

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

PAC Meeting Minutes January 8, 2014  
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 Dianne Murray and Chris Yoon (President of Student Council)

**Parents present:** 7

| Agenda Item   | Discussion   |
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| Call to order   | Call to order at 7:02 pm   |
| 1. Welcome, approval of past minutes, and approval of agenda (Nathan) | <p><b>Meeting minutes of April 2, 2013</b> were approved and moved by: Nancy Yan and seconded by Ira Heidemann. All approved. Motion carried.</p> <p><b>Meeting minutes of November 6, 2013</b> were approved with a correction of the staff name present: Stephanie Tsui. Moved by Nathan Wilkes and seconded by Jennifer Ma. All approved. Motion carried.</p> <p><b>Agenda</b> was moved by Ira Heidemann, All approved. Motion carried.</p>  |
| 2. AGM reminder, elections, Hamber PAC bylaws (Nathan)                | Everyone was reminded to attend the AGM on May 21: PAC positions will be elected. Also, we have to work on the Hamber PAC bylaws.  |
| 3. Misc: website costs, Mt. Pleasant Neighbourhood House (Nathan)     | <p>The <b>Eric Hamber PAC website</b> costs \$175 website/year. It is now with square space. Anyone can edit it. Mail chimp is free. Easy to maintain and adopt. All agree that we should continue with this website.</p> <p><b>Motion:</b> PAC will pay for expenses by Nathan Wilkes for banking fees and website. Moved by Nancy Yan and seconded by Jennifer Ma. All approved. Motion carried.</p> <p><b>Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House</b>, located on 800 East Broadway, offered to come for a presentation about their programs. They provide guidance to families in need, have a drop-in facility, offer social and teen programs and are in our catchment area. All agree to get their information through flyers for parents, including website info.</p> |
| 4. Treasurers report  | See <b>Treasurer's report for January</b> . The summary is as follows:   |

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| <p>(Jennifer)</p>            | <p>PAC received \$31,830 as the gaming funds grant.</p> <p>To date, the amount of \$4,699.71 was disbursed and \$27,130.29 is remaining in the gaming funds account.</p> <p>The items that were disbursed were the robotics, dragon boat registration expenses, Griffin newsletter and Reach for the Top. Still some balance is remaining for these.</p> <p>The other amounts will be disbursed as and when the invoices are received from the School Accountant.</p> <p>The general account is still the same: \$10,000 (\$450 for first Aid course was allocated). This account is a contingency fund and used in cases of emergency.</p> <p>Alex will make a request to teams to use their PAC fund allocation so that PAC can disburse it. Usually all funds will be used up. By spring break expenditures should be make.</p>  |
| <p>5. Principal's report</p> | <p>In December the school had well attended events. The calendar was full with events including: <b>Fall Footlights; Winter Choral, Strings, and Band concerts; Report Cards; and Parent-Teacher Interviews.</b></p> <p>January 14 is the <b>Grade 7 Parents meeting and Course Planning for grade 8-11 at 7 pm</b> (note date change from original calendar); the <b>Midtown Showdown</b> (Senior Boys and Girls Basketball Tournament Jan. 22-24); the <b>Drama Winter Show</b> (Jan. 22-27); the <b>Art Show</b> (Jan. 30), <b>Interim Reports</b> (Jan. 31) and the <b>School Growth Plan Pro-D morning</b> on Jan. 31.</p> <p><b>Parent-Teacher Interviews:</b> the new, earlier time schedule went well, no complaints received, and approximately the same number of appointments and call-backs scheduled. The teachers were happy too. Now in the process of surveying staff regarding next year and Parent Walkabout – it may be more productive to replace Walkabout (meet-the-teacher) with an earlier set of interviews mid-term.</p> <p>A discussion took place. The school will use feedback from a survey and PAC parents. The walkabout received very positive feedback as it offers visualizing the classrooms, meeting the teachers, experience what students experience, is very helpful and useful. It is hard to give up one for the other. All have their merit. A decision will be made at the next staff meeting.</p> <p><b>The Course Planning Booklet</b> has been revised and updated for 2014/2015 and will be available on the school website soon. Parents who are not able to attend the Course Planning evening or who would prefer to access the printed materials can find out important</p> |

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|  | <p>information about course requirements and descriptions in this booklet.</p> <p>A VSB committee will be providing schools with guidelines for our <b>Year-end calendar</b> by the end of the month. In previous years, classes for all students have ended by mid-June and students have only returned to school to write exams and to pick up report cards. This year schools are required to provide instruction or exams up to June 26<sup>th</sup>, the day report cards are issued to students. School will decide how it will look like: cut-off date for marks, what to do after that, what kind of interesting enrichment could be offered. Maybe fieldtrips could be scheduled then, as during the year classes often get interrupted. End January the plan will be ready.</p> <p><b>Satisfaction Surveys</b> – each year, parents of students in Grades 10 and 12 are invited to complete the Ministry of Education School Satisfaction Surveys. We will be providing those parents with login passwords soon. The ways to contact parents could be through mail merge, email and phone call reminder.</p>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teacher’s report</li> </ul> | <p><b>Retirement news, goodbye and welcome:</b> Mr. Inglis, the Tech Studies teacher has retired after 30+ years and Mr. Herb Lachelt will be replacing him to the end of the year. Welcome back to Ms. J. Chan, the Applied Skills Dept. Head, who has been on sick leave since September. Also a goodbye and good luck to Ms. Tsui who will be leaving at the end of the month when Ms. Leechik-Belonio will be coming back off maternity leave. Thank you to Ms. Tsui for being the backup PAC rep and sponsoring the wrestling team.</p> <p><b>Science:</b> The students are currently preparing their projects for our in-school science fair (all grades except Grade 12 and not all teachers) in February and the district one in March at Langara.</p> <p><b>Socials:</b> The grade 11 social teachers, Mr. Smith, Mr. Eklund and Mr. Scaglione, are encouraging their students to work on their projects centering on human geography in the 3<sup>rd</sup> world (clean water, education, etc.). Their work will be showcased in the Atrium on March 4-6.</p> <p><b>Applied Skills:</b> Nina Ho, the fashion teacher, Dominic Lai (2011 Hamber Alumni) and Shawn Choi (Hamber Alumni) have been representing Hamber on the Skills Canada BC Committee and, consequently, Hamber will be hosting the Graphic Design, Fashion, Job Interview and Culinary Arts regional contests on March 7. Last year had participants in all categories and winners in all but one category, thanks to the teacher sponsors, alumni, and great students who stepped up to the plate and gave it their best shot. The regional winners go on to compete at the Provincials in April.</p> <p><b>Work Experience:</b> Visits were made to many of the students who</p> |

were out on work experience over the winter break at a variety of placements (approximately 42 participated). If parents would like to host a Grade 11 or 12 student at their worksite in the areas of accounting, art, drafting, graphic design, electronics, fashion, foods, languages, information technology, marketing, music, photography, law, social services, sports and recreation, theatre or science, please call Ms. Murray. Students usually spend one week at any one job placement, primarily over the winter, spring or summer breaks.

**Partners for Life Club:** If you want to donate blood or are already donating blood, please consider doing it with Hamber's Partners for Life Club and contact Ms. Murray. Eric Hamber is a strong supporter of Canadian Blood Services and the top school for donations in Vancouver. Chris Yoon, president of the Student Council and a member of Hamber's Partners for Life Club, showed a video to the whole school of him giving blood.

**Special Education:** The department would like to thank PAC for providing funding for all the students in the LAC and LA/LS programs that will allow them to participate in the full-day St. John's Ambulance First Aid Certification Program at Hamber on Jan. 13th.

**English:** The grade 10 and 11 students are getting ready for the Hamber Oratorical contest which will be held before March and the grade 9-12 students are preparing for the Poetry Recitation National Contest.

**Math:** The number of participants taking part in math contests are increasing, many of them being national or North American contests.

**PE/Athletics: Basketball:** Hamber has hosted a number of tournaments including the first ever Nora McDermott Jamboree for grade 8 and 9 players, a junior tournament in December in which the boys won. The upcoming Midtown Showdown Senior Tournament is on Jan. 22-24. **Wrestling:** Hamber has a team and they are practicing at Jules Verne and Hamber. **Table Tennis:** The Provincial High School Championships will take place at Eric Hamber on Feb. 21 and 22. Everyone is welcome.

**Fine Arts:** Hamber's first **Art** show in years is under the leadership of Ms. Seeliger and in partnership with the other art teachers. Opening night is on Jan. 30th with art work on display for two weeks.

**Drama's** Winter Show includes senior acting students and runs the last two weeks of January. Direction is by Jon Lee, a Hamber alumni (2011). The **school musical**, *Once Upon A Mattress*, is in full prep mode. Led by Mr. Nicks and Mr. Smith, the show will open on February 13th with closing night on February 21st.

Eric Hamber's Chamber **Choir** will be the featured music at the convocation ceremonies for the BC Justice Institute on February 6th. This is a great honour as several BC dignitaries are in

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|   | <p>attendance. The Senior <b>Band</b> and <b>Choir</b> students will be travelling to New York City during Spring Break for a week-long Tour of the Big Apple, including several musicals, a concert by the NY Philharmonic Orchestra, two performances by the school ensembles and an exchange with a local school.</p> <p>Rumour has it that Hamber's <b>dance</b> students are taking part (along with hundreds of other students) in another flash mob for the Pink Project... a movement that sheds light on bullying with messages of acceptance and tolerance. The date is not known yet.</p>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct Donation Campaign (Nathan/Carrie)</li> </ul>  | <p>Deferred to next meeting.</p>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Books for Me! (Ira)</li> </ul>                       | <p>During the period JANUARY 13 – 24, 2014, Eric Hamber Secondary School will be collecting gently used children's books to be donated to <b>BOOKS FOR ME! Literacy Foundation</b>. The goal of this book drive is to collect gently used good quality books, that families have outgrown, which are suitable for children between the ages of 1-12 years old (no magazines, textbooks, outdated non-fiction or colouring books). Chris Yoon and his team will be setting up collection boxes in the school library and office for the books drop off.</p> <p>BOOKS FOR ME! is a non-profit society based in Vancouver which collects books through book drives and offers children and families, where buying children's books just isn't possible, access to books and literacy at no cost. The donated books offer the families a way to support children's literacy in the home. Through the program, children are able to choose their own book to take home and keep.</p> <p>BOOKS FOR ME! is currently working with two Neighbourhood Houses, a YMCA daycare centre, a Community Centre and five schools in Vancouver. More schools in need are currently on the waiting list for sponsorship. For more information about BOOKS FOR ME! go to their website at <a href="http://www.booksformeancouver.org">www.booksformeancouver.org</a>.</p> <p>The Student Council will do PA announcements and will be talking to students about the book drive. Nathan will put information on the website.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student Council DJ equipment (Chris Yoon)</li> </ul> | <p>Chris would like to make a request for <b>funding for DJ equipment</b> used for 2 or more yearly dances (including grad party). The approximate price for 2 sound systems (incl. speakers), a laptop, 2 to 3 lights is \$4,000. Renting a DJ and equipment costs \$1,000 per dance.</p> <p>It is more entertaining if the students know the DJ and they can listen to better music, as requested. Students usually have playlists ready. Equipment could be used to earn money in between by doing DJ work in the community. However, lights are a liability issues and insurance, capacity would have to be reviewed.</p>   |

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|  | <p>Different funding options were discussed. The conclusion for now is that Chris will ask Tupper or Churchill School to lend equipment for a nominal amount and keep \$1000 (DJ costs). He will also organize a business plan, get more details and pre-ask this spring for funds with a quote. Next year PAC can seed it or offer a contribution.</p> <p>Eric Hamber won from Winston Churchill School with the food drive in December with 22,500 cans collected.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thank you and adjournment (Nathan)</li> </ul> | <p>The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm. by Nathan.</p>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next PAC Meeting</li> </ul>                   | <p>The next PAC meeting is on February 5, 2014.</p>  |