

Georges P. Vanier Junior High School Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes April 16, 2026

Attendance:

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

Regrets:

Carolyn Meek, Administrative Assistant
Sarah Silver, Parent Representative, Holland Road
Student representatives: Piper F., Zendaya C., Marshall H.

Guest Observers: none

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Heather Hopkins.

2. Approval of Agenda dated April 16, 2026: Addition to the agenda of School Photography Services and setting the year-end SAC appreciation meeting. Approval of the agenda as amended by Damion Pollard and seconded by Justin Deveau.

3. Introductions: There were no introductions at this time.

4. Approval of Minutes for February 26, 2026: Approved by Damion Pollard and seconded by Sheila Lane.

5. Business arising from the meeting minutes:

SAC 2026-2027 positions – ***PREVIOUS ACTION ITEM*** *The committee members will reach out to the various feeder schools for potential representatives to fill vacancies for 2026-2027.*

Discussion was held and the following has been agreed upon with consensus. Holly Doyle from Waverley Memorial Elementary has put her name forward. She was the only person who had put her name forward and as a result was welcomed to the SAC. Stacie Burrows will remain as the Oldfield Consolidated Elementary Parent Representative. Katelyn Young will remain the Ash Lee Jefferson Elementary Representative and will also take on the role of SAC Chair. Sheila Lane will continue as the community member and is also a past chair. Damion Pollard, Justin Deveau, Carolyn Meek and Lynne MacKinnon will remain in their current roles. The administration will seek student representatives for the 2026-2027 school year.

SAC Budget Spending ***PREVIOUS 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.* One teacher has replied to the email who indicated that Chromebooks would be beneficial. Ms. Pugsley-Connell has held conversations with both math and literacy teachers within the school about their needs. As a result, she has heavily supported purchased needed for these programs, for example highlighters for

literacy. She has purchased these items already to support the students right away. The committee discussed funding for Chromebooks.

ACTION ITEM: By consensus the SAC budget of \$5665 will be spent on Chromebooks to support students in classrooms.

6. Student Representatives Report—There was no report as the student reps were not in attendance.

7. Report from Administration

Student Success Planning

The committee discussed the new SSP goals and teaching & learning related to the goals.

Literacy Goal – To use questioning to engage students in the writing process, helping them expand ideas with structures like TIDE. These questions can guide small groups or peer conferences to improve writing for its intended purpose.

Well-being Goal -To encourage a culture of student well-being as it relates to the SSP goal. We are asking staff to provide one way they support their own wellbeing. Some teachers have sent their well-being skill to Mr. Nugent or Ms. Cameron and if staff wish, they can contribute their picture. The pictures are transposed into a character and placed a bulletin board in the front lobby. A photo of the bulletin board was shared with the committee.

Mathematics Goal: Focus on reasonableness of answers in reference to multiple choice questions. This will include developing contextual reasoning to determine if an answer makes sense in real-world contexts, expanding estimation skills to determine if their answers seem correct and encouraging students to use inverse operations to verify their answers.

Universal Design for Learning – Our administrative team is focusing on observing UDL in walkthroughs throughout classrooms. Admin is looking for teachers whom provide opportunities/choice for student learning. A handout about UDL representation in classrooms was shared with the SAC.

Grade 8 Testing RWM8 - This year the RWM8 will be online, and students will be using Chromebooks to complete literacy and math assessments. Students will practice using Chromebooks to ensure they are prepared for the assessment. Students will write within their scheduled class with their subject teacher. The results of the RWM8 will guide us as we will analyze the results (lessons learned) and this will help us plan for effective instruction.

Staffing: Welcome to Sarah Redden who is teaching Family Studies and is in for Andrea Gillespie. Welcome Justine Fahey to Grade 6 who is in for Mr. Nightengale. Welcome to Rebecca Boutlier who is in for Jessica Pratt while she is off on maternity leave. Congratulations to Mme. Pratt on the birth of her child.

Indigenous Support - Congratulations to Matthew Merrick for winning the 2026 Education Week Award for teaching excellence.

Black Excellence Day/Month – We are in the process of planning for Black Excellence Day on May 15. Last year, Mr. Smooth came and all students and staff members received a hotdog.

Immunizations – The second set of immunizations for grade 7's will be on May 11, 2026 and the makeup date is May 15.

Sackville Library – The library will be visiting GVPJH April 14.

Fundraisers & Events – We held a Music Bingo Fundraiser (April 13) for the FI trip. This was a great community building event.

Kitchen Brigades - Congratulations to Levi, Malcom, Katherine, and Yehor who competed against 4 other teams from NS at Cole Harbour High for the top prize of a trip to Winnipeg. We did well and the students performed exceptionally well, however, their journey in the competition has ended.

Green Team – The Green team is working on weeding and planning our school gardens.

Fall River Garden Club – The chair from the Fall River Garden Club came to meet with the VP's to discuss the litter near Jamieson Park. Lynne will be working with a team of students to clean up the wooded area between the ball field and Jamieson Park. This group is called the "Community Clean-up Crew." Ms. Pugley-Connell has supported this endeavor by purchasing gloves.

GSA – Mr. Nugent is beginning organization for Pride Week.

Sports – GPV has been involved in rugby, flag football, track and field, and badminton recently.

Emergency Management – We had a successful fire drill on April 9, 2026. The next drills will occur in May and June. We had an audit by the Dept. of Labour and did well. All recommendations have been implemented.

2026-2027 Registration & Staffing– Registration is complete for 2026-2027. We are now working on staffing for next academic year. Trends across the Province were discussed around lower enrollment in the French Immersion programs.

8. Finance:

Budget – As stated above, the SAC budget of \$5665 will be spent on Chromebooks to support students in classrooms.

9. New Business:

Photography – The committee discussed the 3 proposals from 3 photographers.

ACTION ITEM: The committee agreed by consensus that we will use Photomaster and they will receive a one-year contract. Ms. Pugsley-Connell will communicate this with Photomaster.

Year-end SAC appreciation meeting - The committee set the date for year-end SAC appreciation meeting to be May 21 at 6:00 for SAC members.

10. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 The next meeting will be May 21 and will coincide with the SAC appreciation meeting.

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.