

Meeting Minutes
GP Vanier Joint School Council and Vanier Vikings' Parents Association Meeting
Regular Monthly Meeting

Date: May 26, 2026

Location: Hybrid (both in-person at Georges P. Vanier School and virtual)

Attendees:

In-Person

Farouk G (chair)	Travis M
Chad E* (principal)	Dawna M
Cindy C* (assistant principal)	

On-line/Virtual:

Sarah A
Tanis J
Miriam

*Vanier Staff

1. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order by Farouk at 7:13 pm.

2. Welcome and Housekeeping

- Welcome by Farouk

3. Acknowledgment of the Land

- Acknowledgement of the Land by Cindy

4. Approval of Agenda

- Motion: Travis motioned to approve the agenda. Seconded by Dawna. Approved.

5. Approval of Minutes

- Motion: Travis motioned to approve the minutes from the April meeting. Seconded by Sarah. Approved.

6. Principal's Report

- Next year at Vanier:
 - About 570 students, 31 teachers, and 8 support staff.
 - Planning for 2027/28 when we start getting larger cohorts from King George and other elementary schools.
 - No staff changes yet, but may occur in mid-June.
 - New and more diverse option choices.
 - Plan to continue to offer a wide range of extra-curricular activities.
 - More funding for teachers announced for Vanier:

- For Guidance/Resource (Mr. Cheng)
 - OLEP funding (Ms. Rossum, new French as a Second Language option)
- Upgraded building envelope (windows, siding).
- New curriculum being piloted next year
 - Some CBE schools will pilot new curriculum, but the whole grade team needs to agree.
 - PE/Wellness and some Math teams at Vanier considering piloting new curriculum.
- Funding requests for the Parent Association to consider:
 - Popcorn Maker: \$600
 - Leadership won't be an option next year. Instead, Mr. Edmonds will run student council next year (outside of class time).
 - Would like to do student-led fundraising next year. Ms. Kingsley has requested a large popcorn maker for this.
 - Lighting for school dances: \$300
 - Renting DJ, lights, and a smoke machine for school dances can be expensive, so Ms. Dunn would like to buy lights for school dances, which will be cheaper.
 - Grade 8 Science: \$500
 - Requesting 15 disposable cameras and funds to cover developing fees.
 - Cameras would be used during an upcoming field trip for a Photo Scavenger Hunt.
 - Funds for disposable cameras and developing fees may be requested again next year. In the future, could explore point-and-shoot digital cameras that are durable and have SD card abilities.
 - Rethinking field trip funding for next year: \$10-15 per student
 - Teaching teams would be able to easily calculate how much funding is available to them for field trips for the year.
 - Spreadsheet worked well for Beth and Travis. Will continue to use to communicate.
 - Would like to reallocate some funds for next year:
 - More for science (e.g. consumables for labs), less for math
 - Can discuss further in Sept
- Hoping for continued financial support from the Parent Association
 - The school has a \$4,000,000 budget next year but will spend close to 98-99% of budget on staffing. That leaves \$40,000 to run the school, so support from the Parent Association is very beneficial.
 - Teachers gave a card to thank council for its support of the school.
- A parent commented that it would be good to balance long-term financial planning over a few years with maximizing annual spending.
 - Travis is documenting the history of expenditures in DropBox, which will help with planning.
 - Our casino coordinator has been very disciplined about getting casino applications in immediately after one casino finishes, so that we can have casinos (and casino funds) as frequently as possible (18 months vs. 24 months in between casinos).

7. Treasurer's Report - Vanier Vikings' Parents Association

	General Fund	Casino Fund	
April month-end balance	\$1,497.66	\$103,823.95	(revised from March's report)
May disbursements	none	(\$13,835.68)	
May month-end balance	\$1,497.66	\$89,988.27	

- The Use of Proceeds list for casino funds has changed. It has been simplified. The Parent Association can look more closely at how we can categorize expenses for using the casino funds. Aid of the Distressed category can now support emergency nutrition for students. Also looking at underutilized categories (e.g. donations to Education Matters).
- Full report will be available in Sept/Oct when we have our annual general meeting.
- Estimate the association has spent ~\$30K of the \$50K we motioned at our last meeting.
- There can be delays in processing expenditures through the CBE.
- It would be good to motion to approve the annual plan for expenditures earlier. This will help teachers with planning for expenditures for the year.
- Beth checks with teachers to see if they will spend any remaining budget. If not, the school finds another use for the funds.
- The goal is to have a consistent annual plan for expenditures, so teachers can plan around this.

8. Key Communicator's Report

- There was a COSC meeting on April 22, but we deferred a summary of this meeting because the trustee was at our April meeting.
- Tanis sent a copy of the slides from the last COSC meeting. There was an update on class size and complexity, budget planning for 2026/27, and capital planning from 2027-30. All the information is available on the CBE website.
- Next meeting is on June 10.
- Action: Tanis to resend the information from the last COSC meeting.

9. Casino Update – Vanier Vikings' Parents Association

- Dawna had to leave the meeting.
- The next casino is confirmed for December 13 & 14, 2026. We will be looking for volunteers.
- Dawna will need 5 volunteer forms to submit immediately to finalize our casino dates. She has 3 forms out of the 5.
- Tanis is able to complete a form. Farouk is filling out a form.
- Action: Mr. Edmonds will add a blurb about the casino dates to the weekly update.

10. Band Association Update

- Marty has submitted two motions to finalize the consolidation of the Band Parent Association and the Vanier Vikings' Parents Association.
- We will have an agreement to continue to fund the band program through the one consolidated association.

- A motion will be presented at this meeting to merge the Vanier Band Parents Association with the Vanier Vikings' Parents Association. If passed, funds will move from the Band Parents Association to the Vanier Vikings' Parents Association. The Band Association general account has \$3,457.10, which would be moved to the Vanier Vikings' Parents Association general account. The Band Association casino account has \$488.67, which would be moved to the Vanier Vikings' Parents Association casino account. The Band Parent Association also has a GIC currently worth \$19,975.97, which will get transferred to the Vanier Vikings' Parents Association. The Band Parent Association accounts will close, so there will not be a need for duplicate positions (e.g. chairs, treasurers, secretaries) for the Band Parent Association. Instead, there will only be a need for positions for the Vanier Vikings' Parents Association.
- Need to decide how the Band Parent Association Funds will be allocated in September. Since the band program has increased and will continue to and Ms. Ramos will be running the band program full-time, all of the funds coming from the Band Parents Association could be allocated in September to the immediate needs of the band program.
- The agendas for next year will need to include time to speak to fundraising for the band program and band trips.
- Preamble to the Motion:
 - **WHEREAS** the Vanier Vikings' Parents Association and the Vanier Music Parents Association (also referred to as the Band Parents Association) recognize the need for increased collaboration, financial transparency, and administrative efficiency;
 - **AND WHEREAS** both bodies have historically supported student enrichment and extracurricular programming, including Fine Arts and Music, and wish to align their strategic and operational objectives under a single framework;
 - **AND WHEREAS** it is in the best interests of the school community to consolidate resources, coordinate fundraising, and unify governance in accordance with Alberta Education and Registries Alberta requirements;
 - **BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Vanier Vikings' Parents Association and the Vanier Music Parents Association shall, effective May 26, 2026, formally merge to operate as a single entity under the name "GP Vanier Parents' Association" (currently titled Vanier Vikings Parents' Association).
- Motion: Sarah motioned on behalf of Marty that the Vanier Vikings' Parents Association and the Music Parents Association approve the merger of the two organizations, effective May 26, 2026, into a single entity: "GP Vanier Parents' Association". Seconded by Travis. Approved.
- Motion: Sarah motioned on behalf of Marty that a formal listing of elected and/or appointed executives be prepared and submitted to Registries Alberta and to the respective financial institutions (TD Canada Trust and the Band Parent's Association Banking Institution) to reflect this organizational change. Seconded by Travis. Approved.
- Motion: Sarah motioned on behalf of Marty that the name "GP Vanier Parents' Association" be adopted as the official and legal name of the merged organization, effective immediately upon passage of this motion. Seconded by Travis. Approved.

- Motion: Sarah motioned on behalf of Marty that an ongoing allocation of at least 40% of Casino Fundraiser funds raised by the merged Associations be dedicated to the support of Fine Arts and Music programs at GP Vanier School in perpetuity, or until such time that GP Vanier no longer offers Fine Arts or Music programming. Seconded by Travis. Approved.

11. Fundraising – Vanier Vikings’ Parents Association

- Coco Brooks Fundraiser
 - Farouk will reach out to Joy to see if the Coco Brooks fundraiser is happening before the end of this school year.
 - If it is not happening before the end of this school year, the Parent Association can look at doing a Coco Brooks fundraiser early next school year.
 - The Coco Brooks fundraiser allows the association to fund staff appreciation by raising funds for the general account.
 - Would be good to promote the Coco Brooks fundraiser at the Fine Arts evening in June and mention that it is for staff appreciation.
- Clubs/Options Night
 - Sarah and Mr. Edmonds thought it would be good to have the clubs/options tables set up on the evening of June 2 (the Fine Arts Showcase).
 - We could set a budget for materials for each club/option planning to display and they can get reimbursed, or Sarah can purchase materials for the clubs/options to use.
 - Sarah is planning to order some magnets that will advertise School Council/Parent Association with a QR code and LinkTree information.
 - We were planning to use the \$500 grant for parent engagement to cover the cost of the magnets. Sarah thinks \$250 would be more than enough for the magnets. Everything leftover will be allocated to the clubs/options display materials.
 - Mr. Edmonds will have a better idea of the number of clubs displaying after a staff meeting on Friday.
 - Action: Sarah will pick up the VISA card with the \$500 grant tomorrow, so that she can pay for the magnets and display materials using this grant.
 - Action: Mr. Edmonds will email Sarah with number of clubs/options displaying and details on requested display materials.
 - Action: Sarah will drop off the materials on Monday, June 1.

12. New Business

- Drama Production
 - There is a drama production happening on May 27, which is the first time this has happened since Mr. Edmonds has been principal at Vanier.
 - It is a full production with costumes, lights, make-up, and purchased scripts. They are able to perform it twice.
- Fine Arts Evening
 - On June 2, band, drama, K-Pop dance, art, and construction are part of the Fine Arts Evening.
- Track and Field Meet
 - June 1

- Final Meeting for Our Chair, Farouk
 - Farouk was chair before Mr. Edmonds was principal. He has been Chair for 7 or 8 years at Vanier.
 - Mr. Edmonds thanked Farouk for all that he has done for the school in his role as Chair. Farouk has meant a lot to School Council/Parent Association and Vanier.
 - Sarah has been on councils with Farouk as chair for 10 or 11 years. He has councils well set-up and pointed in the right direction and has done such great work for the schools. She has seen that Farouk seeks the best interests of every student and the school as a whole. He has been a great leader at every level.
 - Farouk noticed a positive shift in the school with leadership from Mr. Edmonds and Mme Laurelle and now Mme Cindy.
- Open House for Next School Year
 - The open house is set for Sept 8, 2026.
 - The School Council/Parent Association can present again at the open house, revising the presentation from the last open house. Will showcase the amount of money fundraised for the school because this helps parents understand the impact of the Association. Travis will send the survey out again because a lot of people who answered the survey ended up coming to the meeting.
- Next Year Transition of Roles
 - Travis planning to step down as Treasurer at AGM, so he can train someone else to be Treasurer. Travis has set up Drop Box with all the files and digitized as much as he can to pass the role to someone else.
 - No one expressed interest in taking the Chair or Treasurer role yet.
 - Travis could possibly take on the Chair role next year and support a new Treasurer.
 - Sarah is willing to be Chair or Vice-Chair for next year (but not Treasurer).

13. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 at 7 pm

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.