

DPAC Extra-Curricular Choral Program Proposal
Version March 26, 2022

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Executive Summary

The DPAC Music Working Group proposes to launch a District Extra Curricular Choral Program starting September 2022.

Details are contained in this proposal, but the key benefits of DPAC's Music Working Group setting up the program are:

- Support the VSB Mission Statement for Music Review
- Provide a consistent extra-curricular music offering across the district
- Centralize the administration and bursary processes to improve access for schools whose PACs may be less well funded or have reduced capacity to develop their own offering.

On February 10 and February 28, the Music Working Group met and determined there was enough momentum – and a strong need – for musical opportunities for children.

The VSB has not announced their next phase of their Music Review since their last report on January 19, 2022. Recent VSB budget discussions don't provide any indications the VSB is moving to their next phase of the Music Review.

The DPAC Music Working Group feels parents can move forward on the VSB Music Mission Statement through choral music and make a difference for children.

Music Working Group Team List

Robert Ford (Team Leader) – child at Kitsilano Secondary. 13 years' experience PAC Chair and executive at Henry Hudson Elementary.

Gillian Hunter-Gibbs, child at Queen Mary Elementary with a second starting in the Fall. (Also is the Executive Director for Vancouver Bach Choir, including the Children's Chorus)

Naveen Gopal, child at John Henderson

Emily Clarke, children at Simon Fraser Elementary and L'École Bilingue

Melissa Clements, Hudson PAC Chair

Vik Khanna, DPAC Vice Chair

Alan Patola Moosmann, DPAC Treasurer

Recent Expressions of interest include:

Iona Bonamis child at Lord Selkirk Elementary

Yvonne, Dr HN MacCorkindale PAC

Matthew Burke, Crosstown Elementary PAC

Louise Ironside and Luciana Ferro, Osler Elementary

More to come!

Background

For many years, the VSB's music offering has declined as budget cuts were made and Principals were left to decide whether to have library resources or music teachers.

Music Program Decline Timeline

- 2016 Elementary band and strings cancelled (<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/rally-vs-b-band-cuts-1.3533039>)
- April 2020 Consultant Report Music Review
- December 2021 Phase I Vision and Mission Statement
- January 19, 2022 Phase I provided to Student Learning and Well Being Committee

Robert Ford, DPAC Music Working Group leader, reached out to Chris Stanger to try to find out how to follow up and participate, but had not heard back.

On April 2020 John White, Educational Consultant, submitted a report called the Elementary Music Program Review. On June 20, 2020 this review was presented to the Vancouver School Board Student Learning and Well-Being Committee.

https://www.vsb.bc.ca/District/Planning_and_Facilities/Long_Range_Facilities_Plan/Documents/Elementary%20Music%20Program%20Review.pdf.

On January 13, 2022, the VSB completed the first recommendation, "Establishing a Shared Mission, Vision and Strategic Directions." The DPAC participated in this process. This first step was presented to the Student Learning and Well-Being Committee on January 19.

VSB [K-7 Music] Mission Statement

The VSB K-7 Music program's mission is to provide all students with:

A consistent, robust, inclusive, experiential music program based on active music making including Indigenous musical opportunities which respect cultural protocols and nurture the unique and diverse culture of each school community.

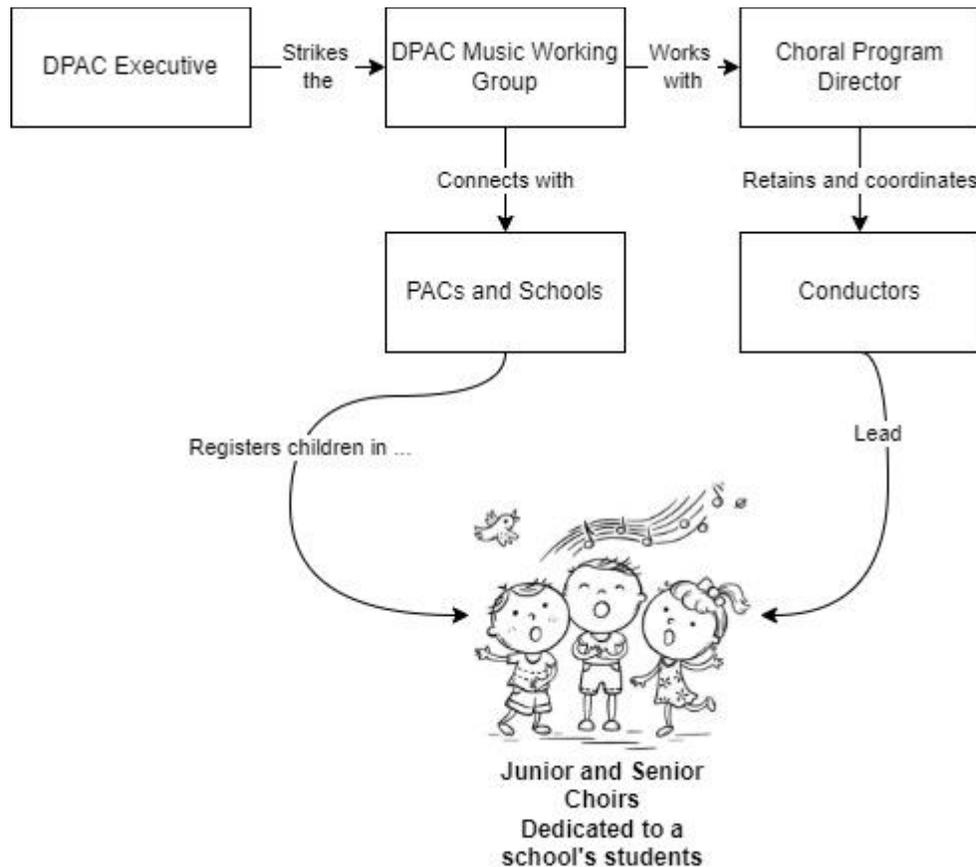
DPAC Music Motion

On January 13, 2022 the DPAC passed a motion as follows.

That DPAC strike a Music Working Group to i) provide parent input and encouragement to the VSB to ensure that all efforts are being made to update the K-7 music program as per the VSB mission statement [above], and ii) investigate supporting a parent funded district-wide extra-curricular choral program that supports the VSB's mission.

The DPAC Music Working Group (MWG) recommends implementing a parent funded district-wide extra-curricular choral program that supports the VSB's mission

District-wide Choral Music Concept



As we know, access to music in schools has been dropping off and the Vancouver School Board is working on a plan to revitalize K-7 music. However, this is a 10-year process and subject to funding issues. It also is unlikely to address extra-curricular musical enrichment as the collective agreements are not supportive of labour used for before-and-after-school programs.

A few schools like Hudson, Trafalgar, L'école Bilingue, Jules Quesnel and others have managed to mount a choir program usually with local PAC support and encouragement from the Principals.

The DPAC Music Working Group proposes to formalize this process and facilitate the development of junior and intermediate choirs throughout the district where parent interest and facilities allow.

The good news about choirs is the equipment and facility requirements are light and flexible.

Benefits

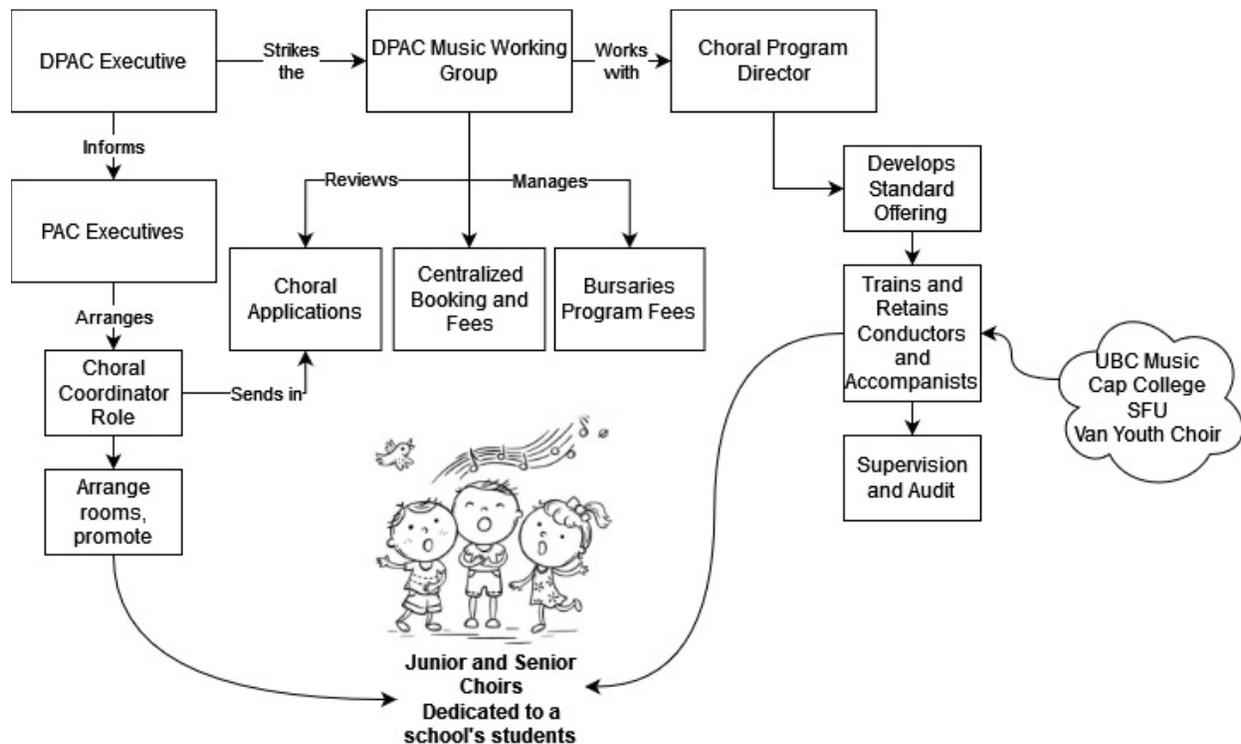
- ✓ Increase accessibility to music
- ✓ Provide extracurricular activity that does not require additional travel for parents and children
- ✓ Enrich music curriculum
- ✓ Provide valuable community engagement
- ✓ Social and Emotional development
- ✓ Opportunity for the community to express itself musically

Guiding Principles

- ✓ The DPAC Music Working Group will work to support the VSB K-7 Music Mission Statement.
- ✓ The DPAC Music Working Group will minimize the workload on the DPAC Executive. The only point of contact currently planned is a single payment per month by the Treasurer.
- ✓ There will be no financial risk to the DPAC.
- ✓ The program will have a broad reach across the district and communicate with all PACs and schools.
- ✓ Where feasible, the DPAC Music Working Group will forge alliances with Vancouver music organizations.
- ✓ Self-funding. The program will be as low cost to parents as possible and have a bursary program.
- ✓ The DPAC Music Working Group will establish go/no go points in the plan.

Expanded Conceptual Overview

The diagram below gives a high-level diagram of who will do what.



Assumptions and Risks

- ✓ VSB Facilities will need to be on board. (A meeting is being arranged after March Break.) We would like a standard process for all PACs and Principals for using facilities prior to 5 PM, preferably at a low or \$0 cost.
- ✓ COVID-19 regulations will have to be at a level where such programs are allowed.
- ✓ DPAC Executive Approval
- ✓ DPAC Music Working Group has enough capacity to work with PACs and handle administration

Bursary Process

One of the key elements of the DPAC Choral Program is to make sure no one is discouraged from participating for financial reasons. However, if the application for bursaries is too stringent or public, it causes feelings of shame. The following process is modelled on a common practice at schools to **confirm** validity, manage usage, and maintain respect.

- Local PAC Coordinator is informed of Bursary process
- Parents sign up online and ask for full or partial "Pay What You Can" bursary
- The local PAC Coordinator validates bursary with Principal¹
- Music Working Group records bursary amount and submits reports to DPAC Treasurer

Expenses and Revenues

The following chart outlines the costs for a single 10-week choral program term.

Assumptions		Per Term	
Number of Weeks	10	per term	
Choral Program Director	\$7.30	per rehearsal	\$73.00
Rate for Conductor	\$80	per rehearsal	\$800.00
Excess Students	\$2	per chorister per rehearsal over 20	\$0.00
Rate for Pianist	\$50	per rehearsal	\$500.00
Cost of credit card fees	3%	per online booking	\$72.00
Rental Fee	\$30	per rehearsal	\$300.00
Bursary Fee (embedded)	\$3	per chorister per term	\$60.00
Supply Fee	\$2	per chorister per term	\$40.00
Number of Choristers	20	per rehearsal (15 minimum)	

Proposed Price for term \$120 per child

Revenue per term \$2,400

Cost per term \$1,845

Profit/Loss \$555

Choral Program Director

Catherine Campolin is the proposed Choral Program Director. She has been conducting children's choirs at multiple VSB Elementary schools since 2009. She is the Piccolo (age 5-8) and Partita (grades 3-9) conductor for the Vancouver Bach Family of Choirs. She also teaches music to ages 3-5 at Family Montessori School Society.

For many years now she has wanted to expand her reach. The pandemic allowed for unplanned downtime to document her process. She has over 12 years of choral music material that she'd like to share. In addition, she has strong contacts with Vancouver Youth Choir and the UBC School of Music, only two organizations from which she'd like to retain choral conductors to assist in this program.

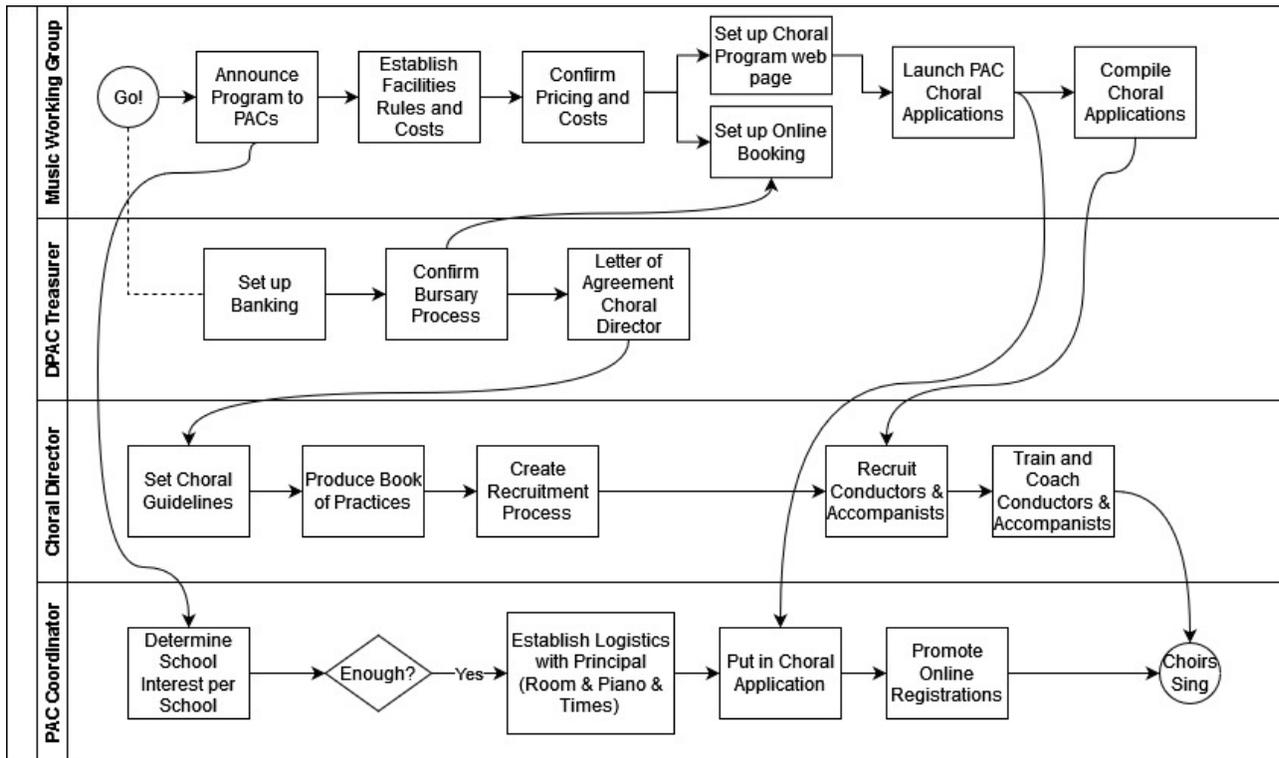
In 2012, she managed to record a CD of children singing – two songs per decade – for Henry Hudson's Centennial.

She also has the business structure and experience (e.g. handling insurance, criminal records checks, etc.) that allow the DPAC to communicate to PACs and let the musicians get on with the music.

Initiation Phase

There are four key roles. DPAC Music Working Group, PAC Coordinator (this could be someone on a PAC's Executive or another parent), DPAC Treasurer, and Choral Program Director.

The general work items are represented in the swim lane diagram below.



Money Flow

To minimize reliance on, and to avoid overburdening volunteers, the financial work is kept to a minimum.

Once the individual PACs have committed to having choir, online registration starts. The DPAC Music Working Group monitors and reports to the Treasurer:

- Fees Collected
- Payment of monthly invoice from Choral Director for all costs and hours incurred by choir directors and accompanistsⁱⁱ
- Track the funding of bursaries

Timeline

The following high-level timeline is suggested for launch in the 2022-2023 school year.

January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strike DPAC Music Working Group (☑)
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recruit parents to DPAC Music Working Group (☑)• Prepare and Review Proposal (☑)• Submit Proposal (☑)
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Obtain DPAC Approval for Discovery (☑)• Communicate Activity Choral Program process to PACs• Engage PAC interest and support for April DPAC General Meeting
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review PAC Engagement• Mock up registration and bursary process• Pass motion at April 28 DPAC General Meeting
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enter Implementation Phase• Sign Letter of Intent with Choral Program Director
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book PACs into program• Create preliminary school/conductor assignments• Open Online Booking
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SING!

FAQs

Why a Choral program as opposed to another activity?

Choral programs have more flexibility in where it can be held. There is also no significant equipment or supply requirement.

Is this an extra-curricular program?

Entirely.

Can Secondary Schools access this program?

Yes. Music selection and set up is adapted to the individual school communities.

What does a children's choir look like?

A children's choir is a group of children ranging from 15 to 45 individuals, led by a conductor and accompanied by a live pianist. The music selection covers a wide variety of styles and is chosen to work well with the skill level of the group.

Why the DPAC? This organization has never tried anything like this before.

The DPAC has the best connections with PACs and the best communication channel to help get the word out. The proposed process is modelled on successful PAC programs.

What are the proposed fees?

Please see the Finance section of this document. The cost to parents is proposed to be \$12 per child per rehearsal.

What happens with any existing extracurricular choral programs currently at schools?

Nothing. The assumption is that a PAC with a program would not use this one.

Will choirs in the program every have a change to meet up?

Some sort of Choral Festival or joint activities would be fun but are not in scope of this proposal.

How do bursaries work?

Please see the Bursaries section.

Why not let PACs arrange this for themselves?

PACs have been doing so, but they must pull together the resources for booking, retaining the labour, working with VSB Rentals and handling bursaries. A lot of this work can be centralized and increase the opportunity for PACs to access music. In addition, service providers (music or otherwise) have no capacity to figure out who all the PACs are. DPAC has the best communications channel.

ⁱ In 13 years of bursary management at Hudson, there's no memory of anyone being turned down.

ⁱⁱ The DPAC would not be responsible for paying individual choir directors and accompanists. This would be in the Letter of Agreement with the Choral Program Director.