



Hunter School of the Performing Arts P&C Agenda

Date Monday 7th February 2022

Time 7.00 pm

Location Via Zoom

Acknowledgement of Country

David Donnelly

Welcome and Attendance

David Donnelly introduced the P&C Executive, and HSPA staff in attendance, then gave an overview of how the P&C and its subcommittees function.

David Donnelly (President), Julie Hoey (Secretary), Harriet Ferguson (Senior Vice-president), Malini Stephen (Junior Vice-president), Pippa Cottle (Treasurer), Tracey Breese (Principal), Darren Ponman (Deputy Principal), Amanda Brown, Leigh Wildschut, Gus Griffin, Michelle Offen, Mark Pegler, Ann Bradbery, Francine & Barry Dismorr, Rob Browne, Dee Morison, David Dungavell, Clemma Mansfield (left at 7.33 after presenting information), Melanie Bonniface, Megan Lubinski, Rachel Honnef, Marty Mag Uidhir, Matthew Bailey, Stella Rumsey, Georgina O'Reilly, Felicity Ferguson-Tait, Kristine Lawrence, Melanie-Bree Watts, Simon Vimpani, Genevieve McMahon, Kaylie Newell, Naomi Hall, Lee Russell, Kevin Sobel-Read, Damon O'Neill, Skyy Crouch, Helen Ash, Claire Thomson, Ishaque Khan, Belinda Epstein, Melanie Howard, Matthew Grainger, Damian Burke, Khalil Khay, Kristy Grainger, Charlize Allado, Bernadette van de Wijngaart, Nicole Galea, Rebecca Little, Guy Pitkin.

Apologies

Karen Sherlock, Natalie Allan, Megan Matthews

Minutes of the November meeting

Deferred to the March meeting due to the less formal nature of the February meeting

P&C Reports

- *Treasurer's Report* – Presented by Pippa Cottle

As per the January Balance Sheet, the P&C currently has \$134,315 of funds able to be spent. The main fundraiser is the canteen, and the funds raised are used to purchase items for the school or provide support in other ways, as recommended by the school executive and approved by the P&C.

- *Canteen Report* – Presented by Dee Morison, as attached.
- *Primary Subcommittee Report* – Presented by Dee Morison, as attached.

- *Music Subcommittee Report*: Harriet Ferguson gave an outline of how the Music SC works. It meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month, with the next meeting the 22nd of February. It used to be straight after band practice but is now a little later. Currently meeting via Zoom. They have a Facebook page and a mailing list which parents should sign up to, to receive meeting invitations/reminders. All ensembles are represented in the Music SC, although the Marching Band gets a lot of focus.

Parent Information Session—Tracey Breese and HSPA Staff

- (1) Clemma Mansfield (Head Teacher PDHPE): Swimming Carnival. Only got permission to run the carnival on the last Thursday of holidays. Included only the 50m events due to being unsure about how long it would take / how many competitors. Students were allowed to submit times for the 100m for Zone team. Trying to include everyone – novelty events. Students loved it. Unfortunate that really competitive swimmers weren't able to "show off". The focus was on including everyone, have a fun time, doing the best with the restrictions we had. Cohorting constraints impacted arrangements; these were softened the day before the swimming carnival but it was too late to change.
- (2) Darren Ponman (Deputy Principal): Canvas – email from Darren previously sent. Lots of information, links, etc. Take your time, follow instructions and links, it will set you up well. If you log into Canvas, you'll have Canvas parent access. By the end of this week: every assessment task for the year will be on the calendar so you can confidently plan around it. Individualised for your student, not the whole cohort. Encourage students to look at their calendar, manage their own time, etc. Sentral keys have gone out, almost all parents should now have access; only one or two remaining issues. Technology info evening tomorrow night 6.00 – 7.00. Canvas notifications: try to ensure you set up your notifications so that you don't get information you don't need; try to target it as much as possible. Recommends turning everything off except for "announcements". Maybe tweak to get due dates for assessments. Website Events: other place to regularly check – excursions, etc. Canvas is a supplementary tool for education; provides structure and access.
- (3) Tracey Breese (Principal). With reference to a PowerPoint presentation (slides attached), Tracey discussed current Covid matters. Thanks to support staff for helping to distribute RATs – they were very happy to come into the school during their holidays and support the school. Available now at front office to collect. Not compulsory, and don't have to report to school. Supplied for first four weeks. If you run out: call the office and notify you or student will be collecting. Any symptoms: will be sent home. Negative test: back to school. Still sick? Another test the next day. Tracey will not be sending a letter everyday regarding positive Covid tests. Assume there will always be cases at the school. Will only notify if there's a particular focus area. Will still test positive for up to 28 days, but can come out of isolation after 7 days.

HSPA is not pressuring students to get vaccinated – totally up to families what they do. HSPA has been given six air purifiers. Using outdoor spaces as much as possible. Heaps of masks available at school – all over the place. If students forget their mask – just ask for one. Cloth masks not allowed. Circumstances in which masks are allowed to be removed. Teachers

when teaching may at times remove mask if it impedes them doing their job. Still no visitors allowed on school grounds. Any essential visitors must be fully vaccinated and register by QR code. Are going to be allowed to run camps a little later in the term / year. Not doing staggered drop offs etc. Cohorting in playground, but with a view to ending that in four weeks. Procedures have moved from being Covid-safe to Covid-smart. Secondary classes have two weeks' worth of work available through Canvas, for students who have to isolate at home. The Department does not want schools to close; would only close them if they can't staff them.

Week 5 on Friday: running HERO day.

General business

- Concern raised about increased sun exposure due to using outdoor spaces more; long term impacts such as skin cancer and cataracts.
- HSC results – excellent results discussed by Tracey Breese.
- School photo company – suggested to use a local company, but noted that MSP is in fact a local Newcastle company. Photo day catch up: 18 Feb
- Uniform compliance
- Funding suggestion: sheltered areas for wet weather days
- Homework – HSPA students have heavy performing arts commitments outside of school hours. The schools endeavours to not fill up Years 7 – 10 with “busy work”. Homework is assignments.
- Next P&C: will go through new Learning Support page. Videos all made by HSPA teachers!

Meeting close: 8.12

Next meeting: Monday 7th March

Canteen Report February 2022

2021 finished with us having about 6 weeks of trading after the lengthy lockdown.

We were very busy once over the counter sales resumed and being back serving food & drinks to the HSPA community was fabulous!

2022 has started well, busier than usual for so early in the year.

We've had to make some price rises due to suppliers putting up their prices, the students have been very understanding and I don't think I've heard a single complaint!

Last week we trialed 'Wellness bowls' – staff and students were very enthusiastic, also our fajita bowls have been very well received. The students are really enjoying these random "specials" and it helps give us an idea whether a new dish will be embraced as a menu item.

We would love to see some new faces volunteering in our canteen.

A day in the canteen is fun, we laugh a lot, no job is too tricky and there's the added bonus of meeting staff members and the wonderful students who are so very appreciative.

It needn't be all day, a typical volunteer day would be from 9am until 2.30, however we are just as happy if you can do 9 – 12! Or just a couple of hours somewhere in the day.

Primary Report Feb 22

The Primary sub- committee is an enthusiastic group who are very welcoming and always keen for new people to contribute.

The last 2 years have been rather different but we usually have an Orientation Breakfast on orientation day to welcome new families, sadly that was unable to go ahead last year.

During a regular year we do Easter, Mother's & Father's day, a fun school disco and run a canteen for the school musicals.

We use the Entertainment Book and Book Club as fundraisers too.

Always super excited to get new ideas to raise money to help our children's schooling and school environment.

The P&C meetings are informative, fun and a terrific way to meet other parents and staff alike. I personally have been involved with the P&C at HSPA for about 10 years now and highly recommend getting along to a meeting – Zoom makes that super easy but face to face meetings are definitely my preference!

NSW Department of Education

Back to School 2022

Information current as at 23 January 2022
Developed in partnership with NSW Health



NSW Department of Education

Acknowledgement of Country

I acknowledge that I am hosting this virtual assembly from the lands of the Awabakal people. I also acknowledge the lands where you all zooming in from tonight. I acknowledge the Ongoing Custodians of the various lands on which you are all calling in from today and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people participating in this meeting and throughout our school community.



What we'll cover in this session



- COVID-smart measures for our school
 - Testing
 - What to do when COVID-19 positive?
 - Vaccinations
 - Ventilation
 - Masks
 - Visitors and activities
 - Minimising the spread
- Accessing Canvas and Learning from home
- Further information and questions



What you need to know about our return to school in 2022

Our COVID-smart measures have been developed with NSW Health to minimise transmission and keep schools open in 2022.

We're taking every precaution to safeguard our learners and school communities, building on our experiences of the last 2 years.

Back to School is an exciting time, particularly for students starting school for the first time. A layered approach which prioritises safety will help keep schools open, where we know the best learning happens.

Our guidance is evidence-based and will provide additional levels of protection in a way that works for schools.



What you need to know about our return to school in 2022

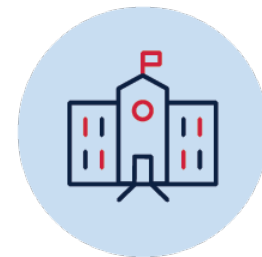
This is not a normal start to the year – however, we know that being together in the classroom is the most effective way for students to learn and grow.

Your child's relationship with their teacher is important, but as we manage any potential disruptions to staffing due to COVID-19, they may get to meet more teachers than normal.



Term 1 begins

- Rapid antigen tests (RATs) have been provided to all staff and students.
- Surveillance testing will provide an important additional layer of protection for our students and staff. Use of RAT kits is highly recommended but not mandatory.
- Conduct your child's RATs at home on the morning of school, twice a week on school days and before term starts.
- Participating students and staff are strongly encouraged to confirm a **negative rapid antigen test before attending school** at the start of Term 1.
- If your child is a household close contact, you must follow [NSW Health advice](#) to stay home and isolate.



Testing

- During the first 4 weeks of term, students and staff are encouraged to do a rapid antigen test (RAT) **twice a week on school days in the morning before attending school.**
- RATs will be supplied by schools with staggered collection times for parents and carers to avoid congestion.
- The RAT kits will include instructions for use, how to check the results and how to dispose safely.
- Parents and carers can download an instruction sheet for the rapid antigen test through the [Therapeutic Goods Administration \(TGA\) website](#).
- NSW Health also has [videos](#) on how to use RATs, including [translated materials](#).
- **RAT tests can be collected from the office by students or parents.**



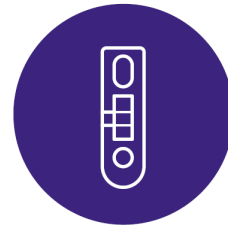
Testing

- If your child has even mild COVID-19 symptoms, get them tested with a RAT or PCR (nose and throat swab) test.
- They must isolate until they receive a negative test result, in line with health protocols.
- If symptoms continue, they should stay at home and take another RAT in 24 hours or have a PCR test. If the second RAT or initial PCR test result is negative or another diagnosis is confirmed such as hay fever, they can return to school.
- Parents and carers must register positive RAT results from students on the [Service NSW website](#) or [Service NSW app](#) and notify the school as soon as possible.
- Report positive PCR test results from students to the school as soon as possible.



What to do when COVID-19 positive?

- Under the new close contact rules, schools are no longer included in contact tracing.
- Positive RAT results must be registered on the [service.nsw.gov.au](https://www.service.nsw.gov.au) website or **Service NSW app**. Only positive RAT results will need to be reported via the Service NSW website and app.
- Students who receive a COVID-19 positive RAT or PCR test must tell their school **as soon as possible** and **isolate for 7 days**.
- Your principal will inform the school community when there is a positive case at school and advise families on public health advice, including monitoring for symptoms.
- Follow the latest Health advice for guidance on how to manage and treat COVID-19, including when to leave isolation and return to school.



What to do when COVID-19 positive? (continued)

- In NSW, positive COVID-19 cases are provided a Medical Clearance Notice after 7 days and allowed to leave self-isolation as long as they do not have COVID-19 symptoms.
- NSW Health advises that people who have recovered from COVID-19 have a low risk of contracting it again in the following 28 days.
- It is recommended that staff and students that return to school after recovering from COVID-19 do not participate in rapid antigen test surveillance for 28 days (4 weeks after recovery) following release from self-isolation.
- After 28 days (from week 5 after recovery), students and staff may resume participation in RAT surveillance.
- Follow Health advice on [when to leave isolation](#).



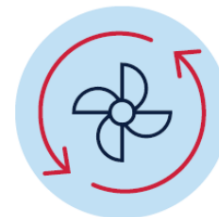
Vaccinations

- All staff on school sites must be fully vaccinated, including having their booster when eligible.
- We strongly recommend all eligible students (and their families) who are 5 years and older get vaccinated.
- COVID-19 vaccination is the best protection against severe illness and also reduces the risk of spreading it to others.
- Visit the [Find a vaccine clinic](#) website to book an appointment near you.



Ventilation

- Natural ventilation is the most effective measure, so we will **maximise fresh air flow** in learning spaces through opening doors and windows. This approach is strongly supported by expert advice.
- Where natural ventilation is not sufficient, **mechanical ventilation and/or air purification** will be used and we will continue to use outdoor settings where possible.
- Air purifiers have been provided to schools as a supplementary measure to support common areas in schools and can be deployed at the principal's discretion.
- We'll continue to encourage using outdoor spaces.



Masks



- All primary and secondary school staff will be required to wear surgical masks indoors.

SECONDARY

- All staff, students and visitors are required to wear surgical masks indoors on school site.
- Secondary school students will be provided with surgical masks as a back-up when needed, and they are required to wear them indoors.
- Students are encouraged to wear masks for all travel on public transport.

PRIMARY

- All staff and visitors must wear surgical masks indoors on school site.
- All students are **strongly recommended** to wear well-fitted masks indoors. Surgical masks are strongly encouraged.
- A teacher may offer your child a mask.



Masks



- **No vented or cloth masks should be worn.**
- Surgical masks will be provided by the school if required.
- All staff have boxes of masks to distribute.
- The office will also have masks available for any student.



Mask wearing for students



- Surgical masks are strongly encouraged in outdoor settings where you cannot physically distance.
- Your child can remove their mask when eating, exercising and playing a musical instrument.
- For more information, refer to [Masks and face coverings](#).

Visitors and activities



- Until further notice, **no visitors will be allowed on school grounds** except two parents or carers to support students starting at a new school.
- No visitors are allowed on school sites until further notice except for fully vaccinated:
 - workers or volunteers operating uniform shops and canteens
 - visitors supporting school operations and curriculum delivery
 - allied health partners for student wellbeing purposes.

Visitors and activities (continued)



- The department has [provided guidance](#) to schools on assessing higher risk activities and applying appropriate safeguards.
- We will seek parental consent for participation in any extracurricular, outside of school hours or off-site activities – with appropriate safeguards in place.
- Sports and PDHPE activities like swimming carnivals may proceed provided COVID-19 guidelines are followed, such as:
 - being held in a well-ventilated outdoor area
 - reduced visitors
 - non-contact adaptations (including avoiding high-fives/handshakes)
 - maintaining student cohorts.



Visitors and activities (continued)



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Minimising the spread (continued)



- We will continue to use best practice hygiene processes on school site.
- Our enhanced cleaning practices will focus on 'high-touch' areas that students and staff move through regularly.
- We will continue to highlight physical distancing, maintaining 1.5 metres distance wherever possible.
- All staff and essential visitors will continue to use the school's QR code check-in.

Digital learning packages

- If face-to-face learning is not possible, our school will be supported to start home learning through digital learning packages for short periods. Our LMS is CANVAS.
- PRIMARY- Online learning and lessons have been developed by the department and will be shared online as required.
- Schools will have ongoing support for learning from home activities if required, and we will let you know when we can return to face-to-face learning



Further information and questions

Where possible, we expect all of our students to be back at school for Day 1, Term 1.

Advice for families

Find updated information on the department's Advice for families page to support students who are anxious about returning to school – or get in touch with us directly.

education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families

Guidelines if your child is exposed to COVID-19

Visit the NSW Health website for the latest guidance if your child/guardian is a household close contact.

health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/people-exposed-to-covid

Managing COVID-19 at home

Advice for managing COVID-19 at home, including when to leave isolation.

health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/advice-for-confirmed



Thank you

Any questions?

