

Eric Hamber Secondary School Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

PAC Meeting Minutes September 18, 2013
19:00 pm – 20:30 pm
Eric Hamber Staff Room

PAC EXECUTIVE:

- Chair: Nathan Wilkes
- Vice Chair: Rosie Schipizky
- Treasurer: Jennifer Ma
- Secretary: Ira Heidemann

PAC Executives Present: All

Staff Present: Alex Grant and Phyllis Chan

Parents present: 23

Agenda Item	Discussion
Call to order	Nathan Wilkes called the meeting to order at 7 pm. in the Eric Hamber Staff Room.
1. Welcome and introduction to 2013/2014 PAC executive	Welcome to everyone and introduction of new PAC executive by Nathan Wilkes.
2. Welcome to new parents	Nathan Wilkes welcomed all new parents.
3. Budget requests for 2013/2014	<p>Gaming funds (proceeds from those who gamble) are available to most educational institutes. Eric Hamber School can apply for approximately \$32,000 per year (\$20 per student). The funds cannot be tight to the school curriculum (eg. not for laptops or Ipads for class room use). If prime purpose for use is for extracurricular it is usually ok, also if school uses it. PAC funding for clubs is primarily from gaming funds and a small amount is available from another pot (from: fundraising, donations and previous elections a few years ago (6) and still in the account).</p> <p>Tonight the teacher requests for funding were reviewed and questions answered and requests clarified. There was a discussion around what approach should be taken, what we favour, then we should rethink and reconsider and finally vote on the Oct. 2 PAC meeting. See list with requests: "2013-2014 Budget". Students also raise money that they don't get from PAC for their club. Partial funding could work if the club can raise enough funds themselves. You can use the gaming funds for a period of 3 years. The items with dagger symbol between</p>

brackets could be funded by other means and/or are probably going to get other funding. Some sports items are for a few years and some for this year. It is very normal for a club to get \$500 - \$2000 from Student Council.

Review of options:

- Basketball is the biggest club. In the past only partly funded (now also portion requested).
- Golf team was city champion and now wants to go to Las Vegas in spring break. Will have travel and accommodation costs for approximately 14 students.
- VEX Robotics: 50% is requested of real goal for 2 robots.
- Major room upgrades costs are based on quotes: footlights are requested for fashion shows in drama studio (cannot not be used for assemblies at the school) and AV equipment requested for auditorium is for portable projector to project onto wall and operate from any location. The screen they have now does work. Last year audio was funded and another year lightning in drama studio.
- Dragon boat team is very strong, well known and did very well at nationals (2 silver and 1 gold) and chosen to go to world championships in Italy. Regatta registration fees: usual request is \$1500. This year for representing Canada the additional fee is: \$2000 for 19 participants. They are not part of the athletics budget. They practice 5 days/week and 6 hours/day. Carrie suggests funding between \$2000 and \$3500. Judy Chan might come to next meeting. Dragon Boat team is about the team and they do a lot of fundraising in the community.
- Reach for the top is requesting for second year.
- First Aid does happen during instructional time.
- Griffings newsletter is for 50% of needed funds.
- United Nations is for mock UNs
- Skills competition funds (these are hold regionally, provincially and nationally) in the fields of cooking, sewing, graphic design, fashion design (! Medals at world championships!) etc. are usually for 1 or 2 students from each of these groups and for practice and materials.
- Equipment: most of these are not fundable. Ipads are grey area.
- Forgotten on list: \$450 for grad breakfast and \$1,000 for grad dinner dance memento (keychain). All students pay grad fee and they do fundraising. Now bank account for grads is healthy.

Last year teachers got more time to get their request list

	<p>ready. The list was longer last year. Nathan talked to teachers at a spring meeting and informed them about this shorter time period. Strategy suggested: define what to include/exclude, and identify what items last longer and affect more students. Concern: Skills competition: short time, smaller groups, but this gives recognition to school. If they are successful and funded then it might stimulate other students to participate and increase number of participants. The fashion program is very popular and now also students from other schools participate. They fundraise too.</p> <p>Last thoughts: Fees requested by school is user-pays. Since recently students pay more than previous years. Therefore the cost for sport is now higher and funding athletics is worthwhile. Some students pay a few hundred dollars. Athletics might become a financial barrier for some students. Alex Grant recommends supporting programs that have a high profile. PAC could fund a certain portion of each category.</p>
<p>4. Principal introduction and report (Alex Grant)</p>	<p>Alex Grant is the new principal at Eric Hamber School. He has previously worked at the school as Vice-Principal and also worked as Principal of Kitsilano, Magee and University Hill Secondary School. He is impressed by the enthusiasm of grade 8 students and the maturity of grade 12. Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrollment/staffing: Now 20 students lower than last spring. Almost needed 1 teacher less, but so far hold onto the teacher. Hopefully, the numbers even out by Christmas. Some positions to be filled: counselor for some days: 3 blocks. Ms. Tompson, posted as teacher, left. Now additional block: Apprenticeship Math 11. Many are counseled to take that course which includes pre-calculus. Special-needs students are also included in that class. The Province has offered some support. Some changes were made to the timetable, to make move from classes, but in general few major changes. Diane Good, Shannon and Vice principal helped during the summer to get a smooth start. • Calendar: Thurs. school photos, Fri. Hamber Pride Day, as well as clubs' lunch that day with a display of an array of clubs (70). After school pepperell plan, football game and dedication of gym, including dedication of former longtime gym teachers, Norm Mc.Dermot and Bruce. They have made great improvements to gym. Parents are invited to participate. Next Fri. Aboriginal awareness activities at school and learning about the Musqueam culture. Soon meet teacher evening. Lots more to come. • Topics for PAC to work on: Review of the code of conduct to make sure that it is still relevant and reorganize it. The

	<p>code of conduct is also in the planner. Review of the school goals: work on these with the school planning committee. We need more participants. Invite staff members at PAC meeting and get informed what goes on at school and learn about the school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carrie mentions that the changes at the library are good. Though it still needs work: upgrade the technology and make it more welcoming, The Librarian would like to attend PAC meetings, but can't attend on Wednesdays.
5. Sacy introduction	<p>Phyllis Cham (staff) is introduced and discusses SACY (School Age Children and Youth = Substance Use Prevention Initiative). Its goal is to make parents and students more engaged at school and help students use their full potential. Kelly (counseling suite at the back of the office) is the counselor assistant for youth engagement. Sacy offers a 3-day step programs (at Tupper Secondary School from Tue. – Thurs.) Its helps students who are confused and stressed, and also focuses on their relationship with their parents. Sacy also offers great opportunities for parents to engage by means of workshops: “Building bridges for teens”(about a smooth transition of students to high school) and “Capacity café”(listen to youth voices). Register with Phyllis: sacyparents@gmail.com</p>
6. Pedestrian/cycling safety at Hamber	<p>Nathan is a DPAC member and involved at Eric Hamber through the VSB with pedestrian/cycling safety. You can contact him if you have questions in this regard. He is in contact with HUB and continues the dialogue to improve safety etc..</p>
7. http://hamberpac.ca , @HamberPac	<p>Nathan has created a new website: hamperpac.ca. You can read about PAC and changes on this website. It also has the calendar for all PAC meetings, etc.</p> <p>Teachers should be invited to PAC. PAC members and parents in general should attend some club events and school activities. Contact Nathan directly by email if parents want to see clubs etc. Also, please sign up for the mailing list. Rosemary congratulated Nathan on setting up this website and Twitter account.</p> <p>One parent brought up false fire alarms: One day a prank resulted in one death (police chose Eric Hamber instead of man with cardiac arrest). No pranks yet. This year first drill was successful.</p>
8. Other business	<p>Joan Muir, Head of the library, is not available on Wednesdays. PAC will discuss changing meeting day again next year. Joan can get a teacher representative to attend.</p>
9. Next Pac Meeting	<p>The next PAC meeting is on October 2, 2013.</p>
10. Adjournment	<p>The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 pm.</p>