



Vancouver School Board Leverages SchoolCash for Improved Reporting, Greater Productivity & Widespread Adoption of Online Payments

The Challenge

With its legacy accounting system approaching end of life, Vancouver School Board (“the Board”) needed a new solution to manage activity funds across its 110 schools.

One key reason was the Board’s dissatisfaction with the visibility and reporting limitations of its existing system, which reduced productivity and exposed schools to risk.

“Each school had a standalone instance of the accounting software installed on-premises, meaning if we wanted to generate a consolidated report, we would need to pull reports from multiple systems and collate them into a single report,” recalled Craig Selinger, School Accounting Support, Vancouver School Board. “Not only was this time consuming, but it also invited the possibility of errors because it was done manually.”

For this reason, the Board sought a cloud-based solution that would deliver greater transparency and more comprehensive reporting. Further, the Board wanted to modernize its activity fund management processes by securing a solution that would

support online payments. This decision was driven by the Board’s goal to reduce cash handling in schools and increasing demand for online payments from parents/guardians.

“A small handful of our schools tried using online payment solutions offered by other companies with limited success because they lacked an integrated accounting module,” explained Mr. Selinger. “This meant that when payments were received, they were not posted directly to the school’s general ledger. Instead, school staff had to manually reconcile each transaction, which consumed a considerable amount of time.”

ABOUT VANCOUVER SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Vancouver School District is among the most diverse public school systems in Canada with an annual enrolment of over 50,000 students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 across 100 schools. In addition, the Vancouver School District provides educational programs and services to full-time adult education students.

This experience taught the Board a key lesson about the importance of procuring a comprehensive solution that seamlessly integrates online payments with school-level accounting. With this in mind, the Board selected KEV Group's SchoolCash platform – a cloud-based solution designed to automate the management of activity funds.

"After preliminary discussions with some vendors, we found that KEV was the only provider of a single, integrated solution designed specifically for school activity funds," recalled Mr. Selinger. "We were particularly impressed with how SchoolCash allowed payments to be automatically posted directly to a school's general ledger and across multiple accounts."

Results

The Board started implementing SchoolCash across its school community during the 2017/2018 school year.

"The comprehensive pre-adoption support provided by KEV ensured that our district staff had adequate time and resources to train and support school staff," explained Mr. Selinger. "By involving key staff members early and often, generated positive word-of-mouth feedback that built momentum for rollouts across the district."

Once SchoolCash was fully deployed, the Board drove usage by making it mandatory for each school to have at least one fee available for online payment.

"Once school-level staff experienced the benefits of SchoolCash Online firsthand—the ease of posting items and less time spent counting money, travelling to the bank, and filling out deposit forms—they really embraced it," recalled Mr. Selinger. "Our administrative staff were especially pleased with how the reduction of these cash handling responsibilities freed them up to focus on other, higher impact tasks."

Staff enthusiasm was matched by the parent/guardian community, who quickly embraced SchoolCash Online. Within just two years, 82% of parents/guardians across 110 schools had adopted it. In fact, the average adoption rate for the top 10 schools with the highest parent/guardian participation is near perfect: 99.7%.

Mr. Selinger cites a few key reasons for this success.

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"The Board's communications team sent promotional packages to each school, which were put into action by accounting clerks and office admin assistants," said Mr. Selinger. "And a small thing that's made a big difference is that we don't mention the possibility of paying with cash or checks, even though it's still an option. Our message is very clear: SchoolCash Online is our preferred method of payment."

This shift towards contactless payments allows the Board to track activity fund transactions by querying the general ledger remotely. By extending more visibility into transactional data for all staff, greater transparency has been achieved, risks have been mitigated, and productivity has increased with fewer requests for manual tasks, such as payment updates and account status.

By the Numbers



K-12 Schools
Served

110



Number of
Students

52,270



Funds Managed
Annually

\$18M



Online
Adoption Rate

82%

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— Craig Selinger
School Accounting Support



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KEV Group provides the only unified school activity and district fee management solution that enables K-12 schools to manage every dollar accurately, consistently, and efficiently. By seamlessly integrating and automating all activity fund management processes, our solutions provide real-time visibility and control over how districts and schools create, collect, manage, track, and reconcile school activity and district fees. Parents/guardians benefit from an easy-to-use solution that offers convenience and supports all payment types. More than 25,500 schools across North America rely on KEV to manage over \$4 billion in activity funds annually, and over 40% are members of the Council of the Great City Schools. Visit kevgroup.com to learn more.