

MEETING MINUTES – GP VANIER SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Date: April 29, 2025

Location: Hybrid (both in-person and virtual)

Attendees In-Person:

Farouk G
Joy P

Chad A*
Christina W

Matthew C*

Cindy C*

Attendees On-line/Virtual:

Travis M
Jerome P

Stphanie M
Zee

Murray E*
Leita B

Tanis J

*Vanier Staff

Agenda Items

1. Called to Order 7:02 pm
2. Welcome and Housekeeping – Welcome by Farouk G (Chair)
3. Motion to Approve Agenda by Christina, seconded by Jerome; approved .
4. Motion to Approve Meeting Minutes by Leita B, seconded by Travis M; approved
5. Principal's Report (Chad Edmonds, principal)

Update on sound system request made in February. Have reached out to Long & McQuade. Purchased Bose S1 Pro. L&M encouraged us to consider a wifi mixer. Can be run from devices like phones or Chromebooks. The proposed mixer has 12 inputs, which will give us more opportunities in the future. There is also a Gator box which is shock and weather resistant to storing the mixer and has a drawer to hold supplies. Had originally wanted to replace microphones with new while still keeping existing receivers. However receivers are generations behind, so L&M recommended replacing both microphone and receiver. Original request was \$1,263. From L&M, comes out to \$2,153 with no microphones, \$2,622 with one new wireless microphone, and \$3,091 for two new wireless microphones. Q: Can we confirm that our existing microphones work with the system? A: Current microphone was high end when purchased, the microphone is good.

Motion to increase previously approved budget for sound system from \$3500 plus 30% to \$4,200 plus \$1,000 for wireless microphone options if required. Moved by Stephanie M. Seconded by Christina.

School development plan updates: Intent to look at students below grade level and help them improve. There was a huge improvement in students below grade level in Math and English Language Arts. Connections between students have improved. Only 28 students feel isolated, many are new to Vanier and may not have English as a first language. 82% of students feel they have a trusted adult in the school they can go to.

North French elementary schools sent out a survey monitoring the French program. Cindy C looking for a community member to be part of the French program monitoring committee. Farouk and Christina volunteered. Likely meet every six to eight weeks or so.

Next year GPV will be at capacity. Student numbers have doubled in the last five years. GPV has been designated as a school needing portables. Also still looking at adding walls within the school for additional spaces.

Wishlist updates:

All of the wishlist items from last month have been ordered.

Murray E. was present to present new requests for CTF

Skis have been purchased, a room in the shop is going to be used to store them.

Would like a couple of busses to be subsidized for field trips – this will be added to the 2025/2026 school year bus request.

2 adventure medical kits are needed for outdoor ed, \$300

CTF sewing program would like additional sewing machines – 3 x Janome HD 5000, 3 x \$575.

CTF Construction – jointer is outdated, would like funds to purchase a new one. It will be quieter. \$2850.

CTF Construction - \$1500 to restock and replenish the hand tool inventory.

Display for Learning & Literacy – There are students at GPV with severe reading disabilities. Requesting a 27” screen which would live on a desk and be more discreet. A Smart Board is currently being used, but students feel self-conscious using it. \$900

Drama group would like some portable lights. \$3000

Chad visited King George School and spoke to students, they are very interested in getting involved in sports, clubs, and extra curriculars.

6. Treasurer’s Report

General Account Balance is \$3,226. Coco Brooks cheque (\$1074) has not been deposited yet.

Casino Account Balance is \$58,895. Funds from the next casino are expected by May 2025. \$26,000 in expenditures have been approved but have not all come out of the casino account yet. Deadline to spend funds in the casino account is May 2026. New casino funds from the February 12/13 casino are expected in May.

If we approve everything brought forward today, it will leave approximately \$28,000 in the casino account. Travis notes that as a school, requests tend to be presented between February and June.

7. Key Communicator's Report

There was a meeting last week of the Council of School Councils. All of the school trustees attended and presented what they have been working on. Followed by breakout groups with the trustee from everyone's school. Discussed conditions they are working with. CBE educates 1 of every 6 children in Alberta. The funding model has changed to a two year weighted average. Funding increases will come sooner. Per student funding is just over \$9000 per child. Because of inflation and cost increases, this is still less than they would like to see. Trustees talked a lot about increases in enrollment. 20,000 children have joined CBE since 2022. This is enough to fill 30 new schools. 33 schools are overflowing to other schools. Showed maps of where the new schools are going to be built. A lot of discussion around cafeterias and learning commons being used as classrooms. With proposed new legislation, if a school is sold, the Board will only get the original cost of the land and the provincial government would get the difference. Patricia Bolger reminded attendees that she is available to attend school council meetings.

Council would like to request the trustee attend our May 27 meeting.

8. Casino Update

New casino funds should be coming in soon. GPV has already applied for the next casino license. Parent council agreed to summer and Christmas Day being blackout periods.

9. 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.

10. Band Association

Working on a list of expenses for next year's casino funds. Next week May 5, 7 Grade 9s are going a workshop and outdoor band concert with two other schools. Outdoor concert is open to everyone to attend. Food trucks will be coming. May 14 Grade 7s are going to the Alberta Band Association event in Red Deer. May 21 band students attending open house and talking to incoming students. June 4 end of year band concert.

Biggest band expenses are for trips, instruments, and clinicians. With the school growing, may need to purchase new instruments. Regular expenses are \$10,000 to \$15,000 per year. Not sure if those are all needs, or some nice to haves. Band association to provide an amount that should be reserved from casino funds each year for the band association. Discussed that total being around \$7,500. Band also has designated funds from CBE.

11. Fundraising

Band parent council assisted Grade 9 eastern Canada trip with a 50/50 fundraiser, which is in progress right now. Now that the process is established, should be able to do this again in future.

Thank you to Joy for taking on the Coco Brooks fundraiser, parent council made \$1074. Did pickup on Friday instead of Thursday this time.

12. New Business

Motion to approve expenditure of \$300 for adventure medical kits from the casino fund for the outdoor education program. Motion by Christina W., seconded by Joy P. Motion Approved.

Motion to approve expenditure of \$900 from the casino account for a touch display monitor for the Literacy and Learning program. Motion by Stephanie M, seconded by Christina W. Motion Approved.

Motion to approve expenditure of \$1,500 from the casino fund for hand tools for the CTF Construction program. Motion by Stacey M, seconded by Stephanie M. Motion Approved.

Motion to approve expenditure of \$1,725 from the casino fund for three new sewing machines for the CTF programs sewing programs. Motion by Stephanie M, seconded by Christina W. Motion Approved.

Motion to approve expenditure of \$3,000 from the casino fund for a jointer for CTF Construction to be discussed at May's meeting.

Motion to approve expenditure of \$3,000 from the casino fund for lights for the drama program to be discussed at May's meeting.

13. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:52pm

Next Meeting: June 3, 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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