

MEETING MINUTES – GP VANIER SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Date: February 25, 2025

Location: Hybrid (both in-person and virtual)

Attendees In-Person:

None - Meeting moved online

Attendees On-line/Virtual:

Dawna M
Matthew C*
Marty A
Joy P
Tanis J

Chad A*
Natalie W
Stacey M
Linda

Farouk G
Cindy C*
Parissa G
Sara A

Travis M
Stephanie M
Monika V
Tim O

*Vanier Staff

Agenda Items

1. Called to Order 7:04 pm
2. Welcome and Housekeeping – Welcome by Farouk G (Chair)
3. Motion to Approve Agenda by Dawna M, seconded by Parissa G; approved.
4. Motion to Approve Meeting Minutes by Stephanie M, seconded by Marty; approved
5. Parent Council Request – Update of PA System by Matthew C.

Limited use because it is positioned behind the stage curtain. Sound checks are problematic. Cannot maximize sound board as there are broken outlets around the gym. Also a safety hazard for gym class. Wireless mic has a broken antenna – 1 mic still works well.

Phase 1: Currently have made it portable. Receives daily use for PE class and sporting events. Would like student capacity building, allowing for student involvement with assemblies and technical theatre productions. Length of cables is keeping it in the gym corner where it is exposed and at risk of damage.

Phase 2 Goal: Would include a protected sound cabinet with easy access to the sound board and more accessibility for easy set up and more use. Longer cables would allow a better access point, preferably close to the equipment room. Replace the antenna for the wireless microphone system and add another wireless handheld microphone. \$1,289 plus GST.

Phase 3 Goal: Additional Portable PA Systems. A growing student population is starting to use other spaces for large group presentations. Learning commons is becoming a gathering space. And there are school yard events needing sound projection. \$1,878 plus GST for two battery powered speakers with Bluetooth connection for music.

Questions: Does this overlap with facilities responsibilities? No because there is no permanent/fixed items. Relocated cable can be zipped tied to an existing conduit similar to how it is currently. Is there a plan for security? Yes, rolling system will be stored in the locked equipment room. Speakers will be stored under supervision. Do the speakers come with stands? No, they will sit on a table or floor.

6. Principal's Report (Chad Edmonds, principal)

Mme Ana Barilas starting as librarian, Learning Commons can be open all day now. Will also be helping out supervising the lunchroom.

Survey season is here. GPV is sending out a survey for unput around SDP and finances. Alberta Education Assurance survey is available for Grade 7 parents, an email was sent out with the access code.

12 student teachers are at the school, with one more coming.

Next year GPV is expecting a full school, which will be at or over capacity. Only students assigned to the school will be able to attend.

Wishlist updates:

Small indoor gardens have been set up in the school. Gym sign is posted and learning commons renovation is underway. More standup desks coming on Thursday.

New requests:

Kick bands that attach to desks. (Fidget item)

Question – Are there plans to separate the learning commons from the classroom that has been added? There are funds available to address over allocation in schools. A team is reviewing GPV to assess the possibility of creating new classrooms.

New cameras. Vanier has both interior and exterior cameras. They are at the end of their life and ready to be replaced. Will go up around the end of April. Infrastructure is already in place, there will be no disruption during the school day. New signage will be going up to let everyone know cameras are present. Existing cameras slow down GPVs wireless infrastructure. New system will be cloud based. New cameras will be low maintenance. Cameras will only be located in common areas. All cameras are in plain view and do not record audio. They are only focused on CBE property.

Question: Will the system be able to incorporate facial recognition in the future?

Unknown. How long is video stored on the cloud? 30 days. Further discussion: Cameras will record the hallway directly outside of washrooms, as unsupervised areas tend to be problem areas. Another parent noted that high schools have cameras. Administration emphasized that cameras do not point into the washrooms. Parent council general in favour of cameras for school security. Parent council had no further questions or concerns about the cameras.

7. Treasurer's Report

General Account Balance is \$3,739.33. \$2000 in expenditures have been approved but not spent.

Casino Account Balance is \$67,043.68. Funds from the next casino are expected by May 2025. \$12,000 in expenditures have been approved but not spent. Deadline to spend funds in the casino account is May 2026. Extensions are possible. New casino funds from the February 12/13 casino are expected in April.

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. February 24 the ASCA held an information session titled "The Assurance Framework and School Council/Trustee Relationships". They are an organization that helps school councils understand their role and limitations. The powerpoint and other information from the session are here:

[CBE SC Gathering February 2024 Handouts: Alberta School Councils' Association](#)

Discussed ways to encourage engagement. Sara priced magnets that could have a QR code that will take people to a website referencing school council activities. 3"x3" 300 for \$255. 500 for \$359. 1000 for \$592. Projected capacity next year is 580 students.

Talked about making it clear that school council isn't just about fundraising. Going to school council is a good way to find out what is going on in the school and support teachers and principals. Fundraising is not the main purpose of school councils. Other parent councils suggested making the jobs really easy – ie how to manuals.

9. Casino Update

Casino happened February 12/13, 2025. We made \$35 in tips. GPV has already applied for the next casino license. Parent council agrees to summer and Christmas Day being blackout periods.

10. Band Association Update

Grade 8 and 9 bands attended the Calgary International Band Festival and were able to receive feedback from international adjudicators. Feedback was very positive, particularly around behaviour/professionalism. Grade 8 band camp is coming up in a month. Grade 7 band camp is coming up at the end of April. Band Association has spent their previous casino funds. They have ~\$20,000 in the general account and \$11,000 in GICs for "emergency funds". Likely to need more instruments next year.

11. Fundraising

Coco Brooks fundraiser raised \$1074. Friday, March 7 is the pick up day. We won't have access to the cafeteria freezer this year, so hoping parents will all pick up their orders. A message will be sent out to remind everyone of the pickup.

Next year, we will try to do Coco Brooks in the spring and the fall in future years.

12. New Business

Motion to approve expenditure of \$3500 from the casino fund for alterations to and expansion of the gym sound system. In the event we are able to source local with no more than a 30% price increase, additional funds are approved. Motion by Stephanie M, seconded by Dawna M. Motion Approved.

Motion to approve expenditure of \$500 from the casino fund for “kick bands” for student desks. In the event we are able to source local with no more than a 30% price increase, additional funds are approved. Motion by Travis M, seconded by Stephanie M. Motion Approved.

Discussed the possibility of investing some of the casino funds that are not expected to be used in the short term. Suggest we look at typical annual casino expenditures so we can forecast expenditures and have an idea of what we won’t need. Need to understand what are the investment options. Has to be a guaranteed certificate. Discussion to continue at the April meeting.

Discussed the fall festival

13. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn by Travis M, seconded by Stacey M; approved

Meeting adjourned at 9:11pm

Next Meeting: April 29, 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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