Georges P. Vanier Junior High School Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes October 9, 2025

Attendance:
Heather Hopkins, Chair/Parent
Andrea Pugsley-Connell, Principal
Damion Pollard, Vice Principal
Justin Deveau, Acting Vice Principal
Carolyn Meek, Administrative Assistant
Lynne MacKinnon, Teacher Representative, Secretary
Sarah Silver, Parent Representative, Holland Road
Sheila Lane, Community Member, Past Chair
Guest Observers:
Katelyn Young (parent), Toni Martin (parent)
Regrets:
Stacie Burrows, Parent Representative, Oldfield Consolidated Elementary
Erin Donahoe Irwin, Parent Representative, Ash Lee Jefferson Elementary
Student representatives: Piper F., Zendaya C., Marshall H.

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by Heather Hopkins.

2. Approval of Agenda dated October 9, 2025: Approved as presented by Sarah Silver and seconded by Sheila Lane.

3. Introductions: The committee and guests introduced themselves.

4. Approval of Minutes for September 18, 2025*:* Approved by Damion Pollard and seconded by Carolyn Meek.

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

6. Student Representatives Report–The student reps are Piper F.(6) Zendaya C.(7), Marshall H. (8).

7. Report from Administration
Audio/Video Recordings of SAC Meetings - As an SAC we do not consent to be recorded during this meeting.
Staff Update – Paige Saulnier will be filling in as our librarian. Jill LeBlanc was hired as a 100% term until the end of July because of the formation of the new class.
Student Success Plan/Professional Development – On the September 25 professional development day, we worked on our school SSP goals. Justin Deveau led the wellbeing team. Damion led fact fluency with grade 6 teachers. Fluency is also a focus un 7 & 8 during the first 5 minutes of class as related to the upcoming lesson. We are one of the only schools using this strategy as a school to improve fluency. We desegrated our data from ANS and Indigenous students and these populations are at par with the student body at GPV. Ms. Pugsley-Connell reviewed provincial scores for literacy and math for GVP and compared them to the Regional Centre and Province. Math teachers meet weekly to make math plans, discuss who is not meeting grade-level outcomes and allocate services to those students. In literacy, boys are struggling to perform in reading and writing compared to girls. The afternoon session of the PD was designated for teachers to work on student services.
Program Learning Assessment for Nova Scotia (PLANS) - The RWM6 assessments were completed.
Report Cards - Report cards will be sent electronically Nov. 27. Progress meetings will be Dec. 4.

EMO – We need to work on fire drills regarding students lining up quietly all in queue. Our workplace EMO plan has been submitted and distributed to all staff. Staff emails have been removed from the website to reduce cyber threats on staff.
Sackville Library Partnership – The Sackville Library will host a "pop up" in the playground to encourage more teens involved in borrowing books. The committee discussed the Libby app.
Firefighter Donation – The Fall River Firefighters donated donuts for World Teacher Day. They also run a 50/50 draw and donated proceeds to our breakfast program in the amount of $3000.00 The breakfast program is open for everyone; it's a grab and go system and students can grab a nutritious food item as they enter the building.
Nova Scotia School Lunch program – The program is working well and there have been no complaints about the food. We order an extra 90 portions a day. Portion sizes are on the small side.
School Field Trips – We have added a French immersion grade trip to New Brunswick. We are trying to reduce price of band trip for students. The band will be going on a field trip to Wicked 2 in December.
School Musical – Auditions for the school musical are in progress. There will be light refreshments offered along with their ticket price. Many thanks to Mme. Cataford and Mme. LeBlanc for their time and commitment to the school musical.
Toastmasters Club – We have begun a student leadership Toastmasters group led Meg Ferguson.
Ecology Club– We have begun an ecology club led by Mrs. Caseley.
Equity team – Our equity team is up and running and is planning a spirit week.
MADD Canada – MADD Canada will be presenting to our gr.8 students on preventing substance abuse.
NSTU Conference Day – NSTU is hosting the annual Teacher Conference Day on November 24.
GPVJH Band – Band Camp 2025 was unfortunately cancelled, and we are currently looking for an alternative date. Future fundraising events include a trivia night Jan 8, 2026 bingo (November 6), and silent auction at Shooters (November 21) which includes a gift card raffle. The craft sale has over 70 vendors and is a wonderful family and community event which draws in alumni, current students, and staff. There are several students and staff members who will be vendors.
French Program – The French Immersion program is hosting a chili supper to fundraise.
SAC Conference – The SAC conference is November 28 and our chair is looking for a representative from SAC to attend on her behalf to attend. Andrea has sent an email to open it up to any SAC member.
Mi'kmaq History Month – Activities include weekly quizzes, Treaty Day pins for staff, Mi'kmaw posters throughout the school, ILT land acknowledgement lesson and teachers are incorporated Mi'kmaq studies and Treaty education within the curriculum.
Pumpkin Carving Contest – We will be having a staff pumpkin carving contest at the end of the month. This event encourages friendly competition amongst staff, and each student can vote.
Remembrance Day – We are currently looking into booking a guest speaker. We have worked to purchase poppies and order Remembrance Day lessons/material for each student.

8. Finance: Spending must be related to support student success in literacy/math when received.

9. New Business: none

10. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 6:42pm.
Notes: The committee's SAC meetings for the 2025–2026 year are as follows: September 18, October 9, November 13, January 15, February 26, April 16 and May 21. All meetings are from 6:00-7:00.