

Meeting Minutes
GP Vanier School Council Meeting
Regular Monthly Meeting

Date: Sept 23, 2025

Location: Hybrid (both in-person and virtual)

Attendees:

In-Person

Farouk G (chair)	Stephanie M	Sarah A	Monica V
Chad E* (principal)	Travis M	Tanis J	Margareta H
Cindy C* (assistant principal)	Marty A	Joy P	Maribeth FH
Mabel D* (PE learning leader)			

On-line/Virtual:

Carla GM	Erin G	Jen C	Jenny M
Jessica S	Katherine	Leita B	Naomi B
Svitlana R	Tara N	Thomas	Tram N

*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 Agenda

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

4. Approval of Minutes

- Motion: Stephanie motioned to approve minutes. Seconded by Joy. Approved.

5. Mme Dunn & Principals Report

a) Funding Request from Mme Dunn for Physical Education

- Requested \$4,000 for the following:
 - Field marking paint and nets for home soccer games (already purchased and would like approval)
 - The lower field is in rough shape, causing some concern for safety. A request has been put in to CBE facilities to redo the surface of the field, but if this does not go through, then Mme Dunn is willing to redo the surface of the field with the support of the parent society to purchase necessary supplies (e.g. dirt) and volunteers to help with the process. If we have any gardeners who know how to redo the surface of a field, Mme Dunn would love to chat with you!

- Some of the PE equipment is worn beyond repair and would benefit from replacements, specifically:
 - 20-24 volleyballs and a ball bin to hold them
 - 16 badminton rackets and birdies - Mme Dunn anticipates needing some badminton rackets every year
- Adding a set of 20 rugby balls - Rugby interest is surging at the moment with the Canadian women's team in the Rugby World Cup finals. Also, rugby is a sport that is new to most students, which levels the playing field among students.
- 2 outdoor speakers with microphones – These would be dedicated speakers for the PE program. Currently the PE program borrows an outdoor speaker from Mr. Cheng, but it is not always available and much more expensive (concern about it getting damaged). The speakers will help PE teachers get students' attention outside more easily. Students also enjoy having music playing during PE and the teachers can incorporate music into some PE activities as well.
- There are approved vendors where the school could purchase equipment directly and get reimbursed from the parent society, but the parent society could also choose to purchase items directly and donate them to the school.
- A motion for funding was deferred to later in the meeting (after the principal's report and treasurer's update).

b) Principal's Report by Mr. Edmonds

- Six new staff are at the school this year. Vanier has about 600 students this year, 32 teaching staff (including 9 learning leaders), 6 support staff, and a 3-person facility team.
- This year Vanier is sharing a teacher (Ms Rossum) with Simons Valley School. Simons Valley is the biggest feeder school for French immersion, and there is already high interest from Simons Valley parents in immersion at Vanier for next year.
- Budget figures based on RAM (resource allocation method) by CBE will be finalized mid-October.
- Vanier is over-capacity. Class sizes vary from about 27 to 40 (with very large classes having more than one teacher). Class sizes are large because of a high number of students, a lack of room to create more classrooms, and set funding for hiring teachers. Vanier had hoped to get portables for this year but did not. The government approved only 30 portables for the CBE when the need for portables within the CBE was higher than that. While Vanier was on the list for being in need of portables, Vanier was not quite high enough priority to receive them this year. The plan is for Vanier to get 4 portables in the upper field at some point.
- Facilities - The school has not had another update about lock up facilities for scooters, but there are many students using scooters to come to school and their scooters are currently stored in the staff room during the day. The school is in need of more bike racks, but they will likely come after the portables arrive, so they can be placed appropriately. A request has been submitted to fix the front steps of the school.

- Sports
 - A few sports started up in Sept:
 - Cross-country running – The team is large. Vanier students are showing good sportsmanship by cheering on other schools. The Vanier tent gives our students a home base during meets and continues to draw positive comments from other schools.
 - Soccer – Our soccer teams enjoy being able to play soccer games at Vanier this year (instead of travelling to other schools to play home games). Mme Dunn has put in a lot of effort into make this happen.
 - Basketball – All basketball teams are supported by parent coaches, which is much appreciated.
 - Some parents donated practice jerseys for students who make sports teams (except for cross country or track and field, which are very large teams). Vanier will borrow a printing press from William Aberhart School to personalize jerseys with names and sports played. Will need funding for decals for practice jerseys.
- Vanier currently has two exchange students from France. Later in the year, two Vanier students will be going to France.
- Upcoming field trips
 - Grade 8 outdoor education classes are going on a backpacking trip.
 - Grade 9 classes are going to Wordfest.
 - There will be upcoming parent meetings for the grade 9 Quebec trip and the grade 6 Camp Chief Hector trip.
- Lynx Day Fridays are new this year by student request. They will happen once a month to build connections between grades.
- There continues to be uncertainty if teachers will strike on October 6.
- Budget request from principal

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	
- Les Plans continues to be funded by CBE. Civic Mirror was funded by the parent society for three years.
- Mr. Edmonds would like to have teacher (student) presentations at council throughout the year.
- Additional fundraising, such as the write-a-cheque campaign through Education Matters last year, could potentially be used to build up the PE program and broaden it (e.g. cricket, dance residency, other residencies).

- Sarah suggested developing a list of clubs that would like donations (e.g. crochet club could use yarn donations).

6. Treasurer's Report

a) General account

- Balance is \$2,722.36.
- Propose budgeting for:
 - \$500 for holiday hampers
 - \$2,000 for staff appreciation
 - \$500 for grade 9 gift
- Need a bit more fundraising for the general account because the cost of staff appreciation has been rising. These costs cannot be covered by casino funds.

b) Casino account

- Balance is \$137,465.63.
- Current allocations of the balance for upcoming school years are:

Allocation	School Year
\$54,000	2025/26
\$41,500	2026/27
\$41,500	2027/28
- Proposing a policy of half of the funds raised going to fine arts/music/band and the other half goes to educational support, equipment, and all remaining core and complimentary courses.
- Travis drafted the budget below for the 2025/2026 school year in consultation with Mr. Edmonds.
 - About \$10,000 was approved for 2024/25 school year but not spent. These expenses are expected to come through this year.

Recipient	2024/25 Carryover	2025/2026 Spend	Per Enrolled Student
Fine Arts Music/Band		20,195	84.50
One Bus Ride for each Home room		8,100	13.50
General Fund	2,089	3,000	5.00
Emergency Nutrition		1,200	2.00
Core Subject Combined (Eng, Math, Sci, Soc, PE)	2,587	4,800	8.00
All Remaining Complimentary Subjects	2,973	4,672	8.00
Library Fund	2,493	600	1.00
Totals	10,142	42,567	122.00
Total no music			37.50

c) Other items

- Travis would like to have a co-treasurer for this upcoming year, so that he can train the next parent volunteer.

7. Key Communicator's Report

- No updates from Tanis J.

8. Casino Update

- A casino is booked for first quarter of 2026. The Parent Society took an offer from AGLC to have an earlier casino. These funds are expected to be deposited at the beginning of the 2026/27 school year.

9. Band Association Update and Discussion

- General account balance is \$6700.
- There is also a GIC worth about \$19,585.
- Casino account funds have now been spent.
- There is interest to absorb the Band Parents Association into the Vanier Parent Society to simplify reporting and use the volunteers we have efficiently.
- Action: Stephanie will check with AGLC to see how the Band Parent Association can be merged with the Vanier Parent Society. She will also draft a motion to present at the annual general meeting (AGM) in October.
- Action: New by-laws will also be presented at the AGM that incorporate a band/fine arts representative to ensure a continued advocate for the band program.
- Action: This will also be an opportune time to update the name of the Parent Society as it is still called Vanier Vikings.
- With three parents in positions who will not have children at the school next year, the council needs to plan for succession. A shared drive would be helpful to pass files and templates along to parents stepping into positions.

10. Fundraising

- Thank you to Joy for running the Coco Brooks fundraiser last year. This helped to replenish the general account.
- Action: Joy is willing to organize two Coco Brooks fundraisers this year.
- Other fundraisers that occur in the school during the year are:
 - The Quebec trip fundraises with Healthy Hunger once a month. (This occurs on Fridays so as not to compete with the cafeteria which serves Monday through Thursday.)
 - Grade 9 grad fundraises with smaller fundraisers, like bottle drives, etc.

11. New Business

- Funding Motion: Marty motioned to approve up to \$4000 in equipment for physical education as requested by Mme Dunn earlier in the meeting. Seconded by Sarah. Approved.

12. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 9:10pm

Next Meeting: October 28, 2025 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.