

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

### **Meeting Minutes March 27, 2025**

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

Andrea Pugsley-Connell, Principal  
Damion Pollard, Vice Principal  
Justin Deveau, Acting Vice Principal  
Heather Hopkins, Chair/Parent  
Lynne MacKinnon, Teacher Representative  
Erin Donahoe Irwin, Parent Representative, Ash Lee Jefferson Elementary  
Stacie Burrows, Parent Representative, Oldfield Consolidated Elementary  
Sheila Lane, Community Member, Past Chair

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

Meg Douglas, Teacher Representative  
Carolyn Meek, Administrative Assistant  
Angela Rudderham, Parent Representative, Waverley Memorial  
Sarah Silver, Parent Representative, Holland Road  
Austin Mader grade 6 co-student representative  
Tessa Mitchell, grade 6 co-student representative  
Lilly Connors, grade 7 student representative  
Alexander Hann, grade 8 student representative

***1. Call to Order:*** The meeting was called to order at 6:07 pm by Heather Hopkins.

***2. Introductions:*** There were no introduction.

#### ***3. Approval of Agenda:***

Approved Sheila Lane by and seconded by Justin Deveau.

#### ***4. Approval of Minutes January 16, 2025:***

Approved by Sheila Lane, seconded by Stacie Burrows.

#### ***5. Business arising from the meeting minutes:***

- The committee reviewed proposals from three from photographers. After discussion the committee agreed by consensus to renew the contract with Photomaster Studios.

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

Grade 6, 7, 8 student representatives reports: The members were not present to provide a report.

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

SSP/Academics – Report cards and IPP report cards have been distributed electronically. RWM6 reports have been distributed to parents/guardians. Math teachers continue to meet to discuss student progress and to set new goals. We are pleased to welcome Literacy Coach, Angie Horne who will support our students in reaching our literacy goals for the remainder of the year. For

student wellness, the Equity Team presented to all students on inclusion. The goals were as a direct result of the Student Success Survey.

Staff update - Justin Deveau has joined our admin team as acting Vice Principal and has successfully completed the ASAP program. Ms. Murphy, Learning Centre, will be out for the remainder of the year and Mr. Ghani will be in her place. Mr. Callahan will be in for Mr. Deveau for math.

PD Update – Violent Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) training was received by Andrea, Damion, Justin and Ron. This training is geared toward evaluating and taking preventative safety measures. Teachers have received training on Universal Design for Learning (UDL). The guiding principle of UDL is with firm goals, all students have the means to experience success.

Registration – 2025-2026 Registration has been completed. Many thanks to Ms. Meek for her assistance. Our admin team made many personal phone calls to ensure correct placements were made for each student bound for Lockview next year.

Presentations – African Heritage Month: Keante Beals spoke to all grade 6's on his book titled, I Am Brave. Students participated in a performance from an African Nova Scotian band and storytelling group. We had daily trivia announcements on African Canadian History and a daily message of Black Excellence was read on the announcements daily. The grade 7's attended a field trip to Africville and the Grade 8's went to Pier 21. Mr. Merrick spoke to several grade 7 social studies students about Nora Bernard, the honouree for Heritage Day.

School Community – There will be a school dance on April 17 (following the SAC meeting). GPV hosted a wonderful Showcase performance from a wide variety and inclusive set of students. Many thanks to Mr. Crawford and GPV staff for his leadership and dedication to Showcase. GPV had a fun and lively spirit week prior to March Break where classes participated for points (staff toddler pictures, scavenger hunt, dressing (sports, for example) competition for a chance to win a class pizza party, ice-cream or treats. Many thanks to Ms. Arsenault and Ms. Kelly for running these events. We have worked with Constable Turco who presented about online safety.

Sports – In sports, GPV's ski team, basketball team and badminton teams have been successful this year. Many thanks to the coaches who volunteer to run these sports for our students: Mr. Arsenault, Ms. J. Ferguson, Mr. Hanlon, Mme Peverill, Mr. Callagan and Mr. Crawford.

#### **8. Finance –**

- Action items from last meeting: spending highlights from SAC Innovation Fund were previously distributed from SAC chair to the committee as well as hard copies passed out. Andrea sent out an email to staff for their ideas for Literacy, Math or Wellbeing and brought forth results to the meeting. The committee has \$5 667 dollars this year.
- Ideas considered consisted of a heavy metal structure, an art installation, Chromebooks/mice/earphones, and two different literacy programs. After consideration and discussion of each idea, the committee decided with consensus to spend the SAC funds on the literacy program called UFLI Phonics & Literacy Program and the remaining money to be used toward Chromebooks and accessories.

#### **9. New Business –** none at this time

**10. Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 7:00. The next SAC meeting will be April 17, 2025.

Note: The committee's SAC meetings for the 2024 – 2025 academic year are as follows: September 19 October 17 November 21, January 16, February 13 and April 17 (before school dance). All meetings are from 6:00 – 7:00 unless otherwise specified.