

Hi Folks,

My name is Ken Hamaguchi, and I have put my name forward to run as a Director of the Richmond Jets MHA. Yes, I currently contract my services to the association as their Executive Administrator, but our by-laws allow me to do both.

***Question – So then why do you also want to run to be a Director?***

As the Executive Administrator, my role consists of doing many manual labour jobs (which I enjoy doing and according to my supportive wife “you’re overweight and you could use the exercise anyways”). But my position doesn’t allow me to participate in developing philosophy, policy and governance procedures for the association. I believe that these tasks are critical, and that my experience in hockey and being the Board Chair of the Richmond School District, would be invaluable to the association – including being able to work cooperatively with all parties, regardless of what association they came from.

***Question – So what is your plan if elected?***

*Hockey is becoming too expensive, too political and too much work for parents. If I am voted in, I am committed to:*

- making hockey more affordable by making families only have to pay for programs that they want (currently, we mandate that everyone participate and pay for a skills program regardless of whether they attend it or want it)
- lowering rep fees and giving better practice ice times for the C teams
- reviewing all the paid positions (including mine – to make sure the association is getting good value for their dollar)
- better financial transparency and the need to ask the hard questions to ensure accountability and financial integrity
- hosting community activities that are fun, family oriented and encourage our kids to be good members of the community
- **MAKE HOCKEY MORE FUN FOR THE KIDS (a good start is to actually let all the kids on ice to play games – including the weaker players)**

***Question – So how do you plan to make this happen?***

Work together with everyone. *But most importantly, ask the membership for their opinion and what they want. I know that some parents don’t have the time to be on the board – but that doesn’t mean that their ideas and opinions are any less valued than those elected.* There are many issues that the membership should be consulted on (i.e. name of association, jersey design, type of program, etc.)

***Question – And finally, what do you know about hockey?***

I’ve been a player, coach, manager, Director and President. I’ve won awards in all those categories (but no one remembers or care, except me!). Here’s what I know the most about hockey. It’s a great game. I have met great kids and people (from both Seafair MHA, Richmond MHA and Richmond Ravens). I believe that hockey makes our kids better people and it makes our community a better place to live. **As the Board Chair of the Richmond School District, I look after the educational well being of all our students in the city. If elected as Director, I will do the same for all the hockey players and families in the city.**

Thanks,

Ken Hamaguchi

PS - I want to thank the 12 individuals from both associations who served as board members this year. They worked very hard to get this new association off the ground. And as we enter Year 2, it is important that we learn from their successes/challenges and move forward.