

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

PAC Meeting Minutes February 5, 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:** Ranjit Bains

**Parents present:** 7

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
Call to order	Call to order at 7:05 pm.
1. Welcome, approval of past minutes, and approval of proposed agenda (Nathan Wilkes)	<b>Agenda</b> was moved by Rosie Schipizky and seconded by Ira Heidemann. All approved. Motion carried. <b>Meeting minutes of January 8, 2014</b> were approved and moved by Rosie Schipizky and seconded by Suling Yuen. All approved. Motion carried.
2. Principal's report (Alex Grant)	Vice-Principal, Ranjit Bains informed that the school is working on the <b>course planning</b> and it is not firm yet how many classes will be running as this will depend on the recent BC Supreme Court ruling that fined the Provincial Government \$2 Million and told them for a second time to restore teachers' rights.  <b>Articulation</b> at elementary schools with a presentation about Eric Hamber School is wrapping up.  The <b>Musical matinee</b> for elementary schools is on Feb. 12. During the next PD-day the teachers will focus on school goals, strategies how to achieve these, what works and what does not work, etc.  <b>Online registration</b> for Eric Hamber courses next year will start February 17-21.  <b>Future Grade 8 students</b> need to have sent their registration form to Eric Hamber by February 14. The form can be downloaded from the Eric Hamber website.
3. Teacher's report	Ranjit Bains reports, on behalf of Dianne Murray who sends her

regrets. She is unable to attend as she is representing Eric Hamber at the HUB recognition event tonight for Hamber's Hearty Hamberites winning the ***Best In School*** category for the **last Bike to School/Work Week in November**.

**Retirement news:** Donna Jones, the head secretary, retired after 31.5 years at Eric Hamber. She is currently on a 3-week trip to Tahiti, however, she will be back on April 10 for her official retirement send-off. More information on the event TBA in case you want to attend.

**Counselling:** Course planning is currently underway with Grade 8-10s meeting with their counsellors. Mr. Smith, the Grade 11 counsellor, has gone into their English classes to ensure that they have the required information and parents should have been presented with a pink sheet to sign for next year's courses.

**Science:** On March 7, Eric Hamber students will be displaying their science projects at the Vancouver District Science Fair at Langara from 4:30-9 pm. Parents are welcome to attend at no cost.

**Languages:** Individual teachers in the department are working hard to address each of the three school goals. On a more grand scale, there is a Japanese Festival on February 24 being planned by Ms. Hashigasako's Japanese students. Stations will be set-up in the classroom during 2<sup>nd</sup> period and performances will occur during 3<sup>rd</sup> period in the Drama Studio; parents are welcome to attend.

**Applied Skills: Tech studies:** Three trophies have been showcased on the front counter for their efforts at the Vancouver Island VEX Robotics competition on January 25. They won a trophy in the BUILD category (for clean and robust construction) and 2 trophies for our team who were Tournament Champions in the TOSS UP category (game).

**Special Education:** Twenty-eight students completed the 5-hour St. John's First-Aid course funded by PAC.

**Math:** Twenty-three students (nine Grade 8 students and fourteen Grade 9s) participated in the Math Challenger Regional contest at SFU on February 1st. Grade 8 team (5 individuals) placed 1<sup>st</sup> in their pool and the Grade 9 team placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in a Jeopardy style-type contest. Both teams qualified for the provincials at UBC in early March. Yesterday, twenty-five Grade 8-12 students wrote the American Math contest.

**PE/Athletics:** On Tuesday, February 4 fifty Hamber PE Leadership 11/12 students ran with Jamie McDonald on his last leg of his year-long journey from Newfoundland to BC Children's Hospital which was televised by CBC and Global. Jamie was raising funds for children's hospitals across Canada, and also for two hospitals in the UK.

**Basketball:** The Senior Boys placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Midtown Showdown Tournament. Eric Hamber is hosting the Junior Boys City playoffs.

**The Girls Table Tennis Team** will be defending their provincial title and are seeded #1; it takes place at Eric Hamber on February 21 and 22. You are invited to drop by and watch players like Michelle Liaw and Fiona Huang. Michelle plays on our National Junior (cadets) Team and represented Canada at the World Championship and Fiona Huang has played in many national tournaments with Team BC.

**Dragonboat:** The team will be selling raffle tickets in a few weeks in order to raise money for their 10-day trip to Italy to participate in the International Junior Championships; it takes place at the end of August/beginning of September.

**Learning Commons:** There was a vision to renovate what used to be called the *Library* so it was more comfortable and conducive to hosting professional development and other types of meetings. The presentation lounge was also created so that displays like the **current Art Show** could be held in this area. Feel free to drop by and take a look and see the renovations and new furniture additions of the past year, especially before the Art Show ends on Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>. There are still plans being developed to make changes to the Upper Floor.

**Fine Arts: Art:** Eric Hamber had a successful launch of its first Art Show in many years. The opening night was January 30<sup>th</sup>. The art display will remain in the Learning Commons until Friday, Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Drama:** They just wrapped up the winter show *100 Lunches*. The annual school musical will perform at the opening matinee for the elementary students on Wed, Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>. The show will run Thursday and Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Dance:** The Eric Hamber Dance Crew (the extra-curricular club) just competed at a local festival and earned 3<sup>rd</sup> place out of nine

	<p>groups. The dance classes also continue to prepare for the Pink Project performed at an upcoming Giant’s game.</p> <p><b>Music:</b> A number of guitar students were the feature music at the opening night of Eric Hamber’s Art Show. Students will also be performing February 6th in the Learning Commons. Into March, we have several performances lined up: an Intermediate Band and Choir concert at Holy Trinity Anglican Church, the Intermediate District Choral Festival at Eric Hamber, and a Chamber Choir share night with Magee and Point Grey, hosted at Point Grey. The Grade 9 and 10 band students are performing at the feeder schools over the next three weeks and the senior band students are preparing for an intensive rehearsal 2-day retreat with two master conductors in Whistler in May.</p> <p><b>VSBC Student Trustee:</b> Nick Milum spoke on CBC on February 4 informing the public about the discussions that other BC students wanted to have with their local MLAs as part of their student group: Defend our BC.</p> <p><b>Bargaining:</b> <i>Bal Panesar, our English Department Head, staff rep and newly elected delegate to the BCTF AGM along with Treena Goolieff, will be able to help Dianne Murray answer any questions that parents may have about the state of negotiations or lack of. A recent BC Supreme Court ruling fined the Provincial Government \$2 Million and told them for a second time to restore teachers’ rights. The Provincial Government has decided to appeal this decision as they say it would be too expensive to restore what was taken away since 2002. As well, there is a discussion around tweets made by Patty Bacchus (parent, trustee and Chair of the Vancouver School Board) when she said, “Parents deserve an apology from government and students deserve restoration of specialist teachers, counselors” and “If putting your child in an elite private school &amp; then taking putting the boots to the public system is what passes for leadership,,,”</i> Forward any questions to Nathan; Dianne Murray will do her best to respond to them at the next PAC meeting on April 2.</p>
<p>4. Direct Appeal (Nathan Wilkes)</p>	<p><b>The goals to do a direct appeal for funds are three-fold:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cover expenses of PAC that gaming does not cover: website, staff appreciation, bank fees, etc.</li> <li>2. Other expenses not covered by gaming: First Aid course. This has a great impact on students.</li> <li>3. Some things that we might fund, but with a campaign like e.g basketball hoops (\$6,000), seats for auditorium, track and field score clock etc.</li> </ol> <p>We could raise funds by a direct donation on the website through</p>

	<p>our TD account. This is the easiest way and fees would be charged through Paypal. Another option is receiving payments by cheque (no fee charged). However, a tax receipt would have to be issued via VSB and this is quite a long process.</p> <p>A discussion took place regarding what to fundraise for and how to approach and organize a direct appeal, by who, how etc. Each PAC has a different culture and goals.</p> <p>The last direct appeal took place last year (after 9 years) and raised \$6,000, organized by two parents. It was a lot of work, but it was not a big campaign. It seems we need funds for bigger things that the school does not fund. We need a concrete, targeted plan with a goal and we should do some polling in advance to find out what the priorities are. The school administration and teachers should be involved and we could later review a list with selected items with parents.</p> <p>The VSB is working on new technology for schools to use for direct appeal. This VSB payment system will be tied to tax receipts. It is probably ready by September. This new system will be used when registering for extra curricular activities, plus you can donate. The school will have a Microsoft Office 365 account next year, for logins for parents and students and with future access to Microsoft suite at home.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Nathan will work with school administration and teachers by attending their next meeting and discuss this direct appeal and figure out which large item(s) should be funded. At the next PAC meeting Nathan will provide ideas for funding.</p>
<p>5. Treasurer's Report (Jennifer Ma)</p>	<p><b>Statement format</b> For easier understanding, the format of the statements have been changed so that it sets out the actual amounts in the accounts each month, as well as a year to date cumulative totals. Previously, the statements were prepared as a cumulative running total and did not provide a status on what happened during the month.</p> <p><b>Gaming Funds Requests:</b> As of today, Feb 5, 2014, the total Gaming funds disbursed is \$7,748. This means the balance remaining to be disbursed is \$24,082.</p> <p><b>Gaming Account:</b> Recent Balances for the account were: November 30 - \$28,806.49 December 31 - \$28,806.49</p>

	<p>January 31 - \$26,498.74</p> <p><b>Operating/General Account:</b> No changes to this account. The balance is: \$10,579.49. However, in February 2014, a payment will be made to reimburse Nathan for the amount of \$265.07 for: website (\$172.80), domain name registration for 5 years (\$57.80), and incorporation certificate fees (\$34.47).</p> <p><b>School Account:</b> No changes to this account. Still awaiting the water station invoice, which will deplete this account to \$0.</p>
<p>6. Books for Me! (Ira Heidemann)</p>	<p>Eric Hamber School had a book drive for "Books for Me!, Literacy Foundation, from January 13-24.</p> <p>One box with books was collected. Eric Hamber School will be added to the Supporters Page, Book Donations of the Books for Me website.</p> <p>Some ideas were brought up to make the book drive more successful next time:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) More announcements, increased advertising in bulletin and in posters</li> <li>2) Let the book drive coincide with another event like the reading fair. Have a competitive element included (like in the food drive), and an entertainment edge, through lunchtime performances, such as the Kick Off.</li> <li>3) Inform teachers better and in advance so they push the students and remind them to donate books, which really worked for the Food Drive. Getting the teachers on board is the key to success.</li> <li>4) Choose a different time of the year for the book drive.</li> </ol>
<p>7. Pedestrian/cyclist update (Nathan Wilkes)</p>	<p>Nathan worked with The City of Vancouver and the school board to <b>improve safety</b>, especially at the drop off at the school. The City will fund safety improvements such as: putting in 2 hour parking at 37 Ave. and some short time parking close to the school. Also, more speed bumps in Willow St. and a left-turn into Willow St. from the East side of 33 Ave. There will be a cycling path on the West side of Willow St. between 33 and 37 Ave. and this will connect onto the existing cycle path. The installation will take place in the summer time. This funding will come from a Pilot program by the City at 6 school which was spearheaded Dianne Murray. Nathan advocated for this during the last 18 months. There is more traffic on Willow St. The <b>goal is to reduce collisions between cyclists and cars.</b></p>
<p>8. Other Business</p>	<p>Nathan would like to improve the <b>communication with</b></p>

	<p><b>parents/students and PAC meeting attendance.</b> There seems to be a disconnect between parents and students at the school. We need more engagement and attendance by parents at PAC meetings. Some ideas to improve this situation are: starting the school year with a potluck, having clear goals and ideas for the year, offer more presentations at PAC meetings, discuss funding issues at later meetings and show what the funds have been used for. At the next PAC meeting in April there will be a presentation of 20 min. by the Robotics team. We need more discussion on this issue.</p>
9. Thank you and adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm. by Nathan.
10. Next Pac Meeting	The next PAC meeting is on April 2, 2014.