

MEETING MINUTES – GP VANIER SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Date: September 24, 2024

Location: Hybrid (both in-person and virtual)

Topics Included:

Attendees In-Person:

*Laurelle E	Farouk G	*Matthew C	Kim M
Keith P	Joy P	Marty	Sarah A
Monica V	Chris H	Albert U	Tanis J
Mehreteab G			

*Vanier Staff

Attendees On-line/Virtual:

Stacey M	Natalie W	Julie P	Natasha D
Heather M	Jane	Jason	Carolyn U
Stephanie D	Sheldon P		

Agenda Items

1. Called to Order 7:04pm
2. Welcome and Housekeeping – Welcome by Farouk G (Chair)
3. Motion to Approve Agenda by Sarah A, seconded by Kim M; approved.
4. Motion to Approve Meeting Minutes by Marty, seconded by Kim M; approved
5. Principal’s Report (Chad Edmonds, principal)

Opened with a land acknowledgement. Reviewed school profile. 570 students this year, up from 540. 40-45% in early immersion, 25-30% in late immersion, 25-30% in English. Also has a literacy and learning program and a Wood’s Homes satellite program. Majority of French students go to William Aberhart, English students go to James Fowler, Crescent Heights, John G Diefenbaker.

Reviewed staff for this year. School culture is to create an atmosphere of collegiality where students are able to pursue a path of excellence. A successful GPV student demonstrates a commitment to making Vanier a better place, a tenacity in academics, athletics, the arts, and extra-curriculars, an ability to find their passion – find what you love and do it well.

School goals for 2024-2025 are a school development plan (outcomes based assessment, data gathering, and social connections focus). Finalized school development plan (SDP) will be shared in November.

Currently at 562 students. Originally staffed at 550, have been as high as 580 during startup. Weekly updates go to over 1600 parents/guardians. 30 teaching staff, 8 support staff. Not sure how funding updates from the province will affect GPV yet. Early highlights include the cross country running team. Over 100 students participated, won several medals. Girls soccer team is 3-0. Boys are 1-2, won their first game last night. Basketball practices are on, games start next week. Spectator code of contact shared. Terry Fox fundraising is great. Yearbook early purchase still available. Order school photos by Thursday for free shipping. Retakes Oct 24, anyone can get retakes. Eastern Canada Trip meeting is October 3. Will be open to both French and English programs. Entire trip is usually in French, but if enough English students are interested a second trip may be possible.

Terry Fox run is coming up Thursday, school is looking for volunteers. Opportunities for volunteering in the school library and field trips coming up. See your account in MyCBE Power to sign up as a volunteer.

Staff sends a thank you for end of year BBQ in June sponsored by the school council. Thanks for school council engagement at open house and for field trip buses.

6. Treasurer's Report

General Account Balance is \$1,550.94
Casino Account Balance is \$73,672.98. We won't see the funds from the next casino until 2026.

7. Key Communicator's Report

Community of School Councils meets every two months or so. Last meeting was in June, most of the discussion was around space. Meetings are recorded and available on the CBE website.

8. Casino Update

Casino has been allocated for the 2nd quarter of 2025. Last casino raised approximately \$85,000. Someone asked about history of casino regarding band council. Originally school council organized casinos, then band council took it over. Later the casino funds were split 50/50 between school council and band council. It has now gone back to school council, and we will ask administration to comment on where priorities are, and use funds accordingly.

9. Band Association Update

Treasurer of the band association spoke. There are two band association members currently. They have \$2,000 in the general account, casino funds have been spent.

10. Fundraising

Decided as a school council last year that this year we would have an initiative through Education Matters this year. An anonymous donor has come forward and said they will match funds raised up to \$10,000. (Education matters keeps 3% for administration costs).

Council would like administration to provide a list of initiatives that would be part of the campaign. Administration is working on the list.

Also planning to do a Coco Brooks fundraiser. Planned for October or November. Farouk noted that administration can not ask for funds directly, but can help advertise council fundraisers.

Education matters and Casino funds are restricted, there are limitations on how the funds may be spent. Funds raised directly by the school council are not restricted.

Someone asked about a fundraising calendar, listing which fundraising initiatives are happening throughout the year.

11. New Business

Next meeting in October is the AGM. Anyone interested in a role can be voted in at that point. New council members are welcome! Someone asked if there were any roles that required people. Currently don't have anyone in the fundraising role or vice-chair. Always open to sharing roles. Only have one current member-at-large and have room for five.

Sarah asked about a date for the merchandise sale. Should be sent out this week.

12. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn by Sarah A, seconded by Kim M; approved

Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm

Next Meeting: October 29, 2024 at 7pm

Note that there are still opportunities for parents to help out with Council and other volunteer opportunities to learn, share ideas, or can have co-roles. This is a great opportunity to learn from other council members as parents rotate through the school and families move on.
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