

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

Date: February 24, 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)	Joy P	Stephanie M	Monica V
Cindy C* (assistant principal)	Sarah A		

On-line/Virtual:

Douglas B*	Gustave	Jessica S	Mark W
Matt	Tara N		

*Vanier Staff

1. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order by Farouk at 7:07 pm.

2. Welcome and Housekeeping

- Welcome by Farouk

3. Approval of Agenda

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

4. Approval of Minutes

- Minutes from January meeting were not completed in Monica's absence. She will have them completed for the next meeting.

5. Student Leadership Presentation

- Student Proposal #1 - More field trips
 - Students emphasized that field trips enhance classroom learning, provide hands-on learning, and facilitate social connection. Students are proposing locations based on what is being learned by grade.
 - Grade 7 – Zoo: \$20/student
 - Grade 8 - Calaway Park: \$40/student
 - Grade 8 & 9 - Telus Spark: \$285 for 30 students + 8 chaperones
 - Students are hoping to fundraise \$1,000 themselves and asking the Parent Society for \$1,500 for all grades per year.
 - Student fundraising ideas are special food sales and class prizes.
- Student Proposal #2 - More Manga books in the library
 - Proposing the following series: Spy Family, Bleach, Kaiju N8, Death Note, Blue Lock, and Four Nights of Apocalypse.

- The total cost of these books would be \$2,446.
- Some books are in both languages. It was noted that graphic novels seem to go missing more often.
- Students are hoping to fundraise \$1,250 themselves and asking the Parent Society for \$1,500.
- A student fundraising idea is movie events (possibly during lunch).
- Students are hoping to have a decision from the Parent Society by spring break.

6. Teachers Funding Proposal

- Mr. Brown presented a funding proposal for indoor gardens.
 - Each grade 7 class would have their own garden. There are six grade 7 classes in total.
 - The gardens would grow carrots, lettuce, basil, and possibly tomatoes.
 - The learning outcomes from this initiative would be learning about factors that can affect plant growth (e.g. soil) and collaboration as students work together to care for the plants.
 - A total of \$3,300 is requested from the Parent Society for shelves, planters, drainage trays, grow lights, soil mix, sand, clay, seeds, and fertilizer. Most materials can be reused year after year. The cost per year to maintain is estimated at \$100.
 - These gardens will be harvested prior to the summer break. This is possible because of the use of grow lights.
 - This initiative can respond to changes in student demographics. If there are fewer classes, more vegetables can be grown per class. If there are more classes, there are extra shelves in the proposal but more grow lights would be needed.
 - There are some cross-curricular activities that could be implemented with Foods, ELA, and Health.
 - The grade 7 teachers are hoping to start the indoor gardens this spring. They need to have the gardens set up by April to harvest before summer break.
 - CBE Facilities was not concerned about the extra lighting required.
 - Shelves may need to be mounted to walls, depending on their height and weight.

7. BelCanFran Presentation

- Lise & Ron May (coordinators of BelCanFran) gave a presentation on this student exchange program. This is a reciprocal student exchange between Alberta families and families in France and Belgium.
- Students coming from Europe arrive in Alberta mid-august for 11 weeks to learn English. Students from Alberta leave for France or Belgium at the beginning of Feb for 11 weeks to learn French. Each student exchange is less than 90 days.
- Benefits for Alberta students are significant improvements in French and the opportunity to learn about new culture.
- The total cost of the exchange program for Alberta students is \$4900 (which includes travel).
- More information can be found at www.belcanfran.com.

8. Principal's Report

- The late French immersion program had a successful lottery for students designated to Vanier for late French immersion. There is a waitlist for this program that is still growing.
- Continuing French immersion and the English program are still open to students designated to Vanier (i.e. no lottery is required for these programs at this time.)
- Vanier will get new students in the Learning & Literacy program for next year.
- In terms of the complexity teams from the provincial government, 118 schools were identified in the CBE, but the CBE is looking to redesignate 38 of those schools. Vanier was not on the list of school identified as needing a complexity team.
- Mr. Edmonds sought to incorporate student and teacher voices tonight with the funding proposal presentations.
- Mr. Edmonds is seeking \$800 in funding from the Parent Society to support an opportunity for all grade 9 students to learn about cartooning techniques from a political cartoonist.

9. Treasurer's Report

- Travis noted in the Treasurer's Report that the amounts provided at the January meeting were missing two additional disbursements approved and signed at the meeting that evening. The correct figures are:
 - General Fund
 - December month-end balance: \$2,568.64
 - Less January disbursements: (\$1,070.98)
 - January month end balance: \$1,497.66
 - Casino Fund
 - December month-end balance: \$123,646.19
 - Less January disbursements: (\$6,167.68)
 - January month end balance: \$117,478.51
- The current balances in the general and casino accounts are the same as the corrected January month end balances (above) as there have been no disbursements made since the end of January.

10. Key Communicator's Report

- Invitations were put out to Laura Hack (trustee for Vanier area) and DJ Kelly (councillor for Vanier area) to attend our April 28 meeting. Laura Hack is confirmed to attend. There has been no response from DJ Kelly yet.
- The School Council would like to provide Laura Hack with questions a week in advance of the meeting (so by April 21).
- Action: The School Council will generate some questions to be sent out to the broader school community to survey parents and identify priority questions. There will also be an opportunity for parents to suggest other questions for Laura.

11. Casino Update – Parent Society

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

12. Band Association Update

- The Band Association is moving forward with amalgamation into the Parent Society.

13. Fundraising – Parent Society

- Joy is organizing a Coco Brooks fundraiser for March. Mr. Edmonds confirmed that there is no conflict with student fundraising for grade 9 eastern Canada trip.
- The group wondered about communicating all that ways that families can support the school. For instance, Tara could add Skip the Depot to Linktree because parents could designate the funds to the Parent Society.
- Action: Need to get new password for Skip the Depot.

14. New Business

- Traffic safety
 - Mr. Edmonds will put a short message from the School Council about traffic safety in the weekly update. He will provide a link to a document containing the details of action that parents can take. The message will be noted as coming from the School Council.
- Funding motions – Parent Society
 - Motion: Sarah motioned up to \$6,000 in funding to cover the grade 7 indoor gardens (~\$3,300), new books for the library (~\$1,500) and the political cartoonist (~\$800). Seconded by Stephanie. Approved.
 - No motion was made regarding the student proposal for field trips. However, the Parent Society will talk about reallocating field trip funding for next September in light of the student presentation.
- Other
 - The librarian will vet the new books to make sure they are appropriate. It was noted that some books are flagged as MA (mature) as grade 6 students are too young for these books.
 - Movies will be vetted to make sure they are licensed and appropriate.
 - The public viewing license fee could be paid by the Parent Society.
 - An idea of a movie night in June for the school and local community was raised. The event could be paid for with the \$500 school council engagement grant. We could also use the event to fundraise with popcorn and a donation jar.

15. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 28, 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.