

Handsworth PAC Meeting

February 22, 2021

1. Welcome - call to order 7:02

Attendees: (37) Janet Carswell, Jacquie Griffiths, Carmen Jensen, Jana Madill, Velda Williams, Megan Enns, Lorna Moffat, Mel Montgomery, Gregory Harder, Shane Lowry, Kulvir Mann, Rupi Samra-Gynane, Amanda Nichol, Ensi, Jagruti Desai, Jen, Judith, Kirstie, M Forsyth, Molly O'Callaghan, Rachael Lew, Rivka, Sally, Signe and Erik, Steven Pace, Sue Chow, Tania Percy, Theresa, Nicole Kennedy, Tara Boddington, Wendy Royle, and more

We would like to thank the Coast Salish people, specifically the Skwxwú7mesh Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation, upon whose unceded traditional territory the North Vancouver School District resides. We value the opportunity to learn, share and grow on this traditional territory.

Virtual meeting process explained for Zoom meetings:

- Voting will be made by clicking on the Yes or No icon and the Secretary will count votes.
- Meeting will be recorded for the purposes of the Secretary accurately reflecting the meeting on the minutes.
- Participants will be muted all the time and will be able to speak by asking the Chair to unmute them by clicking on the "raising hand" icon.
- Participants can ask questions through the "chat" icon. Vice Chair/Communications Rep will monitor the questions.

2. **Approval of February 22nd, 2021 Agenda.** Approved by Carmen Jensen, second Molly O'Callaghan. Motion carried and approved.

3. **Approval of January 18th, 2021 Minutes.** Approved by Lorna Moffat, second Shane Lowry. Motion carried and approved.

4. **Guest speakers:** Tara Boddington (Parent Ambassador at the Foundry) & Nicole Kennedy (VCH Program Manager) from Foundry with an overview of services.

- Tara - joined in 2020 to support efforts to reach the community on NS, particularly schools - to share messages about family services.
- Nicole - mental health and substance abuse educator
- Foundry vision was to transform how youth accesses mental and wellness services for young people. One stop shop. Age 12 - 24. Network of mental health, drug abuse, social services, peer support. Building located behind esplanade theatre. Safe, non judgmental, resources - goal to reach youth early for support.
- Video presentation
- Parents are free to email, website, reach out on social media.
- Youth advisory committee has 3 Handsworth students on it - very well represented!
- Referrals - parents call for information, do schools do as well? Students can come in at will - no referrals needed. Drop in from 1 - 5 Monday to Thursday. Can also access virtually the same time and days.

- Information on eating disorder talk - through Family Smart. Happening tomorrow (Tuesday Feb 23) Free event. 6:30, register through www.familysmart.ca/itk.
- Foundry has an eating disorder program - must be scheduled through GP after in person visit. GP then refers. If no GP child can see NP at Foundry. Ages 12 - 19. Flexible program. Clinician, dietician and pediatrician for this program.
- 13 clinics currently in BC, govt funding opening more.

5. **Teacher speaker:** Rachael Lew (French Immersion teacher) Black History Month

- Working in library learning commons, taking over for the remainder of the year. Important for us to talk about Black history month - renewed interest in this through BLM movement. Older students are very interested.
- Started off with History 12 students and the civil rights movement - inquiry projects.
- Rolling display created to be Covid friendly. Civil rights, apartheid, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King Jr, Black Panther party. How were leaders achieving their goals? Currently in foyer at learning commons. Lots of discussions have come of it.
- Looked at the collection we have in learning commons - add more books by black authors. Also wanting to add more Asian authors. With rise in racism important to have resources.
- Curated resources for teachers - example: PE teacher - talked about Harry Jerome and the film "42". Integrating into curriculum.
- Added tidbits into morning announcements.
- Student council wants to get involved and extend to March possibly so they can have events, advocate for more learning opportunities.
- On a personal level - learning more about how to be anti-racist and Black History month. Work towards having a book club, or a challenge to read a book by a black author.
- Good feedback - lots of room to grow and improve. More teachers participating, harder in the quarter system.
- Are black students included in these discussions? This is part of the student council piece, meeting with them next month. Harder with Covid to gather Black students together.

6. **Treasurer Report** (Jana Madill): Vote on approval of phase 2 Teacher wish list

- Hot lunch refunds and donations are complete.
- Phase 1 teacher list - money has been largely distributed
- Supporting a couple of fundraisers
 - basketball poinsettia - \$2000
 - share the love campaign - over \$2000
- Phase 2 requests from teachers have come in.
- Approval to spend (Motion: Megan, second motion: Shane) \$6500 to a vote: anyone opposed? No opposition - everyone in favour for funding.
- We received a donation from a local family to Handsworth for \$250 to the PAC. Thank you!
 - Mural Society supplies - led by a Grade 10 students bringing art to schools, asking them to think about implementing items for the new school - possible to get second funding: \$3500
 - Learning commons : furniture - stand up tables, different structures, quotes coming in: \$1500
 - School Theme/new school fixtures: Identity project \$2500
 - Principal Rupri: looking to reshape what's happening to build connections, wellness focus, gratitude, resilience. In the absence of athletics, arts, Grade 8 retreat, how do we define ourselves? How to come together?
 - visiting schools to get ideas

- some of the little things - walking in with a welcome mat with the crest, banners, sense of place, purpose, connectivity. Sense of pride and community in these objects - tangible.

7. **Grad 2021:** Molly O'Callaghan

- Grad to look different this year
- Typically we'd raise money through parent nights, silent auction, etc.
- Simple cheque drive instead - Share the Love campaign through Munchalunch
- Set a budget of \$6000
- We have about 275 grads - is about 200 families donating \$30 each.
- Possible car parade, another event, then donate anything above to local charities.
- 10 days into the campaign at \$2400 - 30 families have donated. About 40%
- Only had emails for 130 families - about half. Spread the word!
- Possibly put something on Instagram as many parents go there for info. Janet and Mark
- PDF file for next newsletter as well.

7. **Principal Report:** Rupi Samra-Gynane

- Honouring school theme of gratitude - thank you Molly! Grads are having a tougher year.
- Thank you to PAC executive as well - Grade 7 - 8 transition guide forthcoming - great feedback on document. Meant to be a one stop shop for transitioning families - especially brand new ones!
- Student council did a great job with Valentines celebrations! Happy Lunar New Year as well!
- Covid: several schools exposures related to a single event hosted by a Handsworth family - 12 people tested positive. Grade 10 really impacted. Must continue to follow rules and keep the bubble small. Frustrating to say the least and against the law. Not through school transmission - this happened out in the community. Must care for all in our families/bubbles. We've been doing VERY well - thank you to families and parents and teachers for all your hard work.
- Inclusiveness: started around complex/diverse learners and this has grown into a larger movement, honouring all communities, sexual and gender identity, athletics/crew, all pulling back to inclusiveness and new policies.
- Recent policies updated with sexual orientation/gender - effort to support inclusion in this group, dismantle barriers to diversity. Administrative items will guide this - courses, field trips, outings, events - look through a larger lens. Identification on bathrooms, single use bathrooms. New build - will have single use bathrooms.
- New policies looking at race relations - current policies are 20 years old.
- Behaviours being seen - identity, sense of control - what can we do at the school level? Seeing a lot more cutting amongst students. Used to be seen through social media as being "trendy" but now making a comeback. Disordered eating. Unhealthy social media interactions. Without a strong sense of identity tied to clubs, sports, etc. Not connecting with peers brings kids to social media - seeing racial, social injustices - this can be hard for teenagers to see all the time. What is healthy social media behaviour? How do we encourage this? Policy: be fair, consistent, not punitive. Recent instances where social media used a damaging way towards individuals.
- Getting better at managing screen captures - Snapchat, social media. Everything can be seen and kept and lives forward on the internet. Permanence - peer relationships, college, etc.
- On a personal note - experience racism growing up.
- Continue conversations around healthy social media interactions. Be critical about the things you see. Look at everything through a critical lens.
- People are tired. Parents are tired, and students are tired. We will not tolerate bullying. Will speak for the majority and not tolerate racism, sexism, etc. We will keep dialogue open.

- Reach out directly to Rupi with any concerns.
- Just got a notification on student thoughts about quarter, semester, linear program. Opportunity for parents to voice as well. Time frame will be coming for parents to speak up - we are the largest secondary community so let your voice be heard. We are building a quarter system as it's the hardest to build. But can change if that's the direction from the district. Planning for age appropriate classes and will know hopefully by next month - choose a regular system, and for nuances we can work with. Work with grade counsellor. May need to reopen for changes before the timetable is set. Students may want to change classes depending on quarter/semester, etc.

8. **Meeting adjourned at 8:11 PM.** Next meeting in April! Enjoy March break at home!

Upcoming events:

1. **Board of Education - Public Board Meeting** (Feb. 23) @ 6:30PM. Public Input - Proposed 2021/22 School Calendar (Deadline: Feb. 28)

2. **Pathways to Participation: Immigrant leaders on the North Shore.** Hear stories from NS immigrants about their journeys into leadership roles. Hosted by North Shore Immigrations Inclusion Project. Register at www.eventbrite.com/e/139996245539

3. **NVPAC presents: The 4R's of Raising Resilient Kids March 3 @7PM** – register @ <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/the4rs-of-raising-resilient-kids-tickets-138847176643?fbclid=IwAR1pMjx0e4ajJID-9Ht47CMPuDf-2xrN2ByZNV69-1odryXTmnhgn0Vfk-o>

4. **Late French Immersion** - Priority Placement (Deadline: March 5)

5. **Young Entrepreneurship and Leadership Launchpad** (YELL) Application Deadline (March 8)

6. **Public Input - 2021/22 Budget Priorities.** Each year, the NVSD undertakes a public consultation process for input on budget priorities. Budget priorities align with and support the school district's strategic goals, vision and values. Provide feedback: Virtually through Microsoft Teams at the public information and input meeting on April 6, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. There will be an option to ask questions and share comments through the chat function. Via email to budgetcomments@sd44.ca by March 12, 2021. Using the platform Thoughtexchange until March 12, 2021. Through traditional mail addressed to - Secretary Treasurer, 2121 Lonsdale Ave, North Vancouver, BC, V7M 2K6. Mailed feedback must be received by March 12, 2021.

Find us on Facebook Instagram & Twitter @HandsworthPAC

The next HPAC meeting will be held Monday April 19th, 2021 @ 7PM via Zoom. Please email chair@handsworthpac.ca for your Zoom link

“The Handsworth community develops empowered, innovative and compassionate learners who serve and lead with curiosity and integrity.”