

HANDSWORTH SECONDARY SCHOOL PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (HPAC)
HANDSWORTH SECONDARY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION (HSSA)
MINUTES MEETING February 20, 2012

Present: (deleted to protect confidentiality)

1.- Welcome, Introductions and call to order: at 7:05pm from Cheryl Leia – Past HPAC Chair.

2.- Approval of Agenda, with the addition of the 'Translink Report' was made by Gwen Groberman, seconded by Trish Bradley, motion passed unanimously

3.- Approval of Minutes from January 23rd 2012 meeting was made by Gwen Groberman, seconded by Cheryl Leia, motion passed unanimously

4.- Speaker: Julia Staub-French – Director of Clinical Programs of FSNS (Family Services of the North Shore)

The objective of the presentation was to introduce the organization and how to better support HPAC and how we can find them, talked about all the available programs they have to offer to individuals, couples, parents, families and youth - our community. The counselling and support services are for those need help dealing with a whole range of issues, and who need help. Programs offered by FSNS include topics like: pregnancy, sexual abuse, preventing eating disorders (Jessie's Legacy), parent education, and child counselling, how to support: youth, adults, couples and family, stop the violence (for women who have suffered abuse and violence) as well as grief and loss services.

The youth programs are targeted to support anxiety, depression, conflict, what is 'normal' and what is not, how do we keep our children/teens safe, how to address the problem and get better, help them to get in touch with their feelings, let them know that it is OK to get help.

As a community we should be concerned of what is happening:

25% of teenagers suffer from depression, 18% are under anxiety (absence of feelings, fear).

West Van has doubled the amount of teens with eating disorders, due to the high expectations, image, and stress.

Some kids do need intervention from parents and or the community.

Teens over 14 years can seek for counselling on their own. They can 'text', phone, email to reach out for help, and will get a 'quick' response.

A quick demonstration on the website was presented, how it looks, how to navigate it. It has resources like a library, a catalogue of the written articles, the available programs; how to contact them. It is always updated and has information on all services: www.familyservices.bc.ca, youth site: www.need2talk.ca

The written ads are target to be at schools, rec-centres, and are approved by the school districts.

Presentations are being done to teenagers thru youth counsellors: Capilano University Services, an idea: could be done thru the planning counsellors at school.

They have partner with Safe/Teen, to empower older teenagers.

Fees: are based on a sliding scale based in the family gross income –can range from \$15-\$100 per session. Some programs may be free.

Depending on the extended benefit of every family, some of the services could be claimed by different insurance services.

FSNS obtains their funds thru gaming funds, fundraising and the United Way

To obtain their services, you have to contact them by phone at: 604.988.5281, and do an 'intake' phone call. Waiting time for the programs is depending on the type of program and availability.

Ideas, suggestions on how to support the Handsworth community:

* Email topics of interest to: Sylvia Sanchez – sylviaz@shaw.ca. Depending interests will schedule future presentations, time & date: TBC

* FSNS will be presented by school administration at next Handsworth staff meeting.

* Confidentially at time of intake, FSNS will track the Handsworth community calls, to see the trend in our community.

* Anxiety, Drug & Alcohol Use, Relationships at school, are the (3) major topics at time being.

5.- Safe Grad by Cheryl Leia.

This year will be held at Ice Sports from 11pm-4am, and then students will have breakfast at school.

Ice Sports is cheaper than Grouse. Grade 11 parents supervise the event; most important is that ALL students are safe for the entire event. The "safe sibling ride" program in which older siblings are in charge of driving grads is being organized as well with more drivers due to the longer drive to Ice Sports.

Only fundraiser event will be held on February 25th at Mosquito Creek Bar - \$20 for a hamburger and a beer.

6. - Upcoming Events

7. - No Music Report

8.- DPAC Report by Caroline Ramsay

The NVPAC met February 16, 2012 at the Leo Marshall Centre. The highlights of the meeting are as follows:

North Vancouver School District Meetings - David Whitehead, NVPAC Chair, gave a run down of the 3 main school district committees and their functions (Finance& Facilities, Education and Programs, and Towards the Future of Schools) and encouraged NVPAC members to make an effort to attend committee meetings and to report back to NVPAC. He will gladly post any reports on the NVPAC blog. Currently NVPAC executive strive to attend and report back on as many such meetings as they can, but look forward to hearing the perspectives of other parents. David recommends these meetings as an excellent opportunity for parents to provide direct input to District leaders.

IT Resources in Schools – results of the NVPAC survey of IT in in schools were presented. 7 Elementary school PACs had responded. Please refer to the NVPAC blog for these results. A lively discussion followed with schools sharing their challenges and experiences of piloting new technology, maintaining and replacing old equipment, and the issues around fundraising, teacher training, admin buy- in, district support, bandwidth and more! Parents expressed a need for a District Technology plan or guidelines. There was a feeling of much reinventing the wheel going on across the district and a lot of duplication of effort. This meeting was a great forum for networking and information sharing.

Message from John Lewis Re: Report Cards – David Whitehead met with Superintendent John Lewis who told him that no term 2 report cards will be issued (an email will come home explaining this). He encourages parents to take the initiative to meet with the teachers to discuss student progress.

Please refer to the NVPAC blog <http://blog.northvanpac.org> regularly for updates of interest to all North Van school district parents.

9. - No Athletic Report

10.- Treasurer Report by Kathy MacGrenera.

HPAC passed the audit. It was brought to our attention how to correctly use the gaming funds: on extracurricular activities only for the time being.

11.- Translink Report by Denise Rose

On February 15th the Translink Public input session for the North Shore was held. Partner groups were invited to participate at the session. The recommendations for this year:

* Reform the traffic and safety committee to deal with inadequacies of the Bus system and continue input through the public access portals. Two proposed new routes which affect our community and need our support.

* Continue to contact Translink scheduling regular bus routes to fix over crowding/timing on the bus route # 232 Grouse Mt/Phibbs X.

* The goal is to help students use public transit by reducing traffic near the school and lessening safety concerns.

www.translink.ca/nsatp

12.- Administration Report by Jeff Hasenauer

* Safe Teen, the organization has an excellent reputation, is all about prevention, attitude, and very educational. The people given the seminars are certified. In Handsworth it is provided to Grade 10's students, which are divided by gender, and it is a (2) period seminar for the students on February 21st.

* Job Action, at time being it is the same; teachers do not communicate with administration.

Regarding report cards, they will be none for this upcoming term, schools are not required to reproduce the report, but for grade 12th. Although teachers are keeping grades (but not submitting to school). Administration as the HPAC strongly suggested to contact teachers directly by email, if in the case the teacher does not respond please do contact the administration at earliest possible. March 1st, the Parent/Teacher meetings are scheduled, early dismissal at 2:00pm.

* Course Programming, signed sheets in ink must be in school with corresponding counsellors by Tuesday, February 28th. In April check the 'Course Verification Sheet', sign it and return to school, if a change has to be made this is the time, September will be too late.

* Final Exams, yes they will be Provincial Exams, posted in webpage.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05pm

Next Meeting: April 16th 2012