



Hunter School of the Performing Arts

P&C Minutes

Date **Monday 6th February 2023**

Time **7.00 pm**

Location **Via Zoom**

Committee Members:

President:	David Donnelly
Secretary:	Amy Maguire
Treasurer:	Philippa (Pippa) Cottle
Senior Vice-President:	Harriet Ferguson
Junior Vice-President:	Guy Pitkin

Acknowledgement of Country

David Donnelly

Apologies

Nil

Attendance

Sarah King, Chanel Martyn, David Donnelly, Darren Ponman, Ishaq Khan, Harriet Ferguson, Kath Fotheringham, Leigh Wildschut, Amy Maguire, Guy Pitkin, Barry Dismorr, Dave Lewis, Amanda Lewis, Belinda Epstein, Gwena Levasseur, Kristen Allen, Bronwyn Lin, Paul Kamphuis, Abby Clifton, Antonia Vujeva, Lesley Irvine, Bernadette van de Wijgaart, Rachel Honnef, Claire Thomson, Quinton (surname unknown), Dee Morison

Minutes of previous meetings

MOTION: To approve the Minutes of the **November 2022** meeting as an accurate record.

Moved: Barry Dismoor

Seconded: Harriet Ferguson

Motion carried.

Correspondence

Nil

Matters Arising

Nil

Reports

Music Subcommittee Report

- Successful band camps
- Various performances including in Gloucester
- No meeting yet held for 2023
- Band Centre may be completed this year

Principal's Report – Darren Ponman

- Staffing arrangements for 2023
 - Some movement of staff over the break

- 10 new staff appointed for 2023, including Hugh Hogan as the new Assistant Principal Curriculum and Instruction for the primary school, six classroom teachers, two new office staff and one Learning and Support teacher
 - All of these staff are relieving rather than permanent, other than Hugh Hogan
- Three staff are returning from other temporary roles elsewhere including Natalie Hudson (HSIE), Rachelle Hoskin (PDHPE), Grace Richards (TAS)
- An additional four staff have been appointed to permanent roles after working on contracts for some time
- A teaching and learning team has been formed to include HT teaching and learning, literacy and numeracy advisors, senior student adviser and performing arts coordinator (these are new positions in the school staffed by staff who were already working in the school)
- Educational goals for 2023
 - SD1 – Teaching and Learning
 - New positions in the school support this strategic direction, including positions that support staff and students to meet targets for attainment set by the Department
 - SD2 – Mastery Learning
 - Looking to roll out mastery learning dashboard for Year 7 this year
 - Students will start to receive digital badges as they're assessed
 - Parents will be able to view the dashboard to see where learners are placed in relation to learning goals
 - Thomas Guskie is the guru of mastery learning – evidence shows that good, explicit feedback (and getting learners to act on it) is key to learning progress
 - At the moment the staff are focusing on developing enrichment and corrective processes for all learning goals
 - Mastery learning grading is formative rather than summative – it supports a growth mindset in learners and encourages focus on progress rather than a mark that says little about a learner's capacity
 - HSPA will still need to undertake summative assessment to meet Departmental policy and the current requirements of the HSC, but Darren expects considerable change in this area in coming years across the educational sector
- Infrastructure update
 - 23 March is the target date for the Band Centre
 - Construction on the Band Centre has been quite disruptive but when it opens it will free up spaces currently used for storage to be better used (eg a wellbeing hub will be established where the uniform shop currently operates – there will be more private access to counselling and wellbeing staff)
 - The Senior Student Area on the top level of the library will expand which will allow for collaborative project work for students in dedicated study spaces. There are also individual study pods in this area.
- HSPA's current approach to mobile phone use
 - At this point, as Darren discussed in a recent detailed email to parents, HSPA is not moving to adopt Yondr pouches/a prohibitive approach to phones.
 - In Darren's experience, HSPA is not experiencing the same problems of phone use that some other schools report.

- HSPA teachers are aiming for consistent reminders of the school policy, which is that phones are to be in their bags unless the teacher has asked for them to be used.
- Kath Fotheringham is a teacher in a school that has introduced the Yondr pouches – she reports that students have adapted very well. Lots of noise in the playground because students are talking rather than sitting on their phones.
- Gwena asks if it is possible for teachers not to request the use of the phone to conduct research in the classroom. Darren responds that adults need to use their phones in multiple workplaces these days so the school has a role in training students to use their phones responsibly where appropriate, but that it is not something that is routinely required.
- Belinda notes she is in favour of banning phones at school and Darren raises the prospect of surveying parents at some stage to see if the majority view is that Yondr pouches or a similar approach. He says staff are in support of the current position. Amanda asks if there is scope for parental education on this issue? This might inform any survey results.
 - Darren notes the HSPA parent support course on the website – it links to extensive relevant information on this issue.
- Lesley notes that her new Year 7 son isn't noticing an issue with phones in the classroom but finds them everywhere in the playground – hard to make friends. Darren notes perhaps the school could limit Year 7 phone use to help students get to know each other.
- Bernadette notes in the chat her support for banning phone use in the school and calls for a survey.
- *Overall gist of the discussion seems to be that parents would like to see a survey in regard to managing phones.*
- HSPA's strategy for ChatGPT
 - At the moment, ChatGPT is blocked on school sites. This may not be a permanent arrangement. Schools need to work under the assumption that students are using it at home.
 - In senior school, particularly, school can't set writing tasks for students to undertake at home and expect that it will be done equitably. ChatGPT certainly raises the risks of plagiarism and the challenges of detection considerably. A plagiarism detection option for ChatGPT has been released but it is brand new - GPTzero. At this stage Turnitin can't detect work produced from ChatGPT.
 - ChatGPT also has potential educational functions so HSPA plans to explore its potential and develop a policy.
- Confirmation of 2023 fees and contributions
 - Dance fees are not changing – they are set at \$600 (this acknowledges that only a few students go into ensembles and they pay additional for those)
 - Drama and music co-curricular fees are \$750
 - Darren notes that subject fees for the performing arts courses should not be charged on top of the co-curricular fees

Funding Priorities (Rolling list for information)

A summary document will be provided for discussion at a future meeting.

Meeting closed: 8.28pm

2023 Meetings to come:

Monday 6th March 2023 (AGM – in person at HSPA, venue TBC)