

**Meeting Minutes**  
GP Vanier Joint School Council and Parent Society Meeting  
Regular Monthly Meeting

**Date:** January 27, 2026

**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	Joy P	Sarah A
Cindy C* (assistant principal)			

*On-line/Virtual:*

Tara N

\*Vanier Staff

**1. Call to Order**

- Meeting called to order by Farouk at 7:05 pm.

**2. Welcome and Housekeeping**

- Welcome by Farouk

**3. Approval of Agenda**

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

**4. Approval of Minutes**

- Motion: Travis motioned to approve minutes from the November meeting. Seconded by Tanis. Approved.

**5. Principal's Report**

- Acknowledgement of the Land was provided by Cindy. Chad presented the principal's report.
- Cindy is going out to present to feeder schools about Vanier.
- It is very likely that Vanier will become a lottery school in 2026-27. The late French immersion program has grown so much that it will need to be capped. Other schools in the city are seeing similar growth in the French programs. There has been a lot of growth since Chad started (from 300 students to about 600).
- With the growth in student numbers and support from teachers and the parent society, there has also been growth in the programs at the school:
  - PE, Athletics, and Outdoor Education
    - PE now includes a variety of sports, including cross-country skiing, disc golf, and rugby.
    - Teachers and parent volunteers help run a full slate of sports teams.
  - Arts

- The band program is very large. Vanier is one of the only schools in the city with a jazz band.
    - Drama is having its first production since Chad has been at Vanier with 40 students involved. The school appreciates financial support from the parent society for speakers and lights to make this possible.
    - Arts started a ceramics program.
  - Academics
    - The next professional development day will gather staff from language schools at one location. Several teachers from Vanier as well as Chad and Cindy will be presenting on best practice. The teachers at Vanier lead the French Communities of Practice for the CBE.
    - Vanier continues to see positive academic achievement. Our cohort achievement is solid with positive feedback from high schools receiving our students.
- Volleyball season has started.
- U of C is now sending cohorts of student teachers to Vanier and some from Campus Saint-Jean (U of A). Vanier is helping to prepare the next generation of teachers with mentorship from our current teachers. Chad and Cindy working to make on-boarding for student teachers seamless.
- Students build community in cohort activities, like outdoor education field trips, etc. Teachers are supporting these opportunities (e.g. three teachers are taking three-day Wilderness First Aid training to make backcountry field trips possible for students.)
- Wellness Survey Results
  - Indicators all show positive trends. Increasing sense of belonging, positive relationships, self-esteem, and feeling safe at school. Decreasing anxiety and depression.
  - These results are better than the Canadian norms and trending in a positive direction, both in percentage and absolute numbers because we have a growing number of students at the school.
- Program Monitoring Report (presented by Cindy)
  - Results based on survey of teachers, students, and parents regarding French Immersion programming last spring.
  - Vanier is currently in year 2 of a 3-year program monitoring cycle.
  - Strengths:
    - Strong language program with well-trained teachers and strong culture
    - Effective understanding/comprehension of French language
    - Shared belief in the value of the French Immersion program
    - Commitment to DEI - welcoming students from French-speaking countries
    - Curriculum alignment with elementary and senior high schools and strong transitions between school levels
    - Personalized student experiences/learning
  - Areas of Growth:
    - Extending use of French outside of the classroom
      - Working to improve this by teachers bringing in French videos, music, and magazines; mobile library; informing about opportunities

for sports in French; received a grant to bring in a school-wide French performance in March

- Increasing student-to-student oral interaction in French
  - May be offering a film studies option in French
- Strengthening global cultural connections
- Building more responsive French language supports
  - Offering programming for students who are experiencing challenges before they decide to leave the French program
- Increasing motivation for long-term French learning
  - Looking at alumni speakers inspiring other students
- **Updates on Finance / Budget Requests**
  - Will finish spending the Education Matters grant to complete the Learning Commons renovation
  - Will buy the lighting that was already funded by the parent society (\$3000)
  - Grade 7 leadership students had a contest where they wrote proposals to “make Vanier better”. Finalists will present to Council in February.
  - Current Funding Requests:
    - \$1300 for school play materials
    - \$90 for DVD/Blu Ray player (new smart boards are HDMI only, and it’s cheaper to get a new DVD player than connectors for the old, incompatible DVD players).
    - \$1860.52 (without GST) for technology for the front office (CBE no longer supporting non-HDMI monitors, so need 6 monitors, 6 dock stations, 1 wireless keyboard)
    - **\$3,250.52 total ask** (funding to be discussed in new business)

## 6. Treasurer’s Report

- Staff appreciation is costing more with more staff. Need to do fundraising for the general account (e.g. CoCo Brooks) to cover these expenses.
- General Account balance is \$2,080.93.
- Casino Account balance is \$118,398.
  - Last November, \$50,000 was approved in spending from the casino fund.
- Fiscal year starts November 1 each year.
- Tanis audited the parent society financials.
- Action: Marty will complete his audit of the parent society financials.

## 7. Key Communicator’s Report

- Tanis attended January meeting of Council of School Councils (COSC).
- Education Matters was promoted at the meeting and would like to remind schools about fundraising opportunities through Education Matters.
- Alberta School Councils Association (ASCA) was mentioned, including its resources for school councils and the \$500 engagement grant for school councils.
- Attendees at the COSC meeting were later grouped according to ward and had the opportunity to speak with the trustee for ward.
- Tanis brought up facilities upkeep (e.g. sidewalks not cleared, soccer field in disrepair, windows, roof, toilets). In response, the trustee mentioned:

- Education Matters had funding available for things like the soccer field. Tanis has contacted the Education Matters representative but not heard back yet.
- To connect with Ward 4 City Councillor (DJ Kelley) for:
  - Possible opportunities to receive support from the City to shovel walkways since they rent our facility
  - Help if struggling to find volunteers for casinos
  - Traffic safety
- Trustee offered that she (Laura Hack) and DJ Kelly could attend one of our meetings if we would like to invite them.
- Action: Tanis to see if DJ Kelly and Laura Hack are available for our April meeting.
- Opportunity to raise traffic safety on Edmonton Trail, 31 Ave NE, and 32 Ave NE if councillor attends meeting. Our school council will also encourage parents to put in requests for traffic safety measures at Edmonton Trail and 31 Ave NE through 311.
- Was informed that there is also a community liaison email for Ward 4.
- Encouraged councils to consider including a role for community liaison role to bring in community perspective.
- Chad mentioned that we also have a student who brought up the idea of leadership students doing volunteer hours within the community. Chad has reached out to the Winston Heights Community Association but has not heard back.
- Chad also discussed outstanding unpaid student fees.
  - Central fees are fees like lunch supervision fees are charged by the CBE headquarters. If unpaid, they will be sent to collections.
  - School-based fees are for things like field trips, option fees, lost library books, etc. If unpaid, the fees just remain unpaid in the system. Vanier is owed over \$100,000 from former students in unpaid fees. If the student stays in the CBE, they can still graduate high school but not walk across the stage unless the unpaid fees are paid. If the student leaves the CBE, there's no recourse for the school to get those fees paid.
  - Chad thanked the parents who volunteer for the casinos because those casino funds help to provide learning opportunities that wouldn't be possible otherwise.

#### **8. Casino Update – Parent Society**

- There is no casino update as the Parent Society is still waiting for new casino date.

#### **9. Band Association Update**

- There is about a \$20,000 budget that the band association carried over from 2024/25. Transportation costs are coming in about 56% higher because of more students and the need for coach buses to transport instruments. Marty will be able to share actual figures at February's meeting once he gets the information from Beth.
- The band association will re-evaluate the budget in February to see if more funds are needed to cover remaining costs for this year (e.g. May band trip to Red Deer). The parent society can look at topping up if needed.

#### **10. Fundraising – Parent Society**

- Action: Joy will coordinate a Coco Brooks fundraiser in February. The ordering period will likely be February 2 to 13. The date for pickup is still to be confirmed.
- Clubs Night
  - Planning to have a Clubs Night towards the end of the school year.
  - There is opportunity to incorporate fundraising into the Club Night.
  - Wednesday and Thursday evenings are available for facility access.
  - Tentatively planning for June 3, 4, or 17, but Chad will confirm after discussing with teachers.
  - Can use a portion of the \$500 engagement grant for supplies for students to set up their booth for Clubs Night (e.g. trifolds).
- \$500 budgeted for grade 9 farewell will be used for awards engraving.

#### 11. New Business

- Tara asked about setting up a social media policy.
  - Action: Farouk will get her a social media policy from ASCA that we can work off of.
- Tara offered to help set up a Linktree. Some work has already been done on this.
  - Action: Farouk will connect with Tara.
- Travis mentioned that the spending plan did not have an allocation for clubs, but he added \$1000 to general fund for clubs.
- Funding Motions – Parent Society
  - Motion: Sarah motioned to allocated up to \$1,500 from casino funds for materials for the upcoming drama production. Seconded by Tanis. Approved.
  - Motion: Travis motioned up to \$2,000 for office technology and DVD player. Seconded by Sarah. Approved.
- Travis and Marty are drafting a motion to subsume the band parents association into the parent society and will bring this motion to the next meeting.

#### 12. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 7 pm.

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.