

Handsworth PAC Minutes

September 21st, 2020

1. Welcome & Introduce all members of the HPAC

Introduction of HPAC exec: Janet Carswell - Chair / Co-Chair, Jacquie Griffiths - Communications Coordinator, Carmen Jensen - Vice Chair/Co-Chair, Jana Madill - Treasurer, Velda Williams – Secretary. Members at Large - Megan Enns, Esther Oyelumade, Lorna Moffat, Mel Montgomery, Gregory Harder, & Shane Lowry (see below as Shane was acclaimed as DPAC Rep)

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.

Attendees (31): Janet Carswell, Jacquie Griffith, Megan Enns, Carmen Jensen, Shane Lowry, Lorna Moffat, Mel Montgomery, Velda Williams, Michelle, Yin, Gregory Family, Nahid Jalali, Amanda Nichol, Ilona Kuligowska, Yao Shen, Greg Harder, Kevin R Barefoot, Cheryl Mitchell, Esther Oyelumade, Tatsuya Hama, Andrew Majawa, MaryAm Bagherzam, Jana Madill, Michelle, Eva Cipera, Hank Wu, Peter, Principal Rupi Samra-Gynane, Candice Majawa, Tri, Poupak Toufani

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. Secretary will monitor the raising hands.
- Participants can ask questions through the “chat” icon. Vice Chair/Communications Rep will monitor the questions.

2. Approval of Sept 21st, 2020 Agenda

Approved by Shane Lowry & seconded by Lorna Moffat

3. Elections:

- *The DPAC position with the HPAC was not filled at the AGM in June. Since then, one member has indicated a willingness to take on the role. If there are no other interested individuals, this person will be acclaimed. If there are more than one interested member, the Bylaws require a secret ballot vote. If you would like to put your name forward or nominate another parent, please contact Janet Carswell @ chair@handsworthpac.ca so we can make the necessary arrangements for a secret ballot. A final call for nominations will be held at the HPAC meeting prior to any member being acclaimed Sept 21st. In addition, we have filled 5*

out of seven positions for the Members at Large if anyone is interested in participating in the HPAC.

- *New members and approvals / acclamations:*
 - Jana Madill appointed as Treasurer in June, thanks to David for making an easy transfer.
 - Greg Harder member at large appointed in summer
 - DPAC position – Shane Lowry has put his name forward. Made a call for any other nominations. No other nominations so Shane is acclaimed. Thank you, Shane!
 - Made a call for nominations for Members at Large – Candice Majawa acclaimed
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4. Chair Report: Janet Carswell

- **No hot lunch** in the foreseeable future so we are putting together a letter for families so they can choose to get a refund or donate.
- Congratulated Caitlin Mollison for winning the \$1500 Earl Beaumont Citizenship Award that is funded by the HPAC.
- Congratulated Annika Eng for winning the Ray Noel Citizenship Award for \$1500 again funded by the HPAC.
- Reminder that the Handsworth PAC has a presence on Instagram, Twitter & Facebook all under the @HandsworthPAC
- Grade 8 Welcome video available on MS Teams via teachers

5. Principal Report including Covid updates and the new school: Rupi Samra -Gynane.

School overview:

- Thank you for your patience along the way, timelines etc were given to us late in the process and we got info out as soon as possible. Trying to operationalize things while things were changing.
- First week was very successful! Almost surprisingly so. Lots of energy in the school with students – adjusting to hybrid models.

Operations:

- 2.5 hours a week is equivalent to a week's worth of normal school. Curious to see what students think. Teachers are told to pare down what you have – limit homework if possible. Longer chunk of time is efficient as well. Questions around electives vs core subjects – did the best we could to keep them with one core class and one elective.
- We have 1440 enrolled, 1520 last year. Some students move, international students low.

Events:

- working with athletic directors within guidelines – different from community sports, maintain learning cohorts. It is tricky – same rules as educational cohorts. Must ask ourselves - are we able to do practices – no shared equipment, restrictions? Football – cannot meet guidelines though the presentation was very thorough. Field hockey and volleyball look doable. Value involvement in sports – where can we make space and get kids active in a safe environment? Work in progress.

Other school updates:

- new build – filling out walls and exterior walls. Project manager away right now – but we are on schedule. Sept 2021 is the date as we know it so far. Wiring and drops are done. Minimal disruption to learning.
- grad council – keeping an executive team. Space at convention centre and at Orpheum booked. Plans are being made for both in person and virtual. Teacher contacts for trad this

year are Sophia Frith and Melanie Castle. Working on grad wear, swag, fundraisers. We want it to be as normal yet safe as possible.

- student council - have not connected with them yet but are on the list. Getting some grade 8 alongside and perhaps just doing leadership and exec rather than big meetings.
- Terry Fox events will be different this year. Keeping fundraising minimal as possible given the guidelines and being responsible. Toonies for Terry in periods 1 and 2 next week. Partnered with Blue Shore Financial in past. Run will look different but focus on the education piece.
- yearbook: best in Canada according to the provider! Vibrant and exciting. Distribution starts next Wednesday. Discourage kids to congregate so we are doing a gradual release. Grads to come in on Pro D day to receive theirs. Info is already on the Handsworth Instagram page

Q & A for Rupi

Q: How will grade 11's & 12's get their volunteer hours?

A: we will be broad with our definitions – using previous hours, doing things for parents, extended family.

Q: What happens if a class does not finish the curriculum in the 10 weeks?

A: Summer school operates much like the schedule we are on right now, there is the ability to get the key concepts. May not get additional activities. Get the ministry curriculum, limited amounts of extras. Hours allocated is about the same as the usual school year and more than what happens in the summer school timeframe. Teachers looking at core concepts and skills for next grade or postsecondary.

Q: Will there be an equivalent of university “presentations” for the grade 12 students this year?

A: Yes – we have people working on this. CLC is happening. Virtual presentations will be happening. Trickier online – will be bumped earlier in the year. Not doing at quarter end for grads.

Q: The “transition day” - is that a non-instruction day? In-between the quarters?

A: Yes – course is finished at that time. Teachers and students will have one day to get finished up, wrap up loose ends. Takes the place of the end of year days.

Q: I am wondering about lunch time specifically for Grade 8 students. We were under the impression that they would be staying in their classrooms for lunchtime, but it appears they are being shooed outside. This works for now and outside time is great but once the weather gets bad are, they going to be allowed to stay inside? There seems to be confusion among the students.

A: Grade 8 do not have to go outside, however teachers may leave the classrooms. Some classes have equipment – safety and supervision come into play. Teachers are usually in the classrooms rather than the staff room. Some kids are going home, some out to eat, some staying in class. Allowed to eat in their zone but must wear a mask after eating. Not ideal but kids usually sit in the hallway, the cafeteria is very small – do not have the field in the back for kids to sit.

Q: But afternoon classes are only 3 times a week for each cohort, how can they finish the curriculum?

A: That's only for 5 weeks, then they flip the delivery model and the afternoon class is in full time, morning switches back and forth between in class and online. 70% of the time is in class.

Teachers not lecturing the whole time, maximize group instruction face to face – using flex and remote to do one/one and working on their own. Curriculum will be covered completely.

Q: On Mondays, the students are in class in the morning and online in the afternoon. The time allotted for lunch makes it very difficult for some students who live further to get home in time. Have you considered extending this Monday lunch?

A: 45 minutes allocated for lunch is not enough time to get home for some students. Talking about extending lunch, the collective agreement states that we must stay between 8:30 – 3. Looked at staggering the schedule but it made lunches either too long or too short. Looked at flextime and talked to the Vancouver school board – looked at many different iterations. Longer lunch hours – presented challenges as students congregate over lunch so wanting to keep it shorter. Also bound by collective agreement. Only talking about Mondays and the first 5 weeks for now – we are providing 15 spaces in library commons for students to do afternoon class. Also have asked teachers if they can open classroom space with alternatives. Must be mindful of bandwidth. Kids can bring their own headphones and masks. Families can reach out if they need help with this.

Q: If a student must isolate for two weeks how will the morning class be delivered? (The face to face one)

A: We have kids that cannot come to school for various reasons – contact the grade counsellor to work through the process and how we can support that student if they miss school. Using MS Teams across the board so students can access for every class. We can make it work and accommodate.

Q: We got some messages that Sentinel and West Vancouver secondary have students or teachers have tested positive. Is there any safer plan?

A: We have not received anything – everything comes from the provincial health office for our region. Revised provincial health checks went out last week. If we have a circumstance, we take directions from this body – learning cohorts are kept small for this reason – Grade 8 at 30 or less – seniors under 60. Exposure is buffered. Many kids are choosing to wear masks in the classroom as well - which is helping mitigate the risk factors. We are the largest school community in the district. By sheer numbers we will be impacted at some point – but our safety models and the cohort model really help.

Thank you Rupi! Our school district website has a Covid tab which is very helpful – parents can email Rupi and if there are lots of the same questions we will send out in an email. The Instagram feed is excellent as well.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 PM.

The next HPAC meeting will be held **Monday Oct 19thst, 2020 @ 7PM**. Location TBD.

Find us on Instagram @HandsworthPAC Twitter @Handsworth and Facebook @HandsworthPAC

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