

Meeting Minutes
GP Vanier School Council Meeting
Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Date: Nov 25, 2025

Location: Hybrid (both in-person at Georges P. Vanier School and virtual)

Attendees:

In-Person

Farouk G (chair)	Steven R	Tanis J	Marty A
Chad E* (principal)	Travis M	Dawna M	Monica V
Cindy C* (assistant principal)			

On-line/Virtual:

Askar F	Ivy	MH	Tara N
Christina W	Jessica S	Paula B	Tserha
Elsie A	Joy P	Sarah A	
Eva T	Katherine	Susan G	

*Vanier Staff

Agenda Items

1. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order by Farouk at 7:02 pm.

2. Welcome and Housekeeping

- Welcome by Farouk

3. Approval of AGM Agenda

- Motion: Donna motioned to approve agenda. Seconded by Travis. Approved.

4. Approval of AGM Minutes

- Motion: Travis motioned to approve minutes. Seconded by Tara. Approved.

5. Election of School Council Positions

- Motion: Motion to approve election of Farouk Gillani as Chair, Steven Rowe as Vice Chair, Travis McIntosh as Treasurer, Monica Vekved as Secretary, Tanis James as Key Communicator, Paula Breeze as Casino Coordinator, Joy Park as a Member-at-Large (Fundraising), Sarah Andre as a Member-at-Large, and Tara Niscak as Member-at-Large (Social Media). Approved by all. None opposed.
- Dawna M (the previous Casino Coordinator) will support Paula in her role as Casino Coordinator.

6. Adjournment

- Annual General Meeting adjourned at 7:19 pm.

Meeting Minutes
GP Vanier Band Association Meeting
Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Date: Nov 25, 2025

Location: Hybrid (both in-person at Georges P. Vanier School and virtual)

Attendees:

Same as GP Vanier School Council Meeting above.

1. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order by Farouk at 7:19 pm.

2. Discussion

- Marty Adsett (Treasurer) is the only remaining member of the band association and will continue in his role this year, but this is his last year at the school.
- Because parent participation in the band association has been dwindling over the last few years, we need to consider the idea of amalgamating the band association with the Vanier parent society.
- Monica offered that she could take on the Secretary position with the band association if needed to help amalgamate the band association with the Vanier parent society.

3. Adjournment

- Motion: Dawna motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Travis.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:24 pm.

Meeting Minutes
GP Vanier School Council Meeting
Regular Monthly Meeting

Date: Nov 25, 2025

Location: Hybrid (both in-person at Georges P. Vanier School and virtual)

Attendees:

Same as GP Vanier School Council Meeting above.

1. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order by Farouk at 7:24 pm.

2. Welcome and Housekeeping

- Welcome by Farouk

3. Approval of Agenda

- Motion: Marty motioned to approve agenda. Seconded by Tanis. Approved.

4. Approval of Minutes

- Motion: Travis motioned to approve minutes. Seconded by Farouk. Approved.

5. Principal's Report

- Mr. Edmonds expressed his appreciation for all the support teachers felt as they came back from the strike.
- Clubs are starting back up at the school.
- Parent-Teacher Conferences are on Thurs, Nov 27 and Fri, Nov 28.
- While the end of the semester will remain the same (Jan 31), there are some scheduling changes to be aware of:
 - IPPs and EAL paperwork is due at the end of Nov.
 - The school development plan and digital citizenship plan will be ready later in Nov or Dec.
 - Report cards will come out on Feb 24.
- High school tours will start in Dec.
- Sexual health consent letters will be sent in Jan.
- The front steps of the school and bench were re-done by the CBE.
- Action: Mr. Edmonds will follow up on the scooter parking.
- The budget request is the same as at the last meeting:

Emergency student supplies	\$900
ELA/FLA/SS	\$1,500
Math	\$1,200
Science (consumables)	\$1,200
PE	\$2,000 (+ \$2,000 more Mme Dunn is asking for)
Library literacy materials	\$1,000
1 bus per homeroom class	\$6,000 (20 x \$300)

5 option class busses \$1,500 (5 x \$300)

Music and band \$20,200

Staff appreciation meals

- In anticipation of its approval, some funds have already been spent, including:
 - Science – owl pellets, supplies for DNA lab, supplies for light and optics unit, and a Science magazine subscription (English only)
 - Math – mini whiteboard sets
- Bus funding makes field trips possible. For instance, the grade 9 sports excellence class will be going skiing.
- Computer funding has increased from 1 computer for every 3 students to 1 computer for every 2 students, so the school will be getting 44 new Chromebooks in Jan. Mr. Edmonds would like to request funding for power bars for new Chromebooks for this school year.
- Mr. Edmonds hopes that staff appreciation meals can be part of the funding this year. There is a lot of value in the staff gathering as a team around a staff appreciation meal.
- There are challenges with buying classroom/subject supplies this year because of new curriculums coming.
- Action: The council asked Mr. Edmonds to develop a list of resources, so that we could identify gaps in curriculum resources.
- Some thoughts on how we can advocate for more for funding for the operation of schools were:
 - Sharing thoughts with the COSC
 - Using social media (e.g. garbage piling up at school because it is not picked up frequently enough)
 - Parents can connect to organizations that support schools to encourage more coordination (e.g. Alberta Health Services, Child and Family Services, etc.)
 - Plan to invite CBE trustee to one of our meetings
- Mr. Edmonds emphasized that the funding provided by the parent society for supplies helps the school to use its funds for as many teaching staff as possible, so it makes a difference for student learning.

6. Treasurer's Report

- Emergency nutrition for students can be paid for by casino funds now. (This was not the case in the past.) Mr. Edmonds reported that having emergency nutrition available for students makes a big difference for learning.
- A suggestion was made to tap into other organizations for supporting certain things for the school. It is especially helpful to build on existing parent connections with organizations.
- Travis presented the unaudited financial statements for the parent society. The balances at the end of the 2025 fiscal year were:
 - General account - \$2,723.05
 - Casino account - \$137,482.36
- Motion: Travis motioned to approve (in principle) the unaudited financial statements for the parent society. Seconded by Steven. Approved.
- Motion: Dawna motioned to approve the \$50,000 base spending plan for 2025/26 academic year as discussed with principal. Seconded by Farouk. Approved.

- Additional spending over and above the base spending plan can be discussed at future meetings.
- Action: Marty and Tanis will audit the financial statements for the Vanier parent society.
- Action: Tanis and Ivy will audit the financial statements for the band association. Monica is a backup for this audit if needed.
- Action: Mr. Edmonds will share the funding shortfall at January's meeting.

7. Key Communicator's Report

- There have been no COSC (Council of School Council) meetings yet this year.
- Next meetings are Jan 21, Apr 8, and June 10.
- Through previous COSC meetings, Tanis learned a lot about how school councils work and what trustees do. It was also emphasized that trustees would like to hear from councils and parents.
- Farouk mentioned he can send the invites to the COSC meetings to anyone who is interested in attending. Jessica S expressed interest.
- Farouk has been trying to schedule a trustee to attend one of our meetings, but the strike delayed this.
- Action: Farouk will send the invite for the next COSC meeting to Jessica S when he receives it.
- Action: Farouk will invite a trustee to come to our Jan or Feb meeting.

8. Casino Update

- There is a request in for another casino but still waiting to hear when our society will get one.

9. Band Association Update

- Marty has to sign the annual return.

a) Band Association Discussion

- There have been difficulties with getting parent involvement in the band association. Duplicate treasurer efforts are also required because a treasurer is required for each of the associations—one for the Vanier whole-school parent society and one for the band association. This has led to the discussion of amalgamating the band association with the Vanier parent society.
- Some considerations if we amalgamate:
 - The group would like to ensure that band would be guaranteed to get a budget for an elite band program each year at the discretion of the principal.
 - There would only be one casino, which is no different than today with two separate fundraising associations. (Even though both the band association and the Vanier parent society both currently have an AGLC licence, they can't each have a casino because they are at the same address.)
 - Band-specific fundraising could still be undertaken under the Vanier parent society, but it would require the treasurer to keep track of funds raised specifically for band and ensuring they are spent on band needs.

- There were questions about variation in band spending over the years with some wondering if there was a cycle to the ups and downs of band spending and if we are coming up to a peak year for band spending. Mr. Edmonds mentioned that the CBE has a music loan pool fund. He can use these funds to buy instruments if needed. In recent years, he has not had to use this fund because the association has covered the cost of new instruments.
- The group thought it was important to further consider the long-term consequences of amalgamating the two fundraising associations.
- Action: Marty will work with Travis on possible wording to amalgamate the band association with the Vanier parent society.
- Action: Sarah will discuss the pros and cons of amalgamating with Marty.
- Action: Dawna will check to see what the consequences are if the band association AGLC account closes. She has heard that it may be very difficult to re-open once closed.

10. Fundraising

- Joy is thinking to coordinate a Coco Brooks fundraiser in Jan/Feb or the spring. With the impact of the strike on scheduling fundraisers, she's unsure about coordinating two Coco Brooks fundraisers this year. There was discussion about holding a bottle drive in the spring or after the holidays instead of a second Coco Brooks fundraiser.
- Healthy Hunger is a grade 9 fundraising initiative coordinated by Mme Cindy.
- There was discussion of a check-writing campaign before the end of year. Mr. Edmonds thought this campaign could raise funds for resources for the new curriculum that is coming. He's unsure how much education funding there will be for supplies.

11. New Business

- The School Council still has two \$500 spending cards (one from last year and one from this year) for a total of \$1000 to be spent on parent/community engagement. Last year's spending card deadline was extended. These funds could possibly be used for the Clubs Fair in the spring.
- Action: Farouk will check on the deadline for spending last year's spending card.

12. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 8:39 pm.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 7pm.

Meetings are held the last Tuesday of every month in the school year except December, March, and June.

Note that there are still opportunities for parents to help out with Council and other volunteer opportunities to learn, share ideas, or can have co-roles. This is a great opportunity to learn from other council members as parents rotate through the school and families move on.