

Georges P. Vanier Junior High School Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes January 16, 2025

Attendance:

Andrea Pugsley-Connell, Principal
Damion Pollard, Vice Principal
Justin Deveau, Acting Vice Principal
Heather Hopkins, Chair/Parent
Lynne MacKinnon, Teacher Representative
Stacie Burrows, Parent Representative, Oldfield Consolidated Elementary
Sarah Silver, Parent Representative, Holland Road
Angela Rudderham, Parent Representative, Waverley Memorial
Sheila Lane, Community Member, Past Chair
Austin Mader grade 6 co-student representative
Tessa Mitchell, grade 6 co-student representative

Regrets:

Meg Douglas, Teacher Representative
Carolyn Meek, Administrative Assistant
Erin Donahoe Irwin, Parent Representative, Ash Lee Jefferson Elementary
Lilly Connors, grade 7 student representative
Alexander Hann, grade 8 student representative

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by Heather Hopkins.

2. Introductions: The committee introduced themselves.

3. Approval of Agenda:

Added to new business:

- a) clarification of SAC roles/requirements, role of the public observer regarding the by-laws/agenda
- b) French immersion blending within HRCE and province

Approved as amended by Sheila Lane and seconded by Damion Pollard.

4. Approval of Minutes November 21, 2024:

Approved by Sheila Lane, seconded by Damion Pollard.

5. Business arising from the meeting minutes: The status of the Mascot will be discussed in Finance.

6. Student Representatives Report

Grade 6 student representatives – Austin came as an observer this meeting. A question was posed to Austin about the supervision of hallways, and he reported he had no concerns. Tessa inquired about the removal of lamps in classrooms. The Fire Marshall has outlined parameters to ensure safety in the schools which must be followed. However, there has been an amendment to the Fire Marshall's directive outlining the criteria of lamps. Teachers can now have 2 approved lamps that meet criteria.

Grade 7 & 8 student representative - The members were not present to provide a report.

7. Report from Administration

Staff update - Justin Deveau has joined our admin team as acting Vice Principal and has joined the ASAP program and training.

PD Update - UDL/MTSS – Training to start January 29, 2025

Registration – 2025-2026 Registration has begun. Our VP's have spoken to all grade 6 classes regarding their options for grade 7. Guidance counselors have been to the feeder schools to provide information and registration forms. Registration forms for current grades 6 and 7 have been sent home. Our current grade 8's will receive information from Lockview in approximately Feb./March. New this year – current grade 6 and 7 students have the option of taking band or another elective.

Equity Team/Disrupting Inequity – Staff received PD on Jan. 15 from the VP's. Our Equity team will be presenting to students soon. The goals were as a direct result of the Student Success Survey.

Upcoming Presentations – We are looking at booking speakers for African Heritage Month. Communication to be sent home shortly.

School Community – GPV tradition of Reindeer Games were a big hit with the students. We ran a highly successful Lions Club food drive with many donations going back into the community. Classrooms with the highest donated amount won a prize of ice-cream cake per grade level. GPV had two spirit weeks, one for staff and one for students/staff.

8. Finance – We received correspondence \$5000 plus \$1 per student. The committee discussed ideas on ways to spend the money. Sarah recommended asking teachers and Andrea will facilitate. Heather shared ideas from other SAC's she received from the SAC training she attended.

Action Item - Heather will send ideas via email to the committee.

Action Item – Andrea to ask teachers their ideas of how to spend the SAC funds.

Greenhouse – Andrea was approved for grant of \$5000 to build a greenhouse, however, finding a contractor has been challenging. Tessa recommended contacting Gerald Mitchell Contracting.

Mascot - Andrea and Lynne will look into ordering a mascot this month.

9. New Business –

Clarification of SAC roles/requirements, role of the public observer regarding the by-laws & agenda – Andrea reported development of the bylaws are set in a Provincial manner and all SAC's have a duty to follow them. No school is permitted to change the SAC by-laws. It was confirmed that observers may attend SAC meetings as observers. Non-members may bring items forward to any SAC member for an item to be added to the minutes. There is no requirement to post the meeting agenda digitally. All members receive a copy of the agenda prior to the meeting.

French immersion blending within HRCE and province of NS - Andrea inquired at the Centre and reported there are many different French Immersion programs such as late, early, transitional, etc. across the province. Province-wide, there is a slow decline in student enrollment in the various French programs. Centres across the regions have initiated different approaches to accommodate the decline such as blending or combining grade 7/8 in one classroom. HRCE determines the program for schools and schools do not make the decisions directly.

10. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 6:55. The next SAC meeting will be Jan. 16, 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 meeting are from 6:00 – 7:00 unless otherwise specified.