

Handsworth PAC

Meeting Minutes Sep 28, 2026

1. Intro and Land acknowledgment

2. Approve agenda for Sept 28 meeting

Approved. First Micah and Kara second.

3. Approve April 2026 meeting minutes

Approved. First Micah and Candace second.

4. Election of open PAC positions

Chair: Farzin Ismail Approved. First Stacey and Micah second

Following roles were filled through nominations and votes:

Vice Chair: Stacey Boothman

Treasurer, GAMING: Meryn Bowen

DPAC Rep:Sowgol Zomorodian

MEMBER at Large: MJ Kazimi

There were still 3 positions (Member at Large) remaining open.

5. Chair Report

Stacy, Vice Chair of the PAC, shared the following messages:

- Welcome & Back-to-School Kickoff: Welcomed new and returning parents, with a special welcome to Grade 8 families, and encouraged attendees to invite fellow parents to future PAC meetings.
- Grade 12 Kickoff Event: Expressed gratitude to Debbie (Grad Committee Lead) for organizing a successful "last first day" event for Grade 12 students, which featured group activities and a field drone photograph.
- Athletic Achievements: Celebrated the Handsworth football program's achievements at the Buchanan Bowl, highlighting the senior team's first victory in nine years.

- Key PAC Goal of the year "Parent Engagement" : Stated that the PAC's primary goal for the year is to boost parent and community engagement. The committee is actively exploring virtual attendance options (such as MS Teams) to increase accessibility.
- Executive Team Update: Announced the addition of a dedicated Communications Lead role to the PAC executive team for the school year.

6. School Admin Update

Cary, Principal of Handsworth, provided an update on the school's facilities and student population for the upcoming year.

- Enrollment: The school has 1,579 students, with a notable cohort of 297 grade eight students.
- Facilities: The new artificial turf field, part of the Handsworth Project, is now available. It is designed for multiple sports including field hockey, soccer, football, rugby, and is a community asset managed by North Van Rec after 6:00 PM.
- Staffing: The school is operating with 85 teachers across 467 sections of instruction and 35 support staff.

Jeff and Dave, both Vice Principal of Handsworth, discussed various school developments and recent successes:

- Field Project: A scoreboard was intended for the new field, but current quotes are problematic. One quote for installation was \$115,000 without details, while a previous estimate was around \$40,000. Cary is researching alternative options, such as mounting a scoreboard on a pole or using a portable \$7,000 model similar to what Argyle uses.
- Community Building: Jeff highlighted successful initiatives like the bead-trading and rock-paper-scissors tournament to encourage multi-grade interaction. The Terry Fox Run also utilized the new field for 1,600 students.
- Student Programs: The Grade Eight Retreat was successful with participation from 270 students. Additionally, a new Outdoor Ed program has 47 students participating in experiential learning.
- Athletics: Current teams include football, cross country, field hockey, soccer, rugby, and volleyball. Winter sports like basketball and swimming are approaching.
- Graduation Requirements: Jeff noted that mandatory provincial literacy assessments for Grade 12s and Grade 10s will occur on November 2 and 3, respectively. Numeracy assessments are scheduled for January 2.
- Teacher/Parent interview booking website issue: There is ongoing difficulty with the school website due to a district-wide transition to a new provider. Cary noted that the IT department is managing this, but it has impacted access to information.

7. Hot lunch

Allison has been managing the program for 6 years and requires more volunteers to assist with. A Sign-up Genius will be circulated via the PAC newsletter.

8. Communication

Micah introduced a new digital hub using a Linktree accessible via QR codes, which connects parents to social media, the school website, and Muncha Lunch.

Scan below QR code to get connected!



9. HPAC Open Forum Engagement

Future PAC meetings topics whiteboard discussion: what is important to you? Highlighted a few topics discussed in the meeting:

- Demostrate where parents can find all school related information? The QR code could serve as the “front-door” for new parents, particularly those in grade 8.
- Introduction of Microsoft Teams, especially for Grade 8 new families.
- North Van District contact of IT: student safety, school policy for internet usages,
- Parent social events, bring your friends. Those events can be light-way, for example Ideas like day-walk, just to get together to know each other and connect.

Completed list of topics and local guest speakers can be found in page 4

10. Treasury

We omitted this topic this month.

11. DPAC Report

We omitted this topic this month.

12. Other PAC business

We omitted this topic this month.

Local Guest Speaker options

1. Technology, AI, & Digital Safety

- **The White Hatter / SaferNet (Leading Digital Literacy & Internet Safety Experts in Canada)**
 - **Topics:** Academic integrity in the AI era, cyberbullying prevention, and setting boundaries with social media.
 - **Overview:** One of the most sought-after presentation teams for Metro Vancouver schools, offering practical online safety workshops specifically tailored for secondary school students and parents.
- **NVSD (North Vancouver School District) IT & Digital Learning Specialists**
 - **Topics:** District-level internet filtering/site blocking, classroom AI guidelines, and parent navigation of MS Teams.
 - **Overview:** Connect with School District 44's Digital Learning or IT department to have a district staff member directly address school network security policies and digital tools with parents.

2. Student Health, Well-being, & Skill Development

- **North Vancouver RCMP — School Liaison Officers (SLOs) / Youth Section**
 - **Topics:** Youth substance use and safety, legal awareness, and digital fraud/scam prevention.
 - **Overview:** The local RCMP detachment has dedicated officers for youth and community outreach who frequently deliver free safety and prevention presentations at schools.
- **Foundry North Shore / Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH)**
 - **Topics:** Teen sleep hygiene, nutrition, emotional self-regulation, and managing anxiety.
 - **Overview:** Foundry North Shore offers free mental health education and parent support services specifically for youth aged 12–24. VCH community dietitians and mental health clinicians are also available for topic-specific workshops.
- **Local Financial Institutions (e.g., Vancity / Coast Capital Credit Union)**
 - **Topics:** Teen financial literacy, budgeting basics, and introductory investing concepts.
 - **Overview:** Local credit unions often run community outreach programs that offer free workshops tailored to high school students and families on basic money management.

3. Academic Guidance, Post-Secondary, & Career Planning

- **Handsworth Career & Counselling Department**
 - **Topics:** Graduation requirements, post-secondary application timelines, planning a gap year, and building volunteer or work experience.
 - **Overview:** The school's internal counselling team is the most direct and accurate source for course planning, graduation pathways, and university entrance expectations.
- **WorkBC Centre North Vancouver / YMCA Youth Employment Services**
 - **Topics:** Finding a first job, resume building, interview skills, and local youth volunteer matching.
 - **Overview:** WorkBC operates a dedicated North Vancouver office offering specialized employment and volunteer search support for youth.

4. School Culture, Transition, & Inclusion

- **Handsworth Grade 8 Counsellor, Student Council, & Peer Mentors**
 - **Topics:** Grade 8 transition and settling in, joining sports tryouts/extracurriculars, and connecting younger students with older grade mentors.
 - **Overview:** Hosting a panel with the Grade 8 administrator/counsellor alongside senior student leaders (Peer Mentors) provides a practical, student-centered perspective for incoming families.
- **NVSD Indigenous Education Team**
 - **Topics:** Integrating Indigenous perspectives into the secondary curriculum and Truth & Reconciliation initiatives.
 - **Overview:** SD44 has a dedicated team of Indigenous Cultural Facilitators and educators available to share insights with the PAC regarding cultural learning in the school district.

5. Parent Engagement, Communication, & Social Events

- **PAC Executive / Internal Parent Volunteers (e.g., PAC Communications Lead)**
 - **Topics:** Step-by-step MS Teams tutorials, navigating the school website, and subscribing to newsletters.
 - **Overview:** Short 15-minute "how-to" sessions led by PAC executive members (such as the new Communications Lead) offer a peer-to-peer way to help parents access school updates.
- **Local Edgemont Village Businesses & Community Centers**
 - **Topics:** Morning coffee drop-offs, parent socials, and pub night fundraisers.
 - **Overview:** Partnering with local cafes or venues around Edgemont Village provides convenient local spaces for informal coffee meetups or community fundraising nights.