

**Georges P. Vanier Junior High School Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes February 26, 2026**

***Attendance:***

Heather Hopkins, Chair, Parent Representative, Waverley Memorial  
Andrea Pugsley-Connell, Principal  
Damion Pollard, Vice Principal  
Justin Deveau, Vice Principal  
Carolyn Meek, Administrative Assistant  
Lynne MacKinnon, Teacher Representative, SAC Secretary  
Sheila Lane, Community Member, Past Chair  
Sarah Silver, Parent Representative, Holland Road  
Katelyn Young, Parent Representative, Ash Lee Jefferson Elementary

***Regrets:***

Stacie Burrows, Parent Representative, Oldfield Consolidated Elementary  
Student representatives: Piper F., Zendaya C., Marshall H.

***Guest Observers: none***

- 1. Call to Order:*** The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by Heather Hopkins.
- 2. Approval of Agenda dated February 26, 2026:*** Approved by Lynne MacKinnon and seconded by Carolyn Meek.
- 3. Introductions:*** There were no introductions at this time.
- 4. Approval of Minutes for January 15, 2026:*** Approved by Damion Pollard and seconded by Sarah Silver as amended (deletion of a former SAC member who was listed in attendance).
- 5. Business arising from the meeting minutes: none***
- 6. Student Representatives Report***–There was no report as the student reps were not in attendance.

***7. Report from Administration***

**Parent/Guardian Correspondence:** A parent emailed requested minutes to be posted immediately following the meeting. Ms. Pugsley-Connell explained that the minutes needed to be approved by the committee at the following meeting prior to posting. Also, she received an email regarding future positions in SAC. The committee discussed the SAC protocols as outlined by the bylaws when new positions are in need of being filled.

***ACTION ITEM - The committee members will reach out to the various school feeder for potential representatives to fill vacancies for 2026-2027.***

**African History Month** – In celebration of African Heritage Month, on Friday, February 27th, we will be welcoming Trayvone Clayton to our school for a presentation. Trayvone is a passionate advocate for Black culture and heritage, and his work focuses on empowering young people and promoting community engagement. In classrooms, teachers have been integrating Black Excellence within their lessons. Ms. Pugsley-Connell listed several projects, lessons and inquiry-based learning opportunities occurring in the classrooms and around our school community.

Inquiry Based Learning – Ms. MacKinnon presented some examples of inquiry-based learning within social studies and spoke to our school-wide Heritage Day Nomination Project. Admin is working with staff to build our inquiry-based learning knowledge and implementation within classrooms. One examples of inquiry-based learning was that students encouraged our school to reach out to our indigenous community about blessing the drum and having guest speakers that are reflective of their lived experience.

TILT – Laura Kennedy, Technology Integration Teacher, met with some teachers to discuss AI and integrating it into our classrooms. Teachers and students have been exploring different AI programs within the classrooms.

Fundraisers & Events – GPV Trivia night will be March 3 to benefit the French Immersion field trip. The dessert theater was a huge success, and the students exhibited pride and confidence with their three shows that received standing ovations. HRA worked with students with choreography. Becky Lytle wrote the play herself which saved the school a lot of money as purchasing the rights to scripts is expensive.

Sports – The girls basketballs continue to work hard in advancing in their division. The boys did well, however their season has ended. The Ski Team and badminton are currently underway. Many thanks to all the volunteer coaches and especially Mr. Hanlon who is the volunteer athletic director.

Emergency Management – We had a successful lockdown on February 9. The RCMP will be opening a location in the community and are looking for a site. Fall River will be receiving a community RCMP officer.

Kitchen Brigade – Ms. Pugsley-Connell discussed the program and the benefits and skills the students are learning. It was a highly competitive application process and we received many student applications. Students completed a soup making challenge which resulted in 150 litres of soup being donated to the community. To continue the program, Ms. Pugsley-Connell would need to reapply as one-time funding was provided to set up the kitchen.

Staffing– Ms. Justine Fahey is in for Mr. Knightingale. Ms. Alyssa Candelora is in for Ms. Bent.

### ***8. Finance:***

Budget – SAC has received a budget of \$5665. The committee will need to discuss spending. One idea put forward was on technology. The committee discussed inviting the teachers to give ideas. The committee requested Ms, Pugsley-Connell to reach out to teachers for their ideas and feedback. The committee decided that they would be in correspondence via email, if needed, to further discuss spending prior to the next SAC meeting.

***ACTION ITEM** – Ms. Pugsley-Connell will email the teachers to invite them to give ideas for spending the money within the SSP (literacy/math) guidelines.*

**9. New Business:** There was no new business at this time.

**10. Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 6:45. The next meeting will be April 16.

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.