

Handsworth PAC

Minutes February 26, 2024

Carmen Jensen, Jen Roberts, Shannon Harris, Shane Lowry, Candace Storm, Somayeh Honarmand, Brandy Hughes, Elina Ahmari, Sophie Cooper, Amanda Nichol, Kirstie Pirie, Jeom Kim, Nader Soleimani, Megan Enns, Jessica Young, Marilyn Dacio, Esther Oyelumade, Susan Nguyen, Angela Santoro, Sepideh Parlee, Adamina Rodriguez, Nasrin Sharifi

Administration or Employee: Cary Hungle, Jagruti Desai Mike Forsyth Linda Munro

1. Welcome Statement

We would like to thank the Coast Salish people, specifically the Skwxwú7mesh Squamish Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation, upon whose unceded traditional territory the North Vancouver School District Handsworth Secondary resides. We value the opportunity to learn, share and grow on the traditional territory. As we are meeting virtually, I would like people who may be joining us from other land to take time to make an acknowledgment.

2. Roll Call

A quorum for the transaction of business at a general meeting is seven voting members, including at least two of the HPAC Directors. At least one of the HPAC Directors must be a signing officer. Quorum was achieved.

3. Approval of February 26, 2024, Agenda

The agenda was circulated on the Handsworth Secondary Website under HPAC Tab. Welcome is extended to Mike Forsyth. Motion to accept the agenda as presented moved by Carmen Jensen & seconded Candace Storm. All approved.

4. Approval of January 22, 2024, Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the January 22, 2024 meeting was circulated by the Handsworth Secondary Website under the HPAC tab. Motion to accept the agenda as presented moved by Carmen Jensen & seconded Candace Storm. All approved.

5. Chair Report

The Chair attended a DPAC online info session regarding semester vs linear school planning. Chris Atkinson was the SD44 representative and will take feedback to the public school board meeting on Feb 27, 2024. I requested Chris Atkinson to attend this HPAC meeting to have a conversation about our outdoor space, but he was not able to attend. According to the Board meeting agenda, the field will require reseeding and the fencing will remain in place until the landscape architect provides the final sign off. I communicated with two representatives from the North Shore Women's Society to discuss the possibility of having Flip the Script programming being offered at Handsworth. Excited to announce that our first reimbursements from the wish list was initiated last week. We will connect with these groups to ensure these

enhancements are implemented throughout the school to feature in upcoming school newsletters.

6. Treasurer Report

Updated budget was shared with the membership. Highlights include hot lunch revenue is higher than planned so there may be additional funds available for the school. Some challenges with Ebanking so some invoices for Panago and Subway are outstanding yet; we are working with VanCity to resolve this issue. Funds approved for Athletics and Gaming wish lists were shared with HPAC membership and to date 3 wish list items have been completed. A reminder email will be sent to all successful proponents to ensure purchases are completed in a timely manner.

7. Administration Report

Mr. Forsyth – Mr. Forsyth presented on the Advance Placement Programing offered at Handsworth. These are generally for grade 11 and 12 students that have met the prerequisites, which are a slightly more advanced curriculum than typical curriculum. Handsworth offers both enrolling courses and self-studying exams. Exams are offered in May, and we offer fourteen self-study exams. A student can send results to universities for credit which only costs \$160 for the exam compared first year tuition of \$1600 plus. We recommend that students take the exams as it offers an opportunity to experience a post-secondary type of exam.

Question-Given there are some conversations about SD44 returning to the linear system, can you comment on how AP courses work in a linear system.

Answer-The linear system better for student, instruction, and support for the students right up to the exam period whereas in the semester system, all AP courses are in first semester and the exams are in May requiring tutorial sessions to review, relearn or brush up prior to the exam.

Question- Are the prerequisites in the Handsworth Course Outline?

Answer-Yes

Question-Can you share what a student should consider, what sort of grades are necessary?

Answer-Better for grade counsellors to address. This is more advanced material so strong grade and a passion for a subject are needed.

Question-Would a teacher recommend taking an AP course on a report card?

Answer-A teacher may recommend AP courses. If a parent or student is interested, please reach out to Mr. Forsyth who will direct you to the teacher who teaches the AP course in which you are interested.

Question-Are these courses in person or online?

Answer-Some courses are offered in person (Calculus, Chemistry, Microeconomics, Computer Science A, Computer Science Principles, three Arts courses) and additional 7 or 8 exams for those taking AP courses online or at a different institution.

Question-What do students do if they want to take Chem 12?

Answer-AP chem course can overlap enough with Chemistry 12 that you may be able to get an equivalent credit. As a non-counselor, Mr. Forsyth recommended talking with a counsellor.

Question-Is AP Chemistry a grade 12 course?

Answer-All AP courses are grade 12. There have been cases in the Art courses where a grade 11 student has successfully completed AP Art, but this should be discussed with the teacher.

Question- If students are taking AP courses in grade 12 in the linear system in the grade 12 level, do the results get sent to university for admissions?

Answer-AP results come out in July. The students state on their application they are enrolled in an AP course and universities are familiar with when results. The test is for university credit, but the student will still receive a mark for the course as they do for any other course. The student must request the exam marks be sent to the university.

We are in the final preparations for some grade 9 to participate on our Japan in April. This is a program offered at Handsworth since 1989. We have a sister school relationship with a school since 1992 except for a couple of years. This is a long tradition of exposing student to Japanese culture. Blog of their travels is available in the school newsletter.

Mr. Hungle – Mr. Hungle shared that 4 or 5 new teachers have joined the Handsworth community. Wonderful to have new folks in our community. We have been working on next year's programming with terrific attendance at parent meetings with many follow-up questions. Student meetings were held in the mornings and the students were selecting their courses. While counsellors have the responsibility with course programming, a number of teachers have opened tutorial sessions to allow students to ask questions about courses. This is a chance for students to talk with the teachers to ensure the courses are a good fit for the students. Linear system decision will be discussed at the public-school board meeting. Mr. Hungle is confident in both systems, learning support & AP work better with linear system but whatever system is selected we will manage. Teacher leaders were identified and any one of them can answer questions.

Question-Before course selections are due, will we know which system we will have and if a student needs to amend their selections can they?

Answer- Yes students will know which system we will have before course requests are due.

Grass field Update-Work is ongoing; we can expect work to begin in March to address seeding and drainage issues particularly in the NE corner. We remain optimistic we will have access to NV Recreation field allocation. NV recreational has not yet responded to access for WG for afterschool. Plan to send update in Handsworth update.

Artificial Field Update-Met with Mayor Little to advocate directly and ask where things stand with the field at Handsworth. Mr. Little indicated he would follow up on field allocations. Funding approved and work plan is established for fall of 2025 with a build time of 1 year or less. The timeline for construction will not be accelerated but obviously the timeline is disappointing.

Question-There is some concern that the closure of our field is preventing access. Mayor Little made their priorities clear will not change or be accelerated due to advocacy. Mr. Hungle will send a field update in March or April Royal News.

Athletes-Winter sports are winding down. Several sports are starting in the Spring: rugby, volleyball, soccer, ultimate, badminton, golf, mountain biking and track and field are coming up. Thanks to teacher staff sponsors, coaches, parents and thanks to HPAC for funding.

Arts-Dr. David Muir is back for semester two. The original play, Her Lies the Truth, will run May 1-4th in our theater; the drama department are working hard to prepare for this. Spotlights include band festivals running this week, jazz band performances, and strings performance

Absences-Staff are noticing a high number of extended absences, which is challenging to ensure curriculum is taught. It is important to recognize that learning in the classroom cannot be replicated and we do not offer online or remote options. An extended absence form should be completed when students are away for more than a week.

Ms. Jagruti – The basketball banquet will be held Thursday, April 11th. The first tryouts are occurring for the new junior boys' volleyball team. Parent teacher bookings have opened today and already 695 appointments have been booked. First opening allowed for two appointments to be booked and then on Wednesday, Feb. 28, there is an opportunity to book additional appointments. If a teacher's schedule is fully booked, the teachers are open to parents emailing directly to set up an appointment. Parent-teacher conferences are on Thursday, March 7th. Parent teachers are in person however if your child is an international student, there may be an opportunity for a Zoom appointment. Graduation assessments will occur on April 16-19 online; please be aware of when the assessments are scheduled which are on the website. Opportunity to change assessment date is difficult due to limited technology and the high number of students. Parents can visit the grad assessment page on the website to review the schedule to ensure the students are not double booked. Grade 7-8 transition started with a parent meeting in January with a great turn out which was followed by Handsworth visiting the grade 7's classes. Grade 7 students will visit Handsworth in April. Exploitation Education Institute present to all grade 7-9 to Cybersafe presentation. Conversations on the root causes of all forms of online sexual exploitation and looked at how various internet dynamics play a role in vulnerability and susceptibility. A parent presentation was also offered in January. The website of Exploitation Education Institute was shared in school message to families to spark meaningful conversations.

Question-What is the date for the Grad Capstone project presentations?

Answer-They will be on Friday, April 26. This will not be a day off but will be an early dismissal.

8. Announcements: Reminder to order hot lunch when the session opens. There will be no meeting in March due to Spring Break. Next HPAC meeting will be held online on April 15, 2024 @ 7 PM. Our AGM is in May, and we encourage our membership to consider volunteering for HPAC; the description for the positions is on the website but please send an email if you have any questions. This is a wonderful way to support the school and your children.

9. Adjournment

"The Handsworth community develops empowered, innovative and compassionate learners"