

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

PAC Meeting Minutes April 2, 2014
18:30 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 Wilkes, Jennifer Ma and Ira Heidemann

Residents: 7

Staff Present: Alex Grant, Raza Mirani and Dianne Murray

Parents present: 7

Agenda Item	Discussion
Call to order	Call to order at 6:33 pm.
1. Welcome, approval of past minutes, and approval of agenda: Nathan Wilkes	Agenda was moved by Leslie Wilkes and seconded by Dianne Murray. All approved. Motion carried. Meeting minutes of February 5, 2014 were approved and moved by Leslie and seconded by Dianne Murray. All approved. Motion carried.
2. Treasurer's Report: Jennifer Ma	There wasn't a lot of activity in the Gaming account in February (only one cheque for \$ 398.29 was issued). As of February 28, the balance in the gaming account was \$26,100.45; and the balance in the operating/general account was \$10,314.42. During March a few more cheques were paid out (total of \$8,975.47 for the drama studio improvements and the auditorium AV projector). As of March 31, the balance in the gaming account was \$17,124.98; and the balance in the operating/general account was \$10,314.42. As of March 31, the Gaming funds amount to be disbursed is \$15,106.53. Waiting to receive additional invoices. Need to remind staff to complete purchases by end April. Otherwise disburse elsewhere where needed. On Wednesday May 7 is the Staff appreciation luncheon. PAC usually supports this event. Motion: Approve \$250 to be used for staff luncheon on May. 7 th .

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moved: Carrie Berric • Seconded: Leslie Wilkes • All in favour
<p>3. Sustainability Conference Information: Mikaela Luke</p>	<p>On April 28 is the Sustainability Conference hosted at Eric Hamber School. This is the second year for VSB and it is a big deal: all 18 secondary schools will attend and more than 300 attendees are expected, including parents.</p> <p>The goal is to learn, share, inspire, and talk about the environment and sustainability and parents have to be involved too. Griffins' Nest describes that many students don't come from a green environment. It is hard for students to take on more environmentally friendly and sustainable habits due to contradictory environments: home versus school. Therefore parents need to attend. Students need to know that the conference is for school and the community at large (including invitees out of district like Surrey, North Vancouver, etc.) It starts at 9:00 am. -3:00 pm.</p> <p>There will be different presentations by for example BCIT on environmental crisis and what to do at home, by Climate Smart Businesses and a recent VSB graduate working for Youth 4TAP (Environmentalists under 25). There will be a Zero waste lunch and afterwards a fair, 12 workshops and networking session. At the end there will be a school networking session about what Eric Hamber can do.</p> <p>The registration fee is \$10.- The Environmental Club will fund Eric Hamber's students who attend. Check out the website: vsb-sustainabilityconference.com. April 28: PD day. You can contact Mikaela Luke at MWMLuke@yahoo.com for additional information.</p>
<p>4. Principal's report: Raza Mirani (Vice-Principal)</p>	<p>During the Spring break a group of students made a trip to France with Ms. Manetta and other teachers.</p> <p>Planning for next year: incoming grade 8 student letters are out and wait for responses. The student numbers are down and this is similar across the district. 250 incoming grade 8 are expected and Eric Hamber will be bringing in students from across its boundary. Criteria have changed too. Some courses will be cut due to low enrolment. The school will look at courses and make combination-courses like technical education and grades will be combined to make bigger groups. The time frame has been adjusted a bit.</p> <p>The budget will be finalized end April. A volunteer teacher meeting will be organized to discuss the expected shortfall.</p>

	<p>Film screening: Shame. This film (4min) will be viewed at school and is about bullying, homophobia etc. After the showing, a discussion will take place followed by an explanation of the process of film making.</p> <p>Grade 8 will come to visit the school soon, and there will be activities for them to do.</p>
<p>5. Teacher's report: Dianne Murray</p>	<p>Highlights by Dianne Murray, PAC Liaison:</p> <p>Retirement News: Interested parents are invited to Donna Jones' retirement party. She was our head secretary for over 30 years and her party will take place in the Atrium on Thursday, April 10. RSVP Heidi Leung, our receptionist, and contribute \$20 for food and gift or \$10. If you can't make it, but want to help with the gift.</p> <p>Counselling: Robb Nash and a fellow guitarist gave a presentation on cutting, suicidal ideation and resiliency in the Drama Studio prior to spring break; it was well received by students. As well, there was a grade-wide presentation for Grade 11 and 12 students by Kevin Brooks sponsored by ICBC about the dangers of drinking and driving.</p> <p>Course change deadline has passed. Mr. Smith is finalizing the list of peer counsellors for next year; over 70 students applied.</p> <p>Science: The following students will be representing Eric Hamber at the Regional Science Fair in April at UBC due to their showing at the Vancouver District competition on March 7 at Langara: Noam Harris, Matthew Gian, Nicholas Hu, Christina Cheung, Kyle Doman, Dhruv Khanna, Emmanuel Sales, Ari Blondal, Nicholas Milum, Sarah Sheppard, Mimi Bang, Shivam Narain, Josephine Liu, Silas Tsui and Marko Miletic. Parents are welcome to attend.</p> <p>Reach for the Top Club (Ms. Dowle): On March 7th, the Junior Reach for the Top Team competed at the provincial playoff. After winning all 9 of their matches with ease, the team won the gold! Junior Team: Christopher Sims, Hector Rathburn, Ben Moir, Paul Froese, Carlito Doebeli, Tim Barry, and Jerry Liu. The Senior Team will be competing on Friday April 11th, 2014 at University Hill Secondary. From there, the top 3 teams will compete at the national level in Toronto in May.</p> <p>Languages: On Monday, March 10th, 16 Japanese students from Binoku High School visited Eric Hamber.</p> <p>Applied Skills: Fashion Show is on May 8. The Robotics Team is going to California to compete.</p>

We had 11 winners (fashion design, graphic design, job search, cooking and TV/video production) at the Regional Skills Canada contest on March 7 held at Eric Hamber. The gold medalist will be advancing to the Provincial Skills Competition on April 9 in Abbotsford. The following students will represent Eric Hamber in **Fashion Technology**: Patricia Roque and Janiece Lofstrom; **Graphic Design**: Fiona Siu; **Job Search**: Chris Yoon and Hanatu Tak; **Prepared Speech** (direct entry): Ivan Hsieh, Zak Viscera, and Tomor Stav; **Baking**: Mimi Bang

Special Education:

Studio Program: Grade 8's are getting excited about their trip to the Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, Oregon in June.

Learning Commons: The librarians created a display to encourage students to read books before going to see the movie. Therefore, prior to Spring break they held a contest involving a **book** called **Divergent**, the first of a trilogy, and they were inundated with over 100 entries.

Fine Arts:

Choir/Band: They went to New York over the spring break and had a great time.

PE/Athletics: PE Department teachers are preparing the Grade 8 and 9 students for intramural volleyball and the outdoor track meet on May 9. Dariush Afshari went to a BC Football All-Star Camp over Spring break and was named Top Linebacker.

Athletics: The greatest number of students participate in the Spring season with 80 students on the Track and Field team, 4 teams of ultimate, Grade 8 football, golf, girls soccer and boys volleyball for grade 8 and 9s.

English: Winners of the Oratoricals held in the Drama Studio with Don Davies, MP, attending: Grade 11 Sophie Teed for "Our Worth in Words" Honourable Mention: Hiro Ito for "You are not a joke. " and Grade 10: Jennally Maranon

Work Experience: Over 40 students were at a variety of workplaces over the Spring break including the Aquarium, Teck Resources, pharmacies, Kidsafe, medical offices, a science lab, Oak Animal Hospital, White Spot, and retail outlets like Bluenotes, London Drugs, and Winners.

Sustainability Conference: Eric Hamber students Tiffany Quon and Justin Luke have been working with other students to organize a district-wide conference on April 28, the next professional day. Speakers: Jennie Moore, Director of Sustainable Development at BCIT, Elizabeth Sheehan, President of Climate Smart Businesses INc. and Tessica Truong, VSB grad and founder of Youth 4Tap. Staff, parents and students are

	<p>encouraged to register at vsb-sustainabilityconference.com</p> <p>Bargaining: <i>Teachers have submitted their proposal prior to Spring break; we are waiting for counter proposal</i></p>
<p>6. City of Vancouver 33rd and Willow plan: Brent Dozzi and Omar Bhimji</p>	<p>An information session by the City of Vancouver staff Brent Dozzi and Omar Bhimji (HasteBC) took place for Eric Hamber staff, parents and residents living in the vicinity of the school. The topic discussed was related to traffic safety around the school and changes to be made.</p> <p>Brent is from the engineering department and is responsible for a city program for active and safe transportation to school. The program goal: encourage walking and cycling to school. As many families drive their children (about 400 to 500 per day at Eric Hamber) to school there is always traffic congestion etc. They try to reduce this congestion. As cars move generally slowly and cautiously there are not many crashes.</p> <p>The city works with schools, the police, health services, bylaw department, the school board, PAC, neighbours, and teachers and makes sure everyone is involved in the process. Based on meetings and walk-about, a list with issues was prepared and presented at the meeting, including some possible solutions how to improve traffic safety for cyclists and pedestrians. Nathan explains that he wants to help residents and get a better flow of vehicles and less interference with residents.</p> <p>Proposed options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drop-off before and after school at 33 or 37 Ave. and students walking along Willow St. to school • Change parking regulations on 37 Ave. (East and West of Willow) and make it max. 2 hours (now used a lot by Hospital staff) • Improve the sidewalk on Willow St. from 33 Ave. to 37 Ave. and make it wider: approx. 3 m. • A sidewalk on both sides of Willow St. North of 33 Ave. to Hospital • Max. 30 km. speed on Willow St. between 33 Ave. and 37 Ave. and adding 2 or 3 more speed bumps. Also, changing the loading zone signs to 3 min. parking • Traffic light for crossing 33 Ave. along Willow St. • Incremental changes on 35 Ave. : crosswalk on 35 Ave. East side of Willow St., followed in the future by either round-about or making it a garden pathway (walk-about) with green area, mulch, boulders and bench to block off access from Willow St. to 35 Ave. • Improved bike-way on Heather St. from 33 Ave. to King Edward (part of Hospital construction project). Direct

connection of bike-way to Willow St.

- Wellness pathway around hospital (part of Hospital construction). This green walk-way is for everyone, including students.

The participants offered some ideas:

- Temporary closure of 35th Ave. Though, enforcement will be an issue (blitz for 2 weeks with enforcement/fines, 2 weeks break, followed by another 2 weeks of enforcement etc.)
- Now only safe for cyclists on the sidewalks of Willow St. Propose to temporarily close Willow St. for cars during before and after school time. Only drop-off at 33 and 35 Ave. Let cyclist use Willow St. However, enforcement will be an issue. Other schools have implemented no cars on the street: this works for few days and later works less effectively. Then parents have to volunteer and that is not their job. Besides, French school parents, the Institution next door and other's use Willow St. to get to 41 Ave. That is why there is always a lot of traffic.
- One week Festival on Willow St., combined with bike to work week (first week June). Look with residents at closing Willow St. for a week. Work with school, residents and engineering department. Draft a plan and include the access for staff and emergency services. Who pays? Leave up to discussion. This could be a project of city. Hopefully, this will change habits.
- Students take more responsibility and pay attention when crossing the roads and paying attention to traffic signs. However, students have been informed in past, and this did not help. Residents have also tried many times: It is harder to change behavior of High school students. Short term change later wanes off. What is usually successful is peers pushing peers, like motivation for cycling (Dianne Murray has been very active on cycling to school): Sometimes 100 students bike to school.

General information and issues:

- Education, enforcement and engineering is a 3-legged stool: the City needs collaboration in these 3 areas. Money and resources is an issue. Resources should be combined: challenging. With regulatory signs you need police. Now resources police dedicated to other areas, with more crashes and fatalities. Here near misses and congestion.
- Pedestrian, cyclists, and at last car traffic is the order of importance for the city.
- If Willow St. were one-way, then this could increase traffic

	<p>on Oak or Heather St. What is best? It is hard to know: battle in council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We cannot put pylons on the road. Bylaws prohibit this. Besides, people often ignore signs. <p>3 Take-aways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get together as a working group (engineering department and school). Get a design. Also, look at bike to work week (first week June). • Leave the plans with the neighbours. They can discuss the plans internally more. • Changes will occur during the summer. Measure the traffic on the roads with road tubes before. City will do a try-out before the new school year starts. Decide with residents how much time to do the try-out with closing 35 Ave. Get this in place a couple of weeks before the school starts. Beginning of school year is best to try this new thing out. Teach students, raise awareness at school, use newsletters, PAC and website to inform students and highlight changes. <p>The City will make Eric Hamber School a priority. We might get help from the police for first 2 weeks of school in September.</p>
7. City of Vancouver proposed changes to 35 th and Willow: Brent Dozzi and Omar Bhimji	See previous agenda item.
8. Thank you and adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm. by Nathan Wilkes.
9. Next Pac Meeting	The next PAC and AGM meeting is on May 21, 2014.