

MEETING MINUTES – GP VANIER SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Date: January 28, 2025

Location: Hybrid (both in-person and virtual)

Attendees In-Person:

*Chad E	Farouk G	Kim M	Sarah A
Tanis J	Lise M	Ron M	Monica V
Christina W	Marty A	Stephanie M	

*Vanier Staff

Attendees On-line/Virtual:

Donna M	Jule P	Felix A	Joy P
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Agenda Items

1. Called to Order 7:06pm
2. Welcome and Housekeeping – Welcome by Farouk G (Chair)
3. Motion to Approve Agenda by Kim M, seconded by Sarah A; approved.
4. Motion to Approve Meeting Minutes by Kim M, seconded by Christine; approved
5. Belcanfran Presentation: Student exchange program. Belcanfran is a volunteer run reciprocal exchange program. Canadian students are matched with students from Belgium or France. The exchange last for 11 weeks. Students from Europe come first in August and return in November and stay with the matched family. They will attend English school. Canadian students go to Europe at the end of January and stay with the matched family. They return in April. Allows students to be immersed in a second language. Coordinators present information to students and parents, evaluate student candidacy, match student partners and coordinate exchange student's life in the other country. Students are treated as family members, not guests. School is compulsory and students must accept the lifestyle of the family they are matched with. Program costs included return air transportation, transfers and taxes, medical and hospitalization insurance, and administrative fees. www.belcanfran.com
6. Principal's Report (Chad Edmonds, principal)

Report cards are online now.

Volleyball season started yesterday. The first games were very well attended. Wrestling divisional finals are tomorrow. Nice to see connections forming between students. Helps create a sense of belonging for students.

Wishlist updates:

- Learning commons stage 1 is being delivered in mid-February. There are new books on order in french and english.

- 20 stand up desks are arriving in March.
- Exercise bikes came in under budget, will try to source more within the original budget.
- Cross country skis to be purchased after Family Day when they go on sale
- New art equipment has been ordered.
- New PE equipment has been ordered.
- The bilingual (French/English) gym sign has been ordered. GPV will be the first school in Calgary to have a bilingual gym sign.
- Still working on skateboard/scooter parking.

New requests:

- Garden club would like to create a living wall in the cafeteria with food plants (\$500)
- Whiteboards (\$2,400)
- Drama presentation (\$500)

7. Treasurer's Report

General Account Balance is \$3,738. \$2000 in expenditures have been approved but not spent.

Casino Account Balance is \$61,332. Funds from the next casino are expected by May 2025. \$12,000 in expenditures have been approved but not spent.

8. Key Communicator's Report

There was no meeting this past month. There is a workshop being offered for one member of each school council in February.

9. Casino Update

Casino will be February 12/13, 2025. Location is Ace Casino Blackfoot. There are still spots that need to be filled.

10. Band Association Update

Winter concert was held Wednesday, Jan 22. The concert was very well attended, there was standing room only. Westwinds fun choir and symphony band joined in. The band association made \$460 from a 50/50 at the concert. Plan to do 50/50s for each future show. Band camps are coming up before spring break. Have approximately \$23,000 in the bank, plan to spend most of it this year. Need to document the agreement between band council and student council with regards to casino funds.

11. Fundraising

Eastern Canada Trip parents are planning to do an online 50/50 fundraiser and a Purdy's chocolate sale. They would like to use school council's AGLC license for the 50/50.

Coco Brooks fundraiser planned for the general account. Will aim to start Feb 6 with a Feb 27 pickup date. Joy to send information for administration to include in the weekly message.

12. New Business

School council has a \$500 gift card to use for parent engagement. Discussed whether the funds could be used for a sign to raise awareness of the school and post ongoing events for parents to see. Or perhaps that should be funded a different way. The card has to be used by June 13. Discussion ensued about engagement of different groups, including newcomers. Talked about a fall meet the school night or an end of year celebration of the various clubs. Discussed clubs being a way for students to feel a sense of belonging with the school.

Motion to approve expenditure of \$500 from the casino fund for garden club and \$500 for the drama presentation. Motion by Sarah A, seconded by Kim M. Motion Approved.

Motion to approve the purchase of 10 white boards from casino funds. Motion by Sarah A, Seconded by Travis M. Motion Approved.

Motion to approve the Eastern Canada Trip hosting a 50/50 fundraiser using the school council ALGC license. The total amount of funds raised will be put towards the Eastern Canada trip. Motion by Marty, seconded by Christina. Approved.

13. Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:51pm

Next Meeting: February 25, 2025 at 7pm

Meetings are held the last Tuesday of every month in the school year except December, March, and June.

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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