

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

PAC Meeting Minutes November 05, 2014  
19:00 pm – 20:30 pm  
Eric Hamber Staff Room

**PAC EXECUTIVE:**

- Chair: Nathan Wilkes
- Treasurer: Jennifer Ma

**PAC Executives Present:** Jennifer Ma, Nathan Wilkes

**Staff Present:** Alex Grant, Max Todd

**Parents present:** 12

Agenda Item	Discussion
Call to order	7:00 pm
1. Welcome and introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reminder to subscribe to PAC newsletter (via Hamber PAC website).</li> <li>• Reminder about @HamberPac Twitter account</li> </ul>
2. Approval of agenda & past minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• October 1, 2014 minutes presented. No corrections. Motion to approve by David Wetsch (carried unanimously).</li> <li>• Agenda for meeting presented. Motion to approve by David Wetsch (carried unanimously)</li> </ul>
3. Teacher's report (Max Todd)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Todd teaches Math and Band.</li> <li>• Sports are as strong as ever.</li> <li>• Band night concert coming up on Dec 10. During that same week, there will be 2 other concerts: Strings and Instruments and Choral night.</li> <li>• Mr. Todd passed on information of candidates endorsed by the Vancouver Secondary Teacher's Association for the Municipal Election, which is on Nov 15. Information about candidates is also available in the Vancouver Courier. Encourages everyone to please vote as local government affects our life the most and makes a difference to our school.</li> <li>• Nathan requested Mr. Todd to take back the following messages to the teachers: 1) Appreciation to the teachers who made requests for gaming funds. We will be considering the options for this year during this meeting; and 2) Request to ask teachers if we can do a tour of different programs/areas such as robotics, music program, fashion program, video in auditorium during a PAC meeting as PAC has funded these programs.</li> </ul>
4. Principal's report (Alex)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Just hired the last new hire this week.</li> <li>• The Learning Improvement Fund (LIF) (previously, the Education</li> </ul>

Grant)	<p>Fund) allocated \$80 million for the Province to address class size and composition issues. The school could apply for extra funds from the LIF. We received funding to hire a new ESL teacher and for a French teacher to teach full time instead of part time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We experienced one of the smoothest start-ups after strike action compared to other schools.</li> <li>• Main gym floor was recently refinished. Seemed that it had either never been done or only done once previously in the last 51 years. Gym walls were repainted last year for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Women's hockey group was asked to move to another gym due to damage that would be inflicted to the new flooring. One item to be considered for the gaming funds is a gym floor covering to protect the gym when it is in use for other occasions such as parent teacher conferences. This covering would extend the life of the floor.</li> <li>• For this year, the walkabout was cancelled due to the later start in the school year. The walkabout is a scheduled evening where parents follow their son's or daughter's school schedule and move from classroom to classroom. Teachers would provide an outline of the course.</li> <li>• Parent/teacher interview will be held on January 14, 2015. The timing for this was later than normal because Dec 5 is the end of the first term and Dec 17 is when report cards will be issued. There is interest by the teachers in revisiting the timing of the walkabout or parent/teacher interview for next year – perhaps halfway through the term.</li> <li>• Although these events are scheduled on set dates, there is nothing to prevent parents from seeking feedback from teachers. It could even be a written enquiry passed from the student to the teacher. Interims were sent this week but if you did not receive anything that is likely good news</li> <li>• Teachers' email addresses are on the Hamber website. The general format of the email address is: first initial last name@vsb.bc.ca. Teachers are obliged to respond to requests for information about their students and Mr. Grant is not aware of any instances where they have not agreed to meet with parents.</li> <li>• Although school started late, the first term will end on Dec 5 which was the originally scheduled date.</li> <li>• School Planning Council normally meets during the Fall to work on the school growth plan. Given the strike action, schools have been asked to submit their school plan in Nov. PAC is permitted to act as a School Planning Council. Given the shorter time frame PAC agreed to have Nathan review the school growth plan and approve this if satisfactory. This year, Mr. Grant indicated that we would likely roll over the plan from last year and use the same goals. These goals include: 1) Aboriginal education and promoting the success of Aboriginal students; increase the understanding of aboriginal culture; and 2) increase student engagement and a sense of responsibility.</li> </ul>
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5. Walk about	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Grant conducted a tour with the PAC to visit Grad Hall and the freshly painted lockers in the school colours. He also took us to the main gym so that we could see the new gym floor – refinished over the summer. We were able to have the floors refinished due to the assistance of a generous donation from former PE department head Nora McDermott’s family.</li> </ul>
6. Treasurer’s report (Jennifer Ma)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We received a letter from the Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch dated Oct 10, 2014 confirming that the Grant funds approving the gaming grant funds amount of \$31,680 (tbc by PAC upon receipt of Oct bank statement). Grant funding is intended to benefit students by enhancing their extra-curricular opportunities.</li> <li>As of Oct 31, amounts in the 2 accounts were: 1) Gaming account: \$36,245.42 (\$4,565.42 plus the \$31,680 gaming account deposit) and 2) General Account: \$9,401.73.</li> </ul>
7. Budget (gaming funds)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussion of 2 main options proposed by Nathan: Option 1 – included the gym covering plus large items. Option 2 – included gym covering, reduced expenditure on athletics officials’ fees plus funding for clubs.</li> <li>Issue of direct appeal raised as an option to fund gym covering, however, this is subject to program success. Gym covering was considered to be a more urgent expenditure that will benefit all students of the school. Also if PAC was able to fund some of the gym covering the school could cover the rest. The school’s funds are used to replace furniture and other items.</li> <li>A third option was raised by Dethe Elza which was a compromise between Options 1 and 2 as there were a few concerns about funding the whole amount of \$13,975 for the gym covering at the expense of funding other items.</li> <li>Out of province travel requires pre-approval from the Province; Clubs are also able to obtain funding from Student Council which receives about \$6-\$8 from each student’s school fees for student activities.</li> </ul>

### HAMBER PAC 2014/15 FINAL

Description	Amount
Gym covering	\$8,000
Crafts Club	\$160
Athletics Officials fees	\$5,000
Newsletter printing	\$1,200
Math Challenger entrance fee	\$260
Dragon Boat regatta fees	\$1,125
Culinary Arts supplies	\$450
Food for Humanity	\$100
Robotics	\$2,000
Fashion supplies	\$1,000
Auditorium	\$3,000
Reach for the top	\$450
Math contest	\$300
Drama wireless mics	\$2,100
Debate club	\$1,600
Counselling program	\$1,370
PAC admin costs	\$250
Scholarships (4 X \$500)	\$2,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$30,365.00</b>

- Motion by Dethe Elza to approve Option 3. Carried unanimously.
- Total gaming grant amount allocated: \$30,365.
- Last year's gaming grant surplus was: \$2,475. A small buffer (i.e. \$3,790) would allow for funding of an item(s) that may arise later in the year.

8. Direct Appeal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This was discussed together with the Budget discussion. Nathan and Jennifer indicated that they are supportive of this provided an individual is willing to take on the responsibility of organizing and promoting this appeal. There will be a time commitment involved. Funds from direct appeal are not be subject to grant restrictions and could be used for curricula activities. There was a suggestion that timing just before Christmas isn't ideal and there was not much time to organize this. Nicki Glave volunteered to help run the appeal.</li> </ul>
9. Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting adjourned at 20:43.</li> </ul>
10. Next PAC Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• January 7, 2015</li> <li>• <a href="http://hamberpac.ca/calendar/2015/1/7/pac-meeting-20150107">http://hamberpac.ca/calendar/2015/1/7/pac-meeting-20150107</a></li> </ul>

