

## Eric Hamber Secondary School Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

PAC Meeting Minutes November 6, 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:** Nathan, Jennifer and Ira

**Staff Present:** Alex Grant (Principal), Ranjit Bains(Vice-Principal), Dianne Murray and Stephanie Tsui (backup liaison)

**Parents present:** 9

Agenda Item	Discussion
Call to order	Call to order by Nathan Wilkes at 7 pm.
1. Welcome, approval of past minutes, and approval of proposed agenda (Nathan Wilkes)	Nathan welcomed everyone. The agenda was approved and moved by Ira Heidemann and seconded by Carrie Bercic. The October 2 meeting minutes were approved and moved by Nancy Yan and seconded by Carrie Bercic.
2. Treasurer’s report (Jennifer Ma)	See Nov. 6 Treasurer’s report. The payments for approved items from gaming funds have started. One item was paid from non-gaming account. Mixed reactions were received from teachers regarding the items approved for funding from gaming funds.
3. Principal’s report (Alex Grant)	<p>Ranjit Bains, Vice-Principal:</p> <p>1.) This school year has been extended until June 26, 2014 as per requirement of the Ministry of Education. Students will be in session until then and school must provide meaningful activities (e.g. study sessions, field trips, field studies, curriculum related videos). Exam days are considered instructional days. Plans are being developed using guiding principles. The June calendar should be ready in January.</p> <p>2.) Parent teacher conferences will be on Dec. 12 with 10 min. appointments. The period allotted for interviews has to be defined yet and was discussed. The general preference is to start at 4 pm. If parents can’t attend, they might be able to schedule an appointment with teacher separately.</p> <p>Alex Grant, Principal:</p> <p>1). Congratulations to Nick Milum (Grade 11) – VDSC member for Eric Hamber and Vancouver’s first Student Trustee.</p> <p>2). Halloween was safe and orderly around the school and the</p>

	<p>Halloween Dance was a great success with over 260 students attending.</p> <p>3). Seismic update: A team of structural engineers will be examining the school over the next 6 weeks (mostly after school) and there will be some drilling in the ground around the perimeter of the school for geotechnical purposes, all in order to prepare a detailed SPIR (Seismic Project Identification Report) about how best to address seismic risk at Eric Hamber. Compared to other schools having been assessed, Eric Hamber is one of the more complex buildings, with 12 distinct structural blocks, including 5 with the highest risk rating. E.g. Water pipes burst at times and the plumbing needs to be replaced. Possible recommendations range from seismic upgrades to the most at-risk blocks, to a full upgrade or to a full replacement. The SPIR is due in January. Once it is accepted by the VSB and the Ministry, the next step is to complete a Project Definition Report (PDR) which can take at least 6 -12 months. If approved, the PDR leads to hiring an architect to design the agreed upon solution. The design process typically takes another full year and the construction phase typically requires an additional 2 years or more for completion of a full upgrade or replacement. This whole process will take at least 4 years to complete.</p>
<p>4. Student Planning Council</p>	<p>Alex Grant: The School Planning Council (SPC) is mandated under the School Act (see <a href="http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/spc/">http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/spc/</a> and <a href="http://www.bccpac.bc.ca/spc-101">http://www.bccpac.bc.ca/spc-101</a>). By a set date by the board, a school planning council must prepare and submit to the board a school plan for the school in respect of improving student achievement and other matters contained in the board's achievement contract relating to that school. A school planning council must consult with the parents' advisory council during the preparation of the school plan. The Principal has to make sure this happens.</p> <p>We have to elect 3 parent members at school and work on the school growth plan with 3 goals: Aboriginal education, enhancement and increasing student engagement and achievements. They have to communicate to PAC about the school plan, back and forth. In the staff January meeting a discussion will be started with staff. It would be ideal to have PAC members elected for SPC by then. They meet 3 times per year (or more if needed).</p> <p><u>Action:</u> Nathan proposes to vote at the January PAC meeting. So far there are 3 parents interested: Mary Hamilton, Carrie Bercic and Paul Shum.</p>
<p>5. Teacher's report (Dianne Murray)</p>	<p>Dianne Murray is GT, DPA and Work Experience Coordinator and has worked at Eric Hamber since a long time. She will be the school representative at PAC meetings.</p> <p>1). Today 160 students were out for "Take our Kids to Work</p>

	<p>Day”.</p> <p>2). The Green Team would like to thank PAC for their generous contribution last school year for the water refill stations . They are now operational. Both stations (one in the main hall and one in the cafeteria) have saved over 12,300 plastic water bottles from the landfill according to an article in the Griffin’s Nest published at the end of October.</p> <p>3). The Learning Commons have been busy giving orientation sessions to the ELL and the grade 8 students. They help students manoeuver at school and introduce students to the teacher librarians, Ms. Lemmon and Mrs. Muir. In the orientation, they use scavenger hunts to familiarize students with the areas of the LC and how to use a database. Librarians teach about research skills and the criteria that should be considered when using website for references. As well the orientation make students feel welcome and comfortable using the space to study, read and find research materials. The library also hosts specials events. On October 28<sup>th</sup>, the National School Library Day, they hosted a Human Library event that was intended to address stereotyping and prejudice. 10 “humans books” and 2 senior staff participated. They shared life stories. The goal is to have more human books and more classes (now 2) participate next year.</p> <p>4). The Modern Languages Department is looking at bringing in a multi-lingual musical group to perform for the school. This will help contextualize language, and connect world languages with music. As well, teachers are consciously incorporating First Nations awareness into their program at school.</p> <p>5). Athletics: The following teams are deserving of recognition for their success at the Vancouver Championships this season. The Senior Girls’ Field Hockey Team won tier 1 and will be heading to Provincials in Burnaby Nov. 13-15. Both the Senior Boys Soccer Team and the Senior Girls and Boys Volleyball team placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the City Championships.</p>
<p>6. Large fundraising goals: auditorium seats, outdoor basketball hoops, track improvements, outdoors bleachers, softball diamond (Nathan Wilkes)</p>	<p>In the past different other items were also mentioned to need funding. We have an idea for certain expenses, like the auditorium for \$25,000. Which other ones? We need to get additional funding for these as right now we have no other funding sources apart from gaming funds. In general is hard to find parents to fundraise. PAC will continue to have administrative costs that need to be paid.</p> <p>We could do a direct appeal? Though we need clear ideas what to raise funds for. Last year this was done for the first time and \$5500 was raised. If it is organized through PAC we have more say and we keep the funds. Nathan can set up direct appeal online in one evening. We need staff aligned and consult with the student council too. Carrie would like administration to decide what we fundraise for and then we need to consolidate the request. We should look at longer term as well.</p>

	<p>Grant confirms that the administration will help. Carrie will consult with the student council. We could get alumni involved (those that did basket ball) and students could help fundraise for basketball hoops. A pub night is an option for fundraising, e.g. \$10-15 per person. This can also include a silent auction.</p> <p><u>Action:</u> Contact student council, staff and alumni.</p>
7. Books for Me (Ira Heidemann)	<p>Books for Me! Is a Vancouver based registered charity with the goal to collect books to be donated to needy, lower income and at risk children in the lower mainland. These children aged 1 to 12 would otherwise have no chance to own books. Studies have shown that children who have books in their home will attain a higher education level. They currently operate programs at 9 venues, including elementary schools, neighbourhood houses and community centres. During each visit children choose their own book.</p> <p><u>Action:</u> Eric Hamber will organize a book drive to collect books for Books for Me! Options are support from the Compassion club, Library club, Hamber reads club or combine book collection together with the food drive. Carrie is on 2 library committees and will involve them as well. Ira will email her and Grant. He offered to contact students and find out who would like to support this great cause.</p>
8. BC curriculum draft <a href="https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/">https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/</a> (Nathan Wilkes)	<p>See <a href="https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/">https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/</a> for BC curriculum information on grade K-9 and its revisions. You can review the drafts that need to be ratified. We can contribute now.</p> <p>Phyllis Chan invites you to the SACY Capacity Café on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm in the Hamber staff room. If you are interested please, register via e-mail at <a href="mailto:sacyparents@gmail.com">sacyparents@gmail.com</a> or by phoning 778-875-1388.</p> <p>David Thompson PAC (see his website) is presenting a free workshop titled “Unlock your Future – Scholarship” on November 14 from 7 to 9 pm.</p> <p>DPAC needs a presentation by Nathan. He had been participating in the school transportation plan. This week he has a meeting regarding how to improve walking / going to school more safely. If you have concerns or interest provide feedback.</p>
9. Other business	<p>Eric Hamber was on the front page of the Vancouver Courier: Eric Hamber Griffins defeat Winston Churchill 3-2 in the senior girls city championships. In the senior girls city championship on October 31 at Eric Hamber, the Griffins were tied 1-1 with the Churchill Bulldogs, the same team they beat a week earlier in an elimination game to reach provincials. Because of that win, Eric Hamber advanced to the B.C. championships. You can follow Eric Hamber athletics on twitter.</p>
10. Next Pac Meeting	The next PAC meeting is on January 8, 2014.
11. Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm. by Nathan Wilkes.