



Voices that Accompany: Being Community

Student handbook developed by Siobhan Marie, PVNC Student Trustee, with attributions from keynote speaker Asante Haughton, the Student Council Liaison Committee, and PVNC student participants.





**“Leadership is
about servitude.”**

- Keynote speaker, Asante Haughton



Land Acknowledgement

It's important to recognize that we are all situated on Indigenous land. In all areas of our board we are part of the Williams Treaty and Treaty 20, the most recent treaties in this area. This land acknowledgement, we hope, inspires you to contemplate deeply your understanding of and commitment to the land we each call home, and also serves as a source of encouragement to continue learning about local Indigenous cultures. Here, in the Peterborough, Victoria, Northumberland, and Clarington regions, we live off of, work on, and have the benefit of simply existing on the land of the Michi Saagiig Nishnaabeg who have been here since time immemorial.

Learn more about Indigenous land we occupy: <https://native-land.ca/>

Prayer

Loving God, help us to deepen our understanding of
What it means to live in community.

Guide our feet to walk in the ways of Jesus,
Who was born in a lowly manger, travelled on foot, walked among the
Forgotten and washed His apostles' feet.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Your Son,
Who is here among us to remind us how to live in communion
With one another.

Amen.

<https://religiouseducation.rccdsb.edu.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/26/2019/03/Day-2-Prayer-RCCDSB.pdf>

Introduction

Welcome to this school year's third and final volume of *Voices That Accompany: Being Community!* For those of you who are not a member of or are new to student council, each year, the Student Council Liaison Committee plans three to four events for the student councils from across the board to meet with one another. I'm sure that we can all agree that the last few years have been unpredictable and a time of adjustment, not only to our school and work lives, but also to our personal lives.

This year, our vision is Voices That Accompany. It's been derived from the new Strategic Priorities created by the Director of Education, Ms. Carragher, and a team at PVNCCDSB. The Strategic Priorities have been developed to help us transition into a new normal. The Director of Education has stated in her message to the PVNC community, "We chose the theme of accompaniment, the image of Jesus on the road to Emmaus, carefully. The art of accompaniment is about taking the time to walk alongside one another to listen, and in so doing, to transform. If the global pandemic has taught us anything, it is that the road ahead is unpredictable and it is more important than ever that we walk this road together." The underlying priorities that we focused on throughout this year are Being Creative, Being Well, and Being Community.

On **Thursday, April 14, 2022**, the student councils from each high school in PVNCCDSB gathered to connect with the keynote speaker, Asante Haughton, to talk about the importance of Being Community for our third and final Voices that Accompany retreat. The retreats have been designed for the student councils to attend, however, the concept of Being Community extends to ALL PVNC students. After completing this handbook, we'd like you to all think of **innovative services, resources and thoughts on leadership that can be more responsive toward building a culture of Community**. Thank you and enjoy!



01

What is Leadership?

What is Leadership?

In Asante Haughton's presentation, we learned about leadership and how it intersects with various aspects of life, but especially the importance of diversity and servitude: "When we think about diversity, inclusion, and creating safe spaces, it's important that we have self awareness about what it feels like for us when things aren't working. We try our best so that people do not feel judged.". Inclusivity is a fundamental aspect of being a leader; "In simple terms, to be inclusive is to make people feel like they matter. It is not enough to have difference present at the table, it's important that difference has presence at the table." (Asante Haughton). The following slide displays the key takeaways from Mr. Haughton's presentation about leadership and building a community that accompanies.

Building a Community that Accompanies

Although there's no such thing as the “perfect” leader, here are a few guiding principles to help facilitate an inclusive and community-based environment:

- “Leadership is not about doing what’s popular, it’s about doing what’s necessary.”
- “Vulnerability is about being honest about the things that we feel.”
- “Leadership is about servitude.”
- “Leaders create culture, safety and trust by demonstrating transparency.”
- “It’s important to communicate why and how we are making decisions.”



The background features a vibrant, abstract design. It includes a large purple shape on the right, a pinkish-orange shape on the left, and a yellow circle at the bottom center with a smaller orange circle on its right side. A green wavy shape is in the bottom right corner. A white outline of a stylized 'S' is on the left. An orange starburst is in the upper left, and a dark green line curves across the middle.

02

Effective Leadership Practices

Three Effective Leadership Practices



Accountability

“It’s important that, as leaders, we acknowledge our implicit and explicit biases.” Later in the presentation will be a quote from a PVNC student participant who talks about their recognition of the importance of ‘checking yourself’. This is a highly important practice, especially when it comes to understanding who you’re serving.




Leader ≠ Boss

Be a leader, not a boss. The distinction between these two roles is the fact that a leader is someone who guides their team, rather than controlling it.



Invest in Change

Invest in change through compassion. Caring is an action. It’s not enough to just post something on SMS if we really care about doing the right thing. A leader actively demonstrates their dedication to creating positive change.

The background is a solid purple color. In the top right corner, there is a light green triangular area with a yellow curved shape. In the bottom left corner, there is an orange wavy shape. In the bottom right corner, there is a pink circle with a dark green line looping around it.

“Leadership is not about doing what’s popular, it’s about doing what’s necessary.”

—Keynote speaker, Asante Haughton



03

PVNC Student Participant Responses



What do the students
think?



1) What does Being Community mean to you?

“Community means working together to uplift each other, and accomplish things for the greater good of everyone.”

“Being community to me means being more conscious to having an attitude of someone who is in a community, instead of just considering yourself to be in a community. Being proactive in a community, helping others and having a mindset of community that everyone belongs is what being community means to me.”

“Being Community means working in collaboration with all people near us. It means being brothers and sisters and wanting to work to a goal that benefits us all - that helps lead to a greater future. It's about being compassionate and caring to everyone, no matter if we know each other or not. It means giving strength to those who need it and knowing we can rely on them when we are at a downfall.”

2) As a student leader, how does Asante Haughton's message apply to your daily life?

“Asante's message is very insightful. listening to his accounts of microaggressions and outright racism were very eye-opening. As a student leader, I need to check myself to make sure I listen and learn all I can about other people's experiences.”

“I have often felt like being a leader as a person who is coloured was a job that wasn't necessarily accessible to me. Either that, or way too much pressure has been put on me to be the best leader possible. I feel like that once we start treating people equally and stop having certain expectations or preconceived ideas of people, taking a leadership role as a student won't be as jarring or intimidating. Being a student leader sometimes means doing a lot more work, or going out of your way to assist others, and I feel as though I have done things such as that quite a lot. Being a leader does come with a sense of accomplishment, as well as pride, so I just have to make sure that I am keeping my mental health in a good spot as to not burn myself out!”

“Diversity helps each of us stand out and creates a lively, beautiful society, and I see this in my daily life in terms of school, going out in public, and even my own family. Being a leader is helping making a voice for those who can't necessarily speak and being a team spirit to help those who might be lost.”

3) In what ways can you actively incorporate the message of Being Community into your daily life? How might it benefit you?

“I could do this by making sure to keep a welcoming mindset as well as sharing my thoughts about what it means to be community to others in daily conversations, over social media, etc. It in the end would benefit everyone in our society, as the more the lesson about being community is shared, the kinder and more understanding of a viewpoint everyone will have!”

“How I can actively incorporate the message into my daily life is by making an effort to talk to my peers and reaching out to them. Sometimes, you have to be the hand that stretches out, even if the person didn't say anything about needing help in the first place.”

“I think that for me personally I can educate and become more aware of the differences within our society, so I can better spot them out and find solutions to fix them. This can benefit me personally as I work towards becoming a teacher. I want to end this circle of discrimination by teaching students how to be better in the communities they live in.”

4) Why is Being Community important?

“You can accomplish so much more together. Being by yourself means that you only have one perspective, which by extension limits your perspective. We need to open our minds and hearts to everyone so that we can all uplift each other.”

“Being Community is important for numerous reasons. It helps establish a foundation that people can work off - teams, for example. It creates a sense of trust and amiability to peers who are in said community. It helps distinguish the roles of a good and bad leader and how these roles can affect people who look up to said leader. And Being Community creates a better environment for anyone near it and creates a sense of support, compassion, and friendship.”

“Take for example, the two other pillars. Being Well and Creative. You cannot have people within a community be their best selves, if the community is not supporting them for what they can accomplish. Nobody can show off their artistic skills if they are denied entry to a theater, and nobody can feel good mentally, if statistically less clinics exist in their area because it's predominantly black. People cannot succeed in life if they do not have the proper support systems in their community. We have to create and work towards that beneficial community for all, so everybody can grow to become what they want to be.”

5) Any further comments?

“Thank you Asante Haughton for taking the time to talk with the student leaders of PVNCCDSB!”

“I thoroughly enjoyed the Being Community Retreat and the messages that were given - the little tidbits of humor and personal information Asante provided made it all the more enjoyable. Great work!!”

“I really loved the presentation with Asante! He spoke very well and clearly was well educated and passionate about everything he spoke about! I was never bored during his talk and I found many ways to connect or relate to what he was saying!!”

Thank You!

CREDITS: This presentation template was created by **Slidesgo**, including icons by **Flaticon**, and infographics & images by **Freepik**

