

**HANDSWORTH SECONDARY SCHOOL PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (HPAC)
HANDSWORTH SECONDARY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION (HSSA)
MINUTES MEETING JANUARY 23, 2012**

Present:

HPAC/HSSA Executive: Sandra Hancock, Kathy McGrenera, Caroline Ramsay, Cheryl Leia, Vivienne Megas, Gwen Groberman, Katy Maclellan, Trish Brady, Sylvia Sanchez

Administration: Mark James – Principal

HPAC / HSSA Members in Attendance: Iain McKay, Melanie Cook, Lori Nobes, Cindy Diett, Deb Burian, Fatemeh Gharaei, Lydia Elliott

1.- Welcome, Introductions and call to order at 7:03pm from Sandra Hancock, HPAC – Chair

2.- Approval of Agenda was made by Vivienne Megas, seconded by Katy Maclellan, motion passed unanimously

3.- Approval of Minutes from November 21, 2011 meeting was made by Caroline Ramsay, seconded by Kathy McGrenera, motion passed unanimously

4. – School Trustee Barry Forward talked about what is happening in our group of schools regarding:

- BCPSEA (BC Public School Employers' Association) and the job action, still trying to negotiate an agreement, which no one expects to happen soon.
- End of month to review capital plans for our group of schools, like a covered play ground for Highlands Elementary
- (4) new school trustees have been appointed, which they will begin to learn all about the school district
- At the time being there is a surplus of land/schools in the district, it is in process of evaluation (to lease, sell, or what to do with the land, evaluate how many schools should we have as surplus) for the best interest for the community. There are (12) empty schools, and trying to figure out what to do with the Lucas Center which is the biggest piece of land for the next few years. In case of selling surplus land, the community has to accept the new project before rezoning or doing anything at all. Not all schools are sitting empty, some are already being leased.
- Balmoral Junior High will be the Alternative Learning School replacing the Leo Marshall Lucas Center (all programs to consolidate in the property). Community is very concerned about it (i.e.: traffic, growth of population, more adults around the area).
- The Ministry of Education does not fund the Alternative Learning Programs; the district has to raise the funds for such programs. North Vancouver has the highest rate of students (attending these types of programs 175-200 students).
- The new Outdoor School is amazing; it cost more than 5 M, which the government not funded.
- No news yet for the new Handsworth school. There has to be capital from the government, trustees need to asses, see what is needed in the district and compare with other schools districts. Last district to receive money was Surrey \$320M. For our district it will be first Argyle, Seymour Heights and then Handsworth. To obtain money from the Min. of Education we need more kids going into school.
- School trustees are supporting the teachers negotiate, our NV board is happy to reach a settlement on the Professional Development. They have had a year to come with a resolution for class size and composition, end of February is due date, and if there is not a resolution still, there will be more controversy and trigger points for the negotiations.
- Report Cards, it is strongly suggested to email/contact directly with teachers, which whom are keeping marks just not sharing with the school admin, school systems does not have access to the grades officially.

- Recommend attending the NV district PAC Meetings for any type of concern, doubt, suggestion; meetings are held on Tuesdays, and Board Meetings are held monthly. All information is in the webpage: www.nvsd44.bc.ca, as well as all minutes and agendas.

5.- Student Council, Jenica Coombes and Bailey Cove presented the idea of creating a portable mural to celebrate and remember Quinn Keast, since he means so much for the sports community and school. The HPAC was contacted for their support to raise funds and incorporate the activity to a major school activity, since the idea is to reveal the mural in the spring.

The executive HPAC decided to support them. Since this year there will be no Spring Fair, at the time being in the process of planning an event on May 12th to combine fundraising for the Quinn Keast Legacy and HPAC, with a shoot-a-thon, plant sale (targeting mother's day), maybe a BBQ, and other items sold, which would draw people to come.

6.- Upcoming Events:

Grade 9 Immunization Clinic: January 25th, 2012
 January 27th – PRO Day, school closed
 January 31st – Senior Formal
 February 7th – American Math Contest Junior and Senior
 February 15th & 16th – Jazz Cellar Concerts

7.- District PAC Report by Caroline Ramsay

NVPAC Meeting was held, January 19, 2012 at the Leo Marshall Curriculum Center @ 7:00 pm

A summary of night's meeting may be found on the NVPAC blog <http://blog.northvanpac.org>. The highlights of the meeting are as follows:

Artists for Kids – gallery tour (currently at LEO Marshall but soon to move to new space on Lonsdale) and presentation about AFK curriculum enrichment programs , the Studio Art Academy peak performance program for gr. 10,11, 7 12 students at Carson Graham, after school programs and summer camps. Much of the AFK programming is funded through print sales. Opportunities exist for joint fundraising programs for PACs with the AFK trust.

IT Resources in Schools – a group discussion took place re: PAC/parent roles in the acquisition of IT resources for schools. A wide range of issues were raised and it was decided that DPAC will ask its members for help with a survey on the current state of IT resources in their schools and what, if anything, PACs are planning in this area. DPAC will follow up in February's meeting with a longer discussion of this topic with the view of gaining a better understanding of the key issues and questions for PACs with respect to IT.

NVPAC response to Job Action – the question of a NVPAC response to the Job Action was considered, but other than a general notion of wishing all sides would find a way to resolve their issues and get everyone back to work there was no clear consensus on what that response should be! Everyone just get along please! The only significant consensus was that principals and other senior admin in the schools are bearing much of the pressure of the job action and deserve much credit for how the schools continue to function.

8.- SPC Report by Gwen Groberman

The family of schools met for training. No major changes are expected. No date yet, for their fist meeting.

9.- Music Report by Deb Burian

Jazz Cellar concerts on February 15th and 16th in Handsworth. All (4) Handsworth Jazz Bands to play.
 Kiwanis Jazz Festival on February 23rd and 24th at Capilano University. All (4) Handsworth Jazz Bands to play.

10.- Treasurers Report by Kathy McGrenera

HPAC has received the \$20K grant plus \$4K from last year.
We have started to buy items from the teacher's wish list.

11.- Other Business:

- Handsworth 50th Birthday it is being very difficult to organize since teachers do not meet
- (2) Development Grants have been awarded
- There will be changes on how to apply for the development grants, regarding what the student is doing for the community. Counselors should be providing the information to the students and encouraging applying.
- Katy Maclellan will pursue the idea to have all information available for parents in the Handsworth webpage, to be able to find resources and opportunities, so parents can access it as well.

12.- Principal's Report

- Computers are in the school, half paid by the school and half paid by HPAC.
- The Adobe Suit software is in, license to cover all computers in school.
- Due to the job action, lots of things are not happening, like the staff meeting, planning for next year, counselors evening is not allowed. The information meeting for 7th graders will take place, most probably run by admin staff.
- The dance studio is back. ---

The school district is moving towards 'the choices program', which allows students with challenges: behavior, social and emotional problems to continue their education within the same school grounds. North Vancouver has the highest number of kids under this program (4%, double of the provincial number).

13.- Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm

Next Meeting February 20, 2012