—UHill. Consequently, VSB no longer recognizes the UTP PAC.

While your subsequent letter to parents insinuated that another PAC could be established, this contradicts the fact that the UTP PAC has long been in existence. It is illogical to establish something that already exists. The lack of a copy of our bylaws on your end does not undermine the legitimacy of the UTP PAC but rather highlights a lapse in VSB's record-keeping and lack of consistency in your management team.

Clarification of Hot lunch Program

In our letter dated September 26th, as well as in subsequent correspondence, we have explicitly stated the following: "The current lunch arrangement is a parent-led group purchase initiative, wherein parents coordinate to provide lunch to their children from reputable vendors." It's important to underscore that this is not the typical school "PAC hot lunch" program.

We note that during our meeting you acknowledged that as parents we have all rights to order foods to be delivered to the school for our children from outside vendors, and that in this case no guidelines need to be followed for reasons that parents take full responsibility for their orders. We respectfully request that you stop confusing parents regarding their rights to provide meals to their children during school hours.

We have also consistently communicated our viewpoint that the guidelines Ms. Carswell shared with us are not pertinent to our scenario. These appear to be either guidelines for selling food on school premises or

non-published documents unavailable in official sources. Consequently, we maintain that our lunch initiative doesn't require authorization or approval from the VSB. As such, your request to halt the provision of meals to our children during school hours is unfounded.

Request for Meeting Minutes

We formally request that the minutes of the mentioned meeting be shared with us, as was initially promised. We are not interested in a mere summary of your notes but would like to have the complete minutes (which will be shared among parents) to gain an accurate understanding of the proceedings by **Monday, October 23rd.**

If you are unable to provide the meeting minutes due to the unforeseen circumstances mentioned in your previous email, we are more than willing to share our version of the minutes based on our meeting notes.

Concerns Regarding Defamatory Post

We have taken note of your claims about a defamatory post. It's concerning that VSB has identified someone for some purported wrongdoing based on unspecified online content. We remain unaware of the specific details of this situation.

If VSB believes its employees have been compromised, it is in VSB's rights to take actions as it deems fit to protect them.

PAC Fees Allocation

We would like to clarify that our PAC fees, collected during social events, have never been mandatory but cover various expenses. These include the yearbook, teachers' parking, and Ms. Carswell's ticket to our celebration dinner last June.

We are also prepared to share the PAC financial statements for the current and prior years. It is essential to emphasize that, within the UTP community, parents who may encounter challenges in meeting their PAC fee obligations have never been subjected to direct requests for payment. Instead, the UTP community has consistently demonstrated its solidarity and support by discreetly covering these fees on their behalf.

The information source that came to you should have a better understanding of the above before sending out misleading messages without clarifying with us. We highly encourage you to share our feedback with that person and have a direct conversation with us to facilitate better communication.

Pending Item:

Please be aware that we assert our right to request that the VSB release the financial statements for the UTP ministry fund expenses from past years.

This should encompass the details of Ms. Carswell's and her assistant's salaries, as well as the expenses for the new website, which we've been inquiring about since the previous school year.

Finally, we would like to highlight to you that:

- We received the meeting invitation from Ms. Poetschke that the purpose of the meeting was to follow up on pending items from our last meeting with her and Mr. Nelson, but the real agenda has never been shared with us prior to the meeting. This showed no respect to us as the other side of the conversation. We request that a detailed agenda be shared with us prior to any meeting to facilitate a good discussion.

- The confrontational tone and the presence of threats and animosity in both your letter and during our meeting fail to cultivate a cooperative atmosphere. This raises doubts about the authenticity of any efforts to restore trust between us.

We hope this letter helps clarify our stance and look forward to a productive dialogue.

Sincerely,
UTP PAC cochairs

Julia Du, Diana Dogeliene, Jing Wang and Richard Zhuo

The 4 PAC co-chairs immediately replied and objected to all the false accusations from VSB. However, the VSB administration did not respond until PAC sent more letters and asked for DPAC support in January 2024. The VSB Treasurer and Secretary eventually recognized UTP PAC in February 2024, after the intake pause was announced, which delayed the PAC's advocacy regarding the incident.



BC Ministry of Education and Child Care – VSB – UBC
UNIVERSITY TRANSITION PROGRAM
*A Ministry of Education and Child Care
Provincial Resource Program*
240 D – 1924 West Mall
University of British Columbia
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z2



May 2023

Congratulations! Your child has been offered a placement in the Transition Program for Gifted Students (University Transition Program) **for the 2023/2024 school year**. We would be pleased to welcome you and your child to the UTP Community in September 2023. Please read this letter carefully.

The following are action items should you accept the placement offer for your child:

- **Letter of placement offer** – please complete and return via email as per instructions on the form. Please note, this form must be completed even if you decline the offer.
- **Registration**
 - If your child attends an independent school, and you accept the placement offer, you will need to complete the registration form and return via email to utp@vsb.bc.ca along with the signed Placement Offer. We will request a school records transfer and register your child in the program.
 - If your child attends a public school in another district, and you accept the placement offer, you will need to complete the registration form and return via email to utp@vsb.bc.ca along with the signed Placement Offer. We will request a school records transfer and register your child in the program.
 - If your child attends a VSB school, we will request the school records transfer and ensure registration in the program.
- **Orientation for Incoming Students**
 - Please note and sign the consent for your child to participate in the orientation days for incoming (Year 0) students. Orientation dates are Wednesday, May 31; Thursday, June 1 and Friday, June 2.
- **Orientation for Incoming Parents**
 - We would love for you to come for an information session for incoming parents on May 25, 2023, at 6 pm at the University Hill Secondary School Learning Commons at 3228 Ross Drive. We will introduce ourselves and you will have a chance to meet each other and ask questions. Year 1 parents will be invited to join us for the latter half of the session. It will be a wonderful start to building the UTP community. We hope you can attend.

We just noticed that in the May 2023 offer letter, VSB had already planned the intake pause by sending a different offer compared to the previous year's UTP offer. The new offer stated that a placement was available only for the 2023/2024 school year, despite it being a two-year program.

The following is for your information:

- Since 1998, UBC has served as host site for the University Transition Program, offering instructional space and access to university services and amenities such as fitness facilities and the university library. UBC confirms its commitment to host the UTP through the 2023–24 academic year and continues to allow UTP graduates to apply for early admission to the university.
- All parents are part of the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) for UTP. The PAC is very involved in organizing experiences for the students, social activities, and events for the entire UTP community and some fundraising. There are plenty of opportunities to help out throughout your child's participation in the program. The elections for executive positions will be held at the September 2023 meeting if you would like to consider being a PAC Executive member. You are all invited to the last PAC meeting for the year, held on June 1 at 6 pm at University Hill Secondary School in the Learning Commons (centre staircase, second floor)
- There is likely an overnight field studies trip in the Fall of 2023. It is still in the planning stages and more information will be shared when the trip is confirmed.

Thank you in advance for completing the action items.

We look forward to meeting the parents on May 25!

Sincerely,

Ankie Carswell

Mrs. Ankie Carswell
District Principal

VSB did not recognize UTP PAC, which was mentioned five months ago in their public document. In that document, they confirmed that UTP PAC is a supportive entity and that all registered UTP parents automatically become PAC members.

These administrators' inconsistent behaviors throughout the year have put VSB in a very immoral and dishonest position.

Formal Complaint Regarding the Conduct of Ms. Rosie Poetschke and Ms. Ankie Carswell in the abrupt announcement to terminate the University Transition Program (UTP)

1 message

UTP PAC <utppacexec@gmail.com>

To: utp2025parents@googlegroups.com, utp2024parents@googlegroups.com

Sat, Jan 27, 2024 at 1:35 AM

Hi all,

We are sharing a sample letter which we encourage you to send as an individual complaint in response to the sudden issue that occurred this Friday. Please feel free to personalize it with your individual points. We request that the letter be sent from the email addresses of both parents. UTP greatly appreciates your support!

Dear Superintendent and Respected Trustees of the Vancouver School Board,

We pen this letter as concerned parents and guardians, reaching out with a sense of urgency and dismay regarding the sudden termination of the University Transition Program (UTP) and the subsequent events that unfolded on January 26th involving Ms. Rosie Poetschke and Ms. Ankie Carswell.

The abrupt announcement made to our children, without prior communication or any preparation, has deeply disturbed both the students and their parents. Ms. Poetschke and Ms. Carswell entered a classroom of 40, 13 and 14-year-old students to declare the termination of admission for Year-1 students, leaving them in a state of shock and distress. The lack of sensitivity displayed during this announcement raises questions about the professionalism and commitment to the well-being of the students in their care.

We, as members of the UTP parents group, humbly request the following actions:

Independent Investigation: Initiate an unbiased and impartial investigation into the incident, with a focus on the impact of the announcement on the emotional and mental well-being of the students.

Transparent Communication: Provide a clear and transparent communication to parents and students elucidating the reasons behind the abrupt termination, the parameters of the program review, and the manner in which stakeholders will be involved in this process.

Inclusive Interview Process: Allow parents to be present during the interview process to ensure a fair and just examination of the incident without infringing on the rights of the individuals involved.

Immediate Program Resumption: Resume the Assessment and Intake of Year-1 applications without further delay to minimize disruption to the education and mental well-being of the current students.

Clarification of Suspension Rationale: Offer a detailed explanation for the decision to suspend enrollment, separating it clearly from the broader program review, and addressing the concerns raised by parents.

Enhanced Protocols: Implement robust protocols to ensure any future communication or interaction with our children involves prior notification and explicit consent from parents.

The welfare of our children is of utmost importance, and we trust that the Vancouver School Board will take this matter seriously. Your prompt attention and resolution to these issues will go a long way in restoring the trust and confidence of parents in the educational system.

Thank you for your understanding and anticipated swift action.

Sincerely,

[Your Name] [Contact Information]

Please send the letter to :

hmgregor@vsb.bc.ca
alfred.chien@vsb.bc.ca
christopher.richardson@vsb.bc.ca
joshua.zhang@vsb.bc.ca
preeti.faridkot@vsb.bc.ca
lois.chan-pedley@vsb.bc.ca
jennifer.reddy@vsb.bc.ca
janet.fraser@vsb.bc.ca
victoria.jung@vsb.bc.ca
suzie.mah@vsb.bc.ca

Thanks again for your support!

Best Regards
UTP PAC

The letter sent to UTP parents solely by UTP PAC was revealed to the VSB administration by some parents who were 'hired' by VSB to act as spies. The VSB administrators seemed proud of obtaining the information through unethical means, showing no shame.

Alison Ogden <aogden@vsb.bc.ca> 1/28/2024 5:59 PM

Good morning Rosie and Ankie - Apologies for not sending you an update yesterday. Helen and the Trustees have been receiving a version of a form letter from TPGS parents. There was a parent meeting held Friday night and families were given the instructions below.

Hi all,

We are sharing a sample letter which we encourage you to send as an individual complaint in response to the sudden issue that occurred this Friday. Please feel free to personalize it with your individual points. We request that the letter be sent from the email addresses of both parents. UTP greatly appreciates your support!

Dear Superintendent and Respected Trustees of the Vancouver School Board,

We pen this letter as concerned parents and guardians, reaching out with a sense of urgency and dismay regarding the sudden termination of the University Transition Program (UTP) and the subsequent events that unfolded on January 26th [REDACTED]

s. 22

The abrupt announcement made to our children, without prior communication or any preparation, has deeply disturbed both the students and their parents. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] entered a classroom of 40, 13 and 14-year-old students to declare the termination of admission for Year-1 students,

s. 22

We, as members of the UTP parents group, humbly request the following actions:

Independent Investigation: Initiate an unbiased and impartial investigation into the incident, with a focus on the impact of the announcement on the emotional and mental well-being of the students.

Transparent Communication: Provide a clear and transparent communication to parents and students elucidating the reasons behind the abrupt termination, the parameters of the

program review, and the manner in which stakeholders will be involved in this process.

Inclusive Interview Process: Allow parents to be present during the interview process to ensure a fair and just examination of the incident without infringing on the rights of the individuals involved.

Immediate Program Resumption: Resume the Assessment and Intake of Year-1 applications without further delay to minimize disruption to the education and mental well-being of the current students.

Clarification of Suspension Rationale: Offer a detailed explanation for the decision to suspend enrollment, separating it clearly from the broader program review, and addressing the concerns raised by parents.

Enhanced Protocols: Implement robust protocols to ensure any future communication or interaction with our children involves prior notification and explicit consent from parents.

The welfare of our children is of utmost importance, and we trust that the Vancouver School Board will take this matter seriously. Your prompt attention and resolution to these issues will go a long way in restoring the trust and confidence of parents in the educational system.

Thank you for your understanding and anticipated swift action.

Alison Ogden <aogden@vsb.bc.ca> 1/28/2024 6:01 PM

I am currently working on a response that will address some of the misinformation that is being shared. I had a quick chat with Rosie this morning on the phone and am wondering if it would be helpful for you Ankie if the three of us jumped on a quick Teams meeting at some point today.

Rosie Poetschke <rpoetschke@vsb.bc.ca> 1/28/2024 6:02 PM

Thank you for sharing this Alison, a joint meeting with the 3 of us would be great!

Alison Ogden <aogden@vsb.bc.ca> 1/28/2024 6:03 PM

Any preferred time? I'm free now until about 12:30 and then again after 4:30.