

## **Georges P. Vanier Junior High School Advisory Council**

### **Meeting Minutes February 22, 2024**

#### ***Attendance:***

Andrea Pugsley-Connell, Principal  
Sheila Lane, Chair/Parent  
Damion Pollard, Vice Principal  
Lynne MacKinnon, Teacher Representative  
Stacie Burrows, Parent Representative, Oldfield Consolidated Elementary  
Heather Hopkins, Community Member  
Lilly Connors, grade 6 student representative  
Josie Luedey, grade 8 student representative

#### ***Regrets:***

Tammy Murray, Vice Principal  
Carolyn Meek, Administrative Assistant  
Erin Donahoe Irwin, Parent Representative Ash Lee Jefferson Elementary  
Angela Rudderham, Parent Representative, Waverley Memorial  
Sarah Silver, Parent Representative, Holland Road  
Jacquie Cohen, Community Member  
Alexander Hann, grade 7 student representative

#### ***Guest Observer:***

Sarah Khan, grade 6 Parent

***1. Call to Order:*** The meeting was called to order at 6:12 pm by Shelia Lane.

***2. Introductions:*** The committee and guests introduced themselves.

***3. Approval of Agenda:*** Approved by Stacie Burrows, seconded by Damion Pollard.

***4. Approval of Minutes November 16, 2023:*** Approved by Stacie Burrows, seconded by Damian Pollard.

***5. Business arising from the meeting minutes:*** None

#### ***6. Student Representatives Report***

- Lilly Connors, grade 6 student representative reported on school activities. She reported all grade 6's went snowshoeing on the field which was a lot of fun. Guests came to GVP to teach the whole school African dancing and drumming in the cafeteria. Showcase was fun to watch. We are looking forward to the performance "True Colours." We had Spirit Week and are looking forward to the Valentines Day Dance.
- Alexander Hann, grade 7 student representative – This report was deferred as Alex was absent.
- Josie Luedey, grade 8 student representative reported on sports. Badminton tryouts have started, and more tryouts are this Friday. Basketball season is over, and the boys team outcome was close while the girls made it to semi-finals. We are looking forward to flag football, track and field and baseball. For math, there has been 2 Caribou Math Contests.

## ***7. Report from Administration***

### Staffing & Registration

- Staffing update - Grade 6 Mr. Jones continues to share with Mrs. Robertson in class 607. We are currently looking at staffing for 2024-2025.
- Registration data determines class numbers and program requirements drives staffing decisions.
- Prospective Grade 6 Student Registration: We have presented band and GPV information to each Elementary feeder school to all students in grade 5. We hosted a welcome to GPV evening meeting for families of grade 5 and we offered tours of the modular. We have sent welcome packages with program information to all the grade 5 students to ensure we have students in the correct selections. Our band teacher has visited each feeder school for instrument instruction.
- Current Grade 6 Student Registration: We have met with all grade 6 students. Mrs. Murray/ Mr. Pollard presented program options to grade 6 students and program information went home. We also hosted a late FI session to families, and it was well attended.
- Current Grade 7 Students - We sent home program information forms to grade 7 students.
- Current Grade 8 Students - We sent home communication from Lockview and assisted with online PowerSchool registration for all grade 8 students. Mrs. Meek has supported all students in getting their passwords to facilitate the online registration. We have invited Lockview to do presentations for our current grade 8 students.

### African Heritage Month

- We kicked off celebrations with an African Dance and Drumming group who led a workshop for all our students. Teachers continue to incorporate culturally relevant pedagogy lessons into their curriculum. We had a school wide bulletin board incentive for each homeroom to participate. The focus was learning about and celebrating African Heritage in NS. Daily announcements were made highlighting NS African History Facts. The front bulletin board display highlighted William Hall, this year's Heritage Day Honouree.

### Extra Curricular at GPVJH

- Sports – Badminton season is underway, and we are just finishing our Basketball season. We are also exploring a ski team. A huge thank you to all of our coaches.
- True Colours Play – We will be performing a school play this year. More details to follow.
- Showcase 2024 was a huge success. Many thanks to Mr. Crawford for his work to highlight the many talents of our GPV students.
- Spirit Week – Activities included: scavenger hunt, baby pictures/guess the staff member, dress-up days, prizes, bulletin board challenges, and more.

### PD Nov – Feb.

- Teachers were provided PD on our new Integrated Learning theme Sustainability (January)
- Teachers received PD on Three Braids, African Heritage curriculum integration and the Physically Active Policy.

### Student Success Plan:

*Literacy Goal: To improve student's achievement in writing, with a focus on generating and developing ideas.*

- There continues to be on-going meetings with Literacy team to discuss students whom are meeting grade-level expectations and who needs support.

*Numeracy Goal: To improve student achievement in the application of number sense and operations.*

- HRCE Math Coaching - We have applied for a math coach for grade 6 and for grade 7 and 8. In grade 6 the coach would work on Fluency with the Grade 6 team.
- We have been supporting our goals in math to put student success. All schools with Grade 8 have a Regional Math goal which states, “All grade 8 math students will meet expectations in Mathematics.” To facilitate this, Principals lead the math Professional Learning Communities to support short cycle planning to discuss teaching strategies and support provided to *all* students. We also built support for students not meeting grade level expectations in grade 8 math.
- Mrs. Pugsley-Connell has collaborated with the Math Coordinator, Alicia Potvin, to map out next steps for students in Grade 6-8 math. Mrs. Potvin has shared Professional Development resources for Fluency in Grade 6 math and have scheduled upcoming meetings with the Grade 8 Math team to examine and support current teaching goals of math conferencing with Grade 8 Math students who are not meeting grade-level expectations in math. The Resource team is also supporting in classrooms with Tier 1 support and student conferencing. We are working with two HRCE lead teams.

*Wellness Goal: To improve student wellness.*

- Students have had presentations on how to improve our well-being and attacks on identity. START posters in French and English are posted throughout the school.
- A GPV Diversity Team is forming to address issues related to racism and gender issues.
- Grade 6 Mind-up Initiative which focuses on social-emotional issues is underway.
- Guidance has been working on a lesson involving a “Well-Being Wheel” with students.

#### **8. Finance**

- The Budget we received is \$5667.00 (\$1 per student plus \$5000) this year for the SAC to determine their spending.
- After ideas were presented and discussed, the committee was in consensus that the funds are to be spent on a GVP Viper Mascot and the remainder of the monies to be spent on Chromebooks.

**9. New Business** – No new business to report.

**10. Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 pm. The next SAC meeting will be May 9, 2024. Our last SAC meetings for the year will be June 6 (pending).

Note: The committee’s SAC meetings for the 2023-2024 academic year are as follows: September 14, October 19, November 16, February 22, May 9, and June 6 (pending)