

Georges P. Vanier Junior High School Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes April 17, 2025

Attendance:

Andrea Pugsley-Connell, Principal
Damion Pollard, Vice Principal
Justin Deveau, Acting Vice Principal
Lynne MacKinnon, Teacher Representative
Sarah Silver, Parent Representative, Holland Road
Sheila Lane, Community Member, Past Chair
Tessa Mitchell, grade 6 co-student representative
Alexander Hann, grade 8 student representative

Regrets:

Heather Hopkins, Chair/Parent
Meg Douglas, Teacher Representative
Carolyn Meek, Administrative Assistant
Erin Donahoe Irwin, Parent Representative, Ash Lee Jefferson Elementary
Stacie Burrows, Parent Representative, Oldfield Consolidated Elementary
Angela Rudderham, Parent Representative, Waverley Memorial
Austin Mader grade 6 co-student representative
Lilly Connors, grade 7 student representative

1. *Call to Order:* The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by past chair Sheila Lane.

2. *Introductions:* There were no introductions.

3. *Approval of Agenda:*

Approved as by Damion Pollard, seconded by Sarah Silver.

4. *Approval of Minutes March 27, 2025:*

Approved by Damion Pollard, seconded by Justin Deveau.

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

6. *Student Representatives Report*

Grade 6 student representatives – Tessa wondered why the School’s Plus room is not always open at lunch hour. Ms. Pugsley-Connell explained that the School’s Plus staff create their own hours and work at more than one site, this means that they are not always at GPV. Also, they sometimes have specialized groups that they work with such as “Girls Group” which consists of a group of girls selected by student support staff.

Grade 7 & 8 student representatives – Alex reported on the garbage bins to help to manage waste on school property and the clubs that are currently active at GVP.

7. Report from Administration

SSP/Academics –

- For student wellness, the Equity Team presented to all students on inclusion. The goal was as a direct result of the Student Success Survey which is *“To create a more inclusive environment where students feel welcome.”* We know that students are more empowered to voice their thoughts in a safe and inclusive way when they feel safe.
- Universal Design for Learning - Andrea serves on the lead team for HRCE. UDL is a provincial initiative. Her role is to work with the team to facilitate training for administrators within HRCE. At the recent staff meeting, Mr. Pollard and Mr. Deveau led professional development with staff with the goal to increasing student engagement and creating activities that are engaging, exciting and student centered to increase student motivation while meeting the diverse needs of all students.
- Math & Literacy – Students are preparing for Provincial Math and Literacy assessments to take place the week of May 27-30. We are looking at retrieval of fact fluency, looking at literacy and success criteria and persuasive writing. Grade 8 math data suggest students did well on their performance on level 1 type tasks but struggled with retrieval of past learned concepts. We are focused on the looking at grade 6 and 7 lessons and explicitly teaching the concepts. We recently used class data to determine where the students were at and based on these results created our own teaching and testing materials. Also, we have invested in math competitions to promote a math learning culture within GPV. It is an expectation that students will meet grade level expectations with a 70% accuracy for all students in math. In literacy, Angie Horne, Literacy Consultant with the HRCE has been implementing the literacy program UFLI Phonics & Literacy and guiding teachers. She will be at GPV as a literacy coach from now to June. PLC teams have been organized to meet weekly for math and bi-weekly for literacy. For grade 6, Damion leads a fact fluency and meets regularly with grade 6 teachers as well as facilitates PD with grade 6 staff.

Indigenous Learning - Elder Marlene came to make traditional Luski.

Food Expo. - The grade 8s will participate and facilitate in a food expo in May which promotes supporting the local community. This is part of their grade 8 integrated curriculum studies. A Healthy Food grant of \$1 500 has been awarded to Ms. Pugsley-Connell for GPVJH which promotes healthy food choices and supports the local community. For the food expo, local food supplier such as the Vegetorium (fruit and vegetables) and Withrows (meat) will provide food to support the event. Extending past nutrition month until May students will be analyzing examples of recipes to investigate supporting local and meeting nutritional needs. This is part of an on-going project for grade 8s where they work on creating inquiry questions and is integrated with language arts. This project has been funded by the grant.

Band – Our spring concert will be on May 27. On the upcoming band trip, there will be concerts performing at 2 school and students will participate in a learning exchange. The SAC agreed by consensus to consenting to a band trip for the 2025-2026 academic year.

Registration – 2025-2026 registration has been completed.

Sports – In sports, badminton, rugby, track and field are underway

End of the year dance – We will host a celebration for grade 8’s leaving GPV at a dance. We have purchased decorations from Balloon Boyz, a photobooth and the DJ. The dance is only for GVP grade 8 students.

Class Configuration - Preliminary numbers were shared.

Public Health - Immunization for grade 7 students will be May 12 and led by Public Health. Absent student date of May 14 and pick up date for those that missed.

8. Finance –

SAC Funds – As directed by SAC, we have allocated \$2 000 towards UFLI Phonics & Literacy Program \$2000 for literacy, Ms. Pugsley doubled the amount to support literacy. Five Chromebooks have been purchased from SAC funds.

School Funds - Ms. Pugsley-Connell reported that she subsidized school trips with the grant per grade as week as, paid for the trip to Pier 21, paid for speaker Kente Beals, and paid for all African drumming. A science trip has been subsidised. In physical education, equipment was purchased to support students with mobility requirements to be inclusive for all students. Another 10 Chromebooks have been purchased with school funds (not including the 5 from SAC funds).

Mascot - \$1 200 has been spent however we have not received the mascot. The manufacturer is looking at tracking and Ms. Pugsley-Connell has been in correspondence with the company.

Book Bureau - Provincial funds were provided to the school for education materials. Together, admin, Mrs. MacKinnon and the literacy coach selected materials that support our SSP and promote inclusion and diversity in our school.

French Program Field Trip 7 & 8 – Students in the French program are going to a field trip and are looking for fundraising opportunities. School fees are not eligible to be used as the trip does not support the whole student body, but rather a portion. Students declined if they did not want to go overnight.

Student Fees (2005-2026) – There was discussion regarding student fees for next year and in today’s climate the belief of the committee is that education should be as accessible as possible and one way to achieve this is to lower parent/guardian fee.

Action item: *The committee discussed student fees for the 2025-2026 academic year and agreed by consensus GPV would not charge families student fees.*

SAC Report – Ms. Pugsley-Connell will complete the SAC report and forward to the chair for her to sign off.

9. New Business –

Review of SAC committee composition for 2025-2026 – The committee reviewed the current SAC membership. The following members have agreed to serve for the 2025-2026 academic year: Heather Hopkins (Chair and Parent Waverley Rep.), Sheila Lane (Community Member/Past Chair), Sarah Silver (Parent Rep. Holland Road), and Lynne MacKinnon (Teacher Rep./Secretary). Notes: they will only be 1 student representative from each grade level next year and there will only be one parent representative from each feeder school and as such, Heather Hopkins will be both the chair and the parent representative from Waverley.

Action item: *Ms. Pugsley-Connell will inquire with members to confirm SAC Membership for the 2025-2026 academic year.*

Year-end SAC appreciation dinner

Action item – *Ms. Pugsley-Connell will look at dates for the SAC meeting for the 2025-2026 academic year and send them out to the committee.*

10. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 6:40.

Notes:

- The next SAC meeting will be in the fall of 2025 with dates to be communicated to SAC committee members when the 2025-2026 calendar is finalized.
- The committee’s SAC meetings for the 2024 – 2025 academic year were as follows: September 19, October 17, November 21, January 16, March 27 and April 17, 2025. The SAC committee met 6 times in the 2024-2025 school year.