

Approved February 26, 2026

Georges P. Vanier Junior High School Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes January 15, 2026

Attendance:

Heather Hopkins, Chair/Parent, Waverley Parent Representative
Andrea Pugsley-Connell, Principal
Damion Pollard, Vice Principal
Justin Deveau, Acting Vice Principal
Carolyn Meek, Administrative Assistant
Lynne MacKinnon, Teacher Representative, Secretary
Sheila Lane, Community Member, Past Chair
Katelyn Young, Parent Representative, Ash Lee Jefferson Elementary
Stacie Burrows, Parent Representative, Oldfield Consolidated Elementary

Regrets:

Sarah Silver, Piper F., Zendaya C., Marshall H. (student representatives)

Guest Observers: none

- 1. Call to Order:*** The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm by Heather Hopkins.
- 2. Approval of Agenda dated January 15:*** Approved as presented by Sheila Lane and seconded by Damon Pollard.
- 3. Introductions:*** Katelyn Young was welcomed as the new parent representative for Ash Lee Jefferson Elementary. The committee and guests introduced themselves.
- 4. Approval of Minutes for October 9, 2025:*** Approved by Damion Pollard and seconded by Sheila Lane.
- 5. Business arising from the meeting minutes:*** none

6. Student Representatives Report–The student reps were not in attendance

7. Report from Administration

SAC Committee – Katelyn Young has taken the role as Parent Representative for Ash Lee Jefferson as the previous representative had stepped down. Thank you to Katelyn for expressing interest in this role as she was the only parent/guardian from Ash Lee Jefferson to express interest.

Student Success Plan/Professional Development –

Well-being was the focus of today's update. Literacy and Math will be reported upon at the next meeting. Mr. Pollard and Mrs. MacKinnon gave a presentation to SAC to update them on the work being done at GPV to improve student well-being at GPV. This work took place during ILT (Integrated Learning Time) in the classrooms for students in grades 7 and 8. Mr. Pollard has been working with the grade 6 teachers on student well-being. The presentation consisted of sharing student work and outlining work done to date and future projects. Discussions were had which included how our work is guided by student survey information and follows an inquiry-based approach to learning. GPV has collaborated with our TILT (Technology Integration Leadership Team) at HRCE and with the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism & Heritage in a project called, "Selecting Our Future Nominees." At the conclusion of this project, students will complete an inquiry project called "Carnival Games" which will be integrated with math.

Program Learning Assessment for Nova Scotia (PLANS) - The RWM6 assessments results have been sent to schools and teachers have been contacting parents/guardians and reviewing results. On January 19, the reports will be sent to the parents/guardians digitally.

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Staff Update – We welcome our new grade 7 teacher, Charles Sterns, for the French Immersion program. Mr. Sterns will be at GPV until the end of the year.

Registration 2026-2027 – Registration packages have been delivered to our feeder elementary schools. Mr. Pollard will be visiting all schools to discuss GPV student life and the different programs offered, for example, band and French immersion. Registration is currently underway and our registration is crucial because our staffing and budget are decided based on registration. When students register, they are committed to the program they select and there is no possibility for changes after the registration.

Grade 6 Registration – Mr. Pollard and Mr. Nugent have presented to all current grade 6 students. Mrs. MacLean will go next week to give more information about Late French Immersion. Registration forms are due by Feb. 6, 2026. Reminder that registering for Band and French Immersion are a full year commitment as staffing is based on this decision and request transfer programs are unable to be accommodated. We are holding a Late immersion Information Night on Feb. 5, 2026 at 7:30 pm in the cafeteria.

Grade 7 Registration - Students were given registration forms early in January. Forms are due Feb. 6, 2026. Reminder that registering for Band and French Immersion is a full year commitment as staffing is based on this decision and request transfer programs are unable to be accommodated.

Grade 8 Registration - Lockview High School representatives will visit GPV to assist Grade 8 students with entering their registration preferences online. We do not yet have a date when Lockview will be at GPV.

School Field Trips –

French Immersion Trip- There will be a French immersion (grade 8) trip to New Brunswick which costs \$800 per student. GPV will host a Chili Supper Night in support of the French Immersion Trip. The cost is \$15.00. No tickets will be sold in advance - just show up at Vanier between 4 - 6:00pm, Located in the school cafeteria on January 29, 2026.

Band Trip - We are trying to reduce price of band trip for students and held a gift card fundraiser which raised \$1550. Music bingo was a fantastic fundraiser and the jackpot was \$600. A canteen will be offered at the next bingo night. The silent auction at Shooters (November 21) was a big success. The band went on a field trip to Wicked 2 in December.

Upcoming fundraisers - On March 3, we are hosting a trivia night. On April 15, we are hosting a music bingo. Chili dinner on January 29.

School Dessert Theatre called “Cupid on Strike” - Students, teachers and Halifax Regional Arts (HRA) have been working hard to prepare for three performances. Tickets will go on sale on Feb. 2nd, 2026. Tickets will be on sale for \$15 in the main office and online. Performance One is 6:00 pm Feb 11, 2026, Performance Two is 9:30 am on Feb 12, 2026 and Performance Three is 6:00 pm on Feb. 12, 2026. Many thanks to Mme. Cataford and Mme. LeBlanc for their time and commitment to the school musical.

Honouring our school drum - We were pleased to have Muin from the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre to work with all our grade 6 students alongside Mr. Merrick. Students had a chance to play our new school drum. Muin will be visiting our grade 7 and 8 classes at a later date.

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Sackville Library Partnership – The Sackville Library has been hosting a monthly “pop up” at GPV to encourage more teens to borrow books. There are themes for the month. Students can borrow for the month. The librarian is setting up students with library cards. Our next pop up is Feb. 17, 2026.

Department of Labour & WCB – GPV took part of a 3-person panel visit which consisted of a walk-through, looking through documentation, and interviewing staff to gauge our level of understanding of workplace safety. Mr. Deveau has taken a leadership role with the JOHSC. Our feedback so far is that Vanier staff want to do well to ensure a safe workplace. We will receive a report and respond to recommendations.

Nova Scotia School Lunch program – The program is working well. We encourage parents/guardians to register online. GPV orders an extra 40-120 lunches a day. The committee discussed ways to encourage more families to order such as creating kiosks at various school/community events.

SAC Conference – The SAC conference was November 28 and Andrea was in attendance and provided a report.

Professional Development

Technology - Laura Kennedy a member of TILT worked 1:1 with some staff in areas targeted at increasing the incorporation of technology into the curriculum. For example, literacy and AI programs.

Workplace Violence Training – Staff have completed a Violence in the Workplace training modular from HRCE.

Reindeer Games – Mr. Hanlon...organized another fun Reindeer Games this year for our students. Many thanks to Mr. Hanlon

Cooking Brigade – Our student chefs have made a sizable donation to Lions club as they made 150 litres of soup to the food bank.

SAC Meeting Update - There was a missed meeting, and a replacement meeting has been June 4, 2026.

8. Finance: We received \$5665 Spending must be related to supporting student success in literacy/math when received. This item will be added to the February SAC agenda.

9. New Business: none

10. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 7:00.

Notes: The committee’s SAC meetings for the 2025–2026 year are as follows: September 18, October 9, November 13 (cancelled), January 15, February 26, April 16, May 21 and June 4. All meetings are from 6:00-7:00.