

Parent Advisory Council Minutes
GP Vanier Secondary School
Date: 25 February 2025

Recognition of Traditional Territories -

In attendance: Jennifer Fritzsche, Bev Wilke, Janice Dekkers, Shawn Thir, Hayley Dato, Season Pizzey, Laura Farnan, Jennivieve McRae-King

1. Called to order at 1834 pm. Welcome/introductions
2. Approval of agenda - Motion by ShawnT, Second Hayley D, carried
3. Approval of January Minutes Motion by Bev W, second by Season P, carried
4. Unfinished Business -
 - a. PAC email created with email management policy.
 - i. pac.gpvanier@gmail.com
 - ii. treasurer.gpvanier@gmail.com
 - b. Create a role within the executive of security manager to ensure email handover. Will be the main contact for onboarding and off boarding members from the email address. Most likely a role for Secretary but could be another member on executive.
 - c. Motion to adopt G.P Vanier Secondary School PAC Email Management Policy by Bev W, Second by Season P, Carried unanimously
5. Reports
 - a. Chairperson - Jennivieve Mcrae-King - no report
 - b. Administration - Jennifer Fritzsche - see below
 - c. DPAC - Hayley Dato - see report below
 - d. Trustee - Shannon Aldinger (absent) - see report below
 - e. Treasurer -Bev Wilke.
 - i. Gaming review revenue report done
 - ii. Budget B recommended. Prior to 2017 funds for awards came from within the budget of that program. More recently Awards was a separate category. Also the Skills Development budget is not well utilized. Since it is so late in the year the recommended budget is similar to last year but suggest we change a few things for next year and have it approved in May/June. We would like current number data on the percentage of kids in each budget category for next year.
 - iii. Motion to adopt Budget B by Bev W, Second by Jennivieve M-K, carried unanimously.
 - iv. We have access to funding for the school district for banking fees. Not from Gaming funds
6. New Business - nil
7. Q&A - nil
8. Next Meeting Tuesday April 15 , 2025 at 6:30 pm
Adjournment at 1931

Vanier Admin Report to PAC

February 2025

January closed with the end of Semester One, Quarter Two at Vanier. Semester One/Quarter Two Report Cards were posted on MyEd, and paper copies of report cards were sent home to families the first week of February.

On January 31st, the Vanier Bursary Program opened to grade 12 students, and the month ended with the Vanier Admin Team putting forward Vanier's nominees for the BC Excellence and Cmolik Scholarships. To find more information, copies of the Bursary Booklet, and application forms, please visit: <https://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/gp-vanier-secondary/grad-information/bursary-scholarship-information/>. The Vanier Scholarship, Bursary & Student Loan Newsletter is available on our school website for grade 12 students who are starting to research ways to pay for their post-secondary education. <https://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/gp-vanier-secondary/wp-content/uploads/sites/29/2023/09/Sc-holarship-and-Bursary-Newsletter-2023-2024.pdf>

On Wednesday February 5th, the Admin team hosted an information session for all Grade 12s to discuss the Bursary application process and upcoming Grad related information. We met with parents that evening to share the same information.

Graduation activities – here we are in the final stretch before Grad 2025.

- Bursary packages are due in the office by 1:00 pm on Friday, March 7.
- Grad retakes have concluded – proofs should all be received or can be picked up from the office
- Grad & Grad Parent meeting – early in April
- Grad BBQ – 5pm May 14
- Grad vs staff Softball Game – lunch June 4th
- Grad Pancake breakfast June 19, Grad Rehearsal to follow – same day
- Grad Set up / clean up – June 23-25
- Grad Ceremony – 4pm – Wed., June 25, 2025

The Grad Attire program welcomes all grade 12 students in Comox Valley Schools to have the opportunity to wear a gown or suit on graduation day without the financial burden of purchasing a brand-new outfit for their milestone event. The Grad Attire program operates out of Comox Valley Dodge at 278 North Island Highway (Old Canadian Tire building) on the following dates from 10:00am-3:00pm: • Saturday, March 8th • Saturday, April 12th • Saturday, May 10th. Students can book a fitting appointment using the following link. <https://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/grad-attire-program/>

North Island College Fest is an annual fun community event with aims to showcase North Island College's programs and services. From 2-5pm there will be drop-in tours of the campus, open classrooms, interactive sessions, giveaways, an info fair, and more. Dates for NICFest are set for three campuses: Port Alberni March 5, Campbell River March 11, and Comox Valley March 13th.

Comox Valley NIC Campus is hosting a Parent and Supporter Information Night on Thursday March 13, 2025 5:30-7:00pm at their Stan Hagen Theatre. For questions or more information email futurestudents@nic.bc.ca. This session is designed for those supporting high school students in planning their post-secondary education and training. You'll learn about NIC programs, University

transfer pathways, financial aid and awards, student housing and more. There will also be an opportunity to connect and ask questions with Indigenous Services.

School Photos for 2025-2026 – we are taking a risk and going to do a full try with Island Life Photography out of Campbell River – their prices are comparable to Lifetouch, and their quality / parent feedback from other SD71 schools who use them is positive. Glacier View has used them for Graduation for the past couple years and they are very satisfied.

On Thursday February 6th, we hosted the BC Lions “More than a Bystander” presentation. All grade 10s and 11s were invited to the gym to learn about responsible citizenship, standing up to bullying, and being a caring, contributing member of the school community.

This month, Vanier sent six students ranging from grades 9-12 to spend the afternoon with Superintendent, Jeremy Morrow, other district leaders and trustees to discuss gender-based violence in schools. As part of the District Voice Group, these students have been meeting with our district leadership team every few months to offer their voices and thoughts on school related issues.

During February, Counsellors and Admin visited Cumberland Community School and Lake Trail to speak with upcoming grade sevens and nines about Vanier and the course selection process. The third week of the month, counsellors and administrators visited Vanier classrooms to hand out course selection sheets, review the Course Selection Guide, and to speak with students about the process for selecting courses for the upcoming school year. We hosted our Course Selection Info Night for Parents on Thursday Feb. 20. This week, classes have been coming to the library to complete their course requests.

Continue to check out the course catalogue to be informed with our many new options
[2025-2026-Course-Selection-Guide-2.pdf](#)

Today, our grade 8s gathered in the multipurpose room to watch the 3 Crows Productions "Qwalena: The Wild Woman Who Steals Children," a multimedia First Nations storytelling presentation used as a allegory to explain the Canadian residential school system and Indian Act. The performance was very well received by students.

Public Health Nurses from Island Health will be present Wednesday February 26 in the morning to offer Grade Nine Immunizations. Grade nine classes will be brought to the multipurpose room to meet with Nurses and receive their immunization if desired.

Student Affordability and Feeding Futures Update- Vanier continues to invite families to contact the school if they are interested in receiving a Friday Food Bag of groceries. Students are invited to come by the counselling office each Friday to pick up a bag of food to take home to help with food over the weekend. We are working with our new Chef, Jessica Mann, to come up with a few free lunch items available to all students in addition to soup and a biscuit. We have shifted the soup, fruit, and granola bars to come out of the school store in the cafeteria each lunch. Vanier will also be giving gift cards for groceries out to our families that need it most to help with food attainment over Spring Break.

Vanier's Spring sports are gearing up with coaches seeking students to join the Golf team, Track and Field Team, Badminton, Soccer, and the Mountain Bike Club. The EDAS knit/crochet club, QSA (Queer Straight Alliance), Indigenous Culture Club, Rotary Club and the Environmental Club, and the Ski and Snowboard Club continue to meet at lunch. Weightlifting, Girls Rugby, Girls and Boys

Basketball, Improv, Wrestling, Boys and Girls Rugby, and Dungeons and Dragons continue to meet after school.

Vanier is sending two buses of Trades students to participate in this Friday Feb 28's Skills Canada Regional Event hosted by NIC Campbell River. Students will be competing in animation, automotive, baking, cabinet making, carpentry, electronics, graphic design, robotics, and welding to name a few.

Vanier's next Flex Day is Wed., March 5th. Our Flex Days continue to be opportunities for all students to make up missed learning, deepen, and extend their learning. We continue to remind all students that Flex Day is not a "go visit friends at other schools or go visit your former teachers" day. Other schools are in session – we need to be respectful of others with a different schedule than us. If you wish to volunteer as a helper at a previous school (usually an Elementary) come see Mrs. Black in the office. She will set up the connection, so the elementary school knows you are coming. If you are seeking work experience hours, be sure to see the careers office so they can help you with a form. Flex Day volunteering must be pre-arranged.

This year's School District Musical is called Once Upon A Mattress. Tickets went on sale Wednesday, February 12th. The show runs March 4th-March 8th @ 7 pm at Isfeld Secondary. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased by going to the SD71 website or scanning the QR code on any of the Once Upon A Mattress posters.

Vanier continues to offer Towhee Treasures (outside rooms 116/117) for students who would like to enjoy a thrifting experience at Vanier. Clothing items are free. Donations are welcome. The green donation box is located next to Towhee Treasures. All donations need to be clean and in good condition.

Homework Club continues to run Monday and Thursday each week from 3:15 – 4:15 pm in the Access Learning Centre. There are late buses that run on these days as well.

Upcoming Events in February/March

Thursday February 27- Lunch of Champions

Wednesday March 5- FLEX Day

Friday March 14- Last day of classes before Spring Break

Monday March 31- First Day Back after Spring Break



Report from the February 3rd 2025 DPAC Meeting:

At this time, **all DPAC meetings are held on the first Monday of the month in the Isfeld Library at 6:30pm.** Any parent can attend, only reps can vote.

Website for more information: <https://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/dpac/>

Email: dpac@sd71.bc.ca

Facebook: School District 71 Parents Advisory Council (look for the Bluejay)

Meeting was held entirely on Zoom due to snow.

Presentation by Tara Ryan, District Vice-Principal Inclusive Education: Accessibility Committee (following a presentation at January's [Committee of the Whole](#). The SD71 Accessibility Committee began two years ago to meet the requirements of the Accessible BC Act consisting of students, staff & people w/ lived experience of having or caring for someone with accessibility needs. The Committee recently audited seven schools with the lens of physical accessibility barriers and developing ways to make communicating accessibility issues easier for families in SD71. This important work is funded in part by grants from [SPARC BC](#) as the accessibility mandates did not come with specific funding from the Province. Find more about Accessibility in SD71 here: [Accessibility-in-comox-valley-schools](#) Including contact info for questions.

Special Note: The BC Ombudsperson launched an investigation into exclusion as a barrier to education. Find the anonymous survey here:

https://bcombudsperson.ca/news_release/ombudsperson-investigating-exclusion-of-students-from-bc-public-schools/

Committees Reports/Updates:

Anti-Racism Subcommittee - New resources to share, couldn't distribute because the meeting was held via Zoom. Upcoming two-day training for two of the Committee members through the [Comox Valley Community Justice Centre](#). Always welcoming new members, email DPAC for more info or antiracismcommittee.sd71@gmail.com

Transportation Committee - On pause until September 2025.

Sexual Health Committee - Developing online survey tool seeking input & suggestions, all focused on better preventative measures & better ways to address reporting. We will update this with you when it is released. The Province has declared Gender-Based Violence as an epidemic in January 2025 and we're working in collaboration with our partners to make schools safer. Building on what our District has already successfully advocated at the BCCPAC and Ministry level regarding Consent education, it would be a wonderful partnership for Trustees and parents come together to ask the Ministry to work on this, Gov't has already acknowledged this issue at the College/University level, but those students come from High School, so let's take that one step further and take that initiative to the High Schools. Motion to submit to BCCPAC Resolution committee passed.

Emergency Preparedness: Waiting for upcoming meeting with Senior Leadership to report. *DPAC Subcommittees meet with a more flexible schedule and report back to DPAC at the monthly meeting. Currently our subcommittees include: Emergency Preparedness, Sexual Health, Anti-Racism, Transportation and a Speaker Series on Parent Education topics. To contact, email: DPAC@Sd71.bc.ca and put your committee contact in the subject line to be forwarded to the relevant contact.*

Speaker Series: February Pro-D features Madame Reader and her son Martin "The Excellence Within" Tuesday February 18th 7pm-8:30pm in the Vanier MPR - SHARE WITH FAMILIES

Next Meeting: Monday March 3rd - Isfeld Library and Zoom.

Shannon Aldinger, SD71 School Trustee Report
Vanier PAC – Feb 25, 2025

- Jesse Everson has been hired as our new Indigenous Engagement and Knowledge Specialist. He is a member of the K'omoks First Nation and brings profound local knowledge of Indigenous history, culture, ceremony, song and story that has been passed down and upheld through many generations.
- Karma Taiji, District Principal of Equity, Diversity & Non-Discrimination presented her work, including walking us through types of unconscious bias, the intersectionality wheel of privilege, her three portfolios (mental health, SOGI & anti-racism), reported incidents of racism to date, collaboration with DPAC's anti-racism committee, development of a district reporting tool, and the training she has arranged for senior admin, educators and students about these issues, including BC Lions "More than a Bystander" presentation at Isfeld, Highland, Vanier & Lake Trail, Wachiay Anti-Racism workshop (Isfeld grade 8), Get Real workshops re: creating inclusivity and GSAs, Anti-Racism training workshops and Misch Oak re: inclusivity training
- Gender-Based Violence Committee continues to meet monthly to address how to better prevent and respond to gender-based violence in schools. Over the past month, committee members met with the district's Student Voice Leadership group and secondary school counselors for their feedback and suggestions. A survey will be available through the district website (by the end of the week) for input from students, staff and parents/caregivers. The survey will also be accessible via a QR code and posters will be displayed in schools shortly to promote to students.
- Budget season upcoming – opportunities for input from partner groups and parents will occur in April and May.
- **FREE Virtual Workshops for Parents** through the province's ERASE (Expect Respect & a Safe Education)
 - **Re: Social Media: "Establishing Safe, Caring & Respectful Digital Communities"** <https://pages.saferschoolstogether.com/erase-family-session>
 - Offered via the Ministry of Education & Childcare's on **Feb 26, Mar 12, Apr 8 and May 7 (6:30-7:30)**
 - "Recommended for Parents/Caregivers/Grandparents and youth aged 10 and up as a way to facilitate the conversation of safe & caring use of technology at home & in community. This session covers all things digital, from how to be a good digital citizen, the criminal consequences of cyberbullying, and how to report and receive support in cases of sexting/sextortion. Some of the most

prominent concerns currently surrounding use of social media platforms, smartphones, and artificial intelligence will be discussed.”

- **Re: Consent & Respectful Relationships: “Establishing Respectful Relationships & Consent in our Communities”**

<https://pages.saferschoolstogether.com/erase-gbv-student-sessions>

- Offered via the Ministry of Education & Childcare’s ERASE (Expect Respect & a Safe Education):

- **grades 5-8: Feb 26 (1:05-2:05 pm)**

- **grades 9-12: Feb 26 (8:50-9:50 am & 10:30-11:30 am)**

- “In this session, we will expand on the conversation of consent. Additionally, we will define and explore the dynamics of gender-based violence. We will discuss how gender-based violence is manifesting in both the physical and digital landscape, as well as the potential for exploitation within relationships. Throughout the session, our trainers will give students tips and tools to help them navigate and grow in these environments. **Students will learn:**

- What defines consent?
- The definition and dynamics of gender-based violence
- An overview of worrisome content, and how to manage exposure on popular social media and gaming platforms
- The different types of bullying and cyberbullying relationships
- The consequences of sending/receiving intimate images and videos
- The evolution of sextortion and –important signs to look for
- The importance of checking in on our mental health and strategies for success
- An anonymous student reporting tool

- **Next Board of Education meeting: TONIGHT Feb 25, 2025 at 7:00**

pm • Attend in person or virtually or watch via recording:

<https://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/board-meetings/>