

Georges P. Vanier Junior High School Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes May 21, 2026

Attendance:

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

Regrets:

Carolyn Meek, Administrative Assistant
Justin Deveau, Vice Principal
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 6:08 pm by Heather Hopkins.

2. Approval of Agenda dated April 16, 2026: Approval of the agenda by Sheila Lane and seconded by Damion Pollard.

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

4. Approval of Minutes for April 16, 2026: Approved by Heather Hopkins and seconded by Sheila Lane.

5. Business arising from the meeting minutes:

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

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

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

7. Report from Administration

Student Success Planning

Fall River Garden Club – The chair from the Fall River Garden Club sent a thank you card to the team of students who cleaned up the wooded area between the ballfield and Jamieson Park. Ms. Pugsley-Connell supported this endeavor by purchasing gloves.

Nova Scotia School Lunch Program – Ms. Pugsley-Connell continues to order extra hot lunch for our students. She has reached out to the program about increasing the portion sizes. Parents/guardians are encouraged to order hot lunch for their child/ren. The committee discussed the excess packaging and the amount of work our admin team is doing to execution the program.

Breakfast Program – We have nearly spent all of our breakfast program budget. Ms. Pugsley-Connell has requested additional funding to support our students by providing breakfast items for the remainder of the year.

Deputy Minister Letter – Ms. Pugsley-Connell referred to a letter from the Deputy Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development, Tracey Barbrick, about year-end celebrations for non-high schools. Ms. Pugsley-Connell gave an overview of year end plans and stressed that we support an inclusive approach. GPVJH holds an academic breakfast and a sports breakfast for students in grades 6, 7, and 8. These are held during the day within the school. Every student in grade 8 receives a leaving certificate. The grade 8's have a dance and we pay for balloons and fun photos. GPVJH has held dress donation events where dresses are offered to students in need. Also, we pay admission to the dance for students who are in need. Our special needs bus drivers volunteer to pick up our LC students and chauffeur them to school on their buses. Many EPA's volunteer to come to support our students with special needs. *The SAC agreed the way in which GVP holds of our year end ceremonies/events meet the Deputy Ministers directives and have decided to proceed as planned and discussed.*

Listen to Lead Initiative – Ms. Pugsley-Connell reviewed correspondence from our Regional Executive Director, Steve Gallagher, regarding Listen to Lead which is HRCE's annual consultation initiative. We are entering the second year and HRCE is looking to hear from staff across the organization about what is working well, where we can improve, and what opportunities you see for the future. These perspectives help inform decision-making, guide organizational priorities, and strengthen our schools, workplaces, and services. One area that was adopted because of this initiative is a program where senior staff "adopt" a beginning teacher as a mentor.

HRCE Food Purchasing Policy– We are limited by budget constraints on how much we can spend on food purchases for staff and volunteers.

Relay for Life Bake Sale – We will be hosting a bake sale on May 25 to support Relay for Life. We also have a team who will join Lockview for the relay.

Staffing: Two teachers have indicated that they are interested in becoming VP's from GPV. The first round of permanent posting has closed, and four teachers will be leaving GVPJH which is low considering our large teaching staff. There was discussion about reduced teacher and EPA staffing for next year. Overall, there has been reduction of staff within the HRCE.

Gauss Math Testing – There were 60 students who participated in the Gauss math assessment today. GPV continues to support students in their journey to math excellence in this global competition.

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

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

Emergency Management – We had a successful fire drill and will have 1 more in June.

SAC Membership – The SAC members departing were thanked wholeheartedly by Ms. Pugsley-Connell for their service. She also thanked all members of SAC for their service and continued support of our SAC.

8. Finance:

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

9. New Business: None

10. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 The next meeting will be in the new academic school year, and Ms. Pugsley-Connell will communicate dates when they are set.

Note: The committee's SAC meetings for the 2025–2026 year were as follows: September 18, October 9, January 15, February 26, April 16, and May 21.