

Parent Advisory Council Annual General Meeting
GP Vanier Secondary School
Date: 16 September 2025

Recognition of Traditional Territories - Karma Taiji

In attendance: Karma Taiji, Erica Black, Dave Mayert, Sherrie Martens, Bev Wilke, Jennivieve McRae-King, Rae Walsh, Jonathan Ellerby, Aimee Pollard, Shawn Thir, Joanne Barr, Tiffany Hicks, Laura Farnan, Haley Dato, Janice Dekkers.

1. Call to order at 1833, Welcome/introductions
2. Approval of agenda - Motion by Bev W, Second by Joanne B, carried
3. No minutes to review
4. Unfinished Business - Nil
5. Reports
 - a. Chairperson - Jennivieve M-K-. No report
 - b. Administration - see below
 - c. DPAC Rae W, Joanne B
 - i. District Parent Advisory Council - meet monthly. First meeting Oct 6 ,2025 (first Monday of the month at Mark Isfeld Library - Zoom option also available).
 - ii. Sep 25 1830 - 2000 - Understanding IEP's Info about this workshop sent out with school newsletter
 - d. Trustee - not present, no report
 - e. Treasurer - Bev W - October Meeting will be about budget
6. New Business
 - a. Nomination and voting for new council
 - i. Chair - Jennivieve McRae-King, nominated Bev Wilke, accepted, acclaimed
 - ii. Vice Chair - Vacant
 - iii. DPAC representative -Rae Walsh, nominated by Jennivieve McRae-King, accepted, acclaimed
 - iv. DPAC Alternate - Hayley Dato, nominated by Jennivieve McRae -King, accepted, acclaimed
 - v. Treasurer Bev Wilkie, nominated by Jenniveve McRae-King, accepted, acclaimed
 - vi. Secretary - Laura Farnan, nominated by Janice D, accepted, acclaimed
7. Next Meeting Tuesday October 21, 2025 at 6:30 pm

Adjournment at 1931

Vanier Admin Report for September 2025 PAC Meeting

Admin team:

- **Karma Taiji, Principal**
- **Dave Mayert, Vice-Principal (A-G)**
- **Sherrie Martens, Vice-Principal (H-O)**
- **Erica Black, Vice-Principal (P-Z)**

From Karma:

Thank you for inviting us to join the PAC meetings this year.

It has been a great start-up and very welcoming for the new administrators. Staff are talking about the positive atmosphere.

We really enjoyed visiting Vanier's Creative Collective class. We saw some creative thinking around solving space issues at the school.

Truth and Reconciliation week is next week. We have a reflective activity planned for the whole school.

Currently have 1422 students at Vanier, with 500 new students this year.

From Erica:

Food

- Feeding Futures: FF funds are going to provide two meals a day for students who struggle with food security. Breakfast (bagels, cream cheese, fruit) & lunch (soup & bread) - could be sandwiches too. The focus is on healthy, nourishing meals and not quick snacks (no granola bars anymore)
- Friday food bags are still available for students who need them.
- We hit pause on the caf card service (preloaded caf card) to see how our other offering is going to start.
- We have met with District Food Coordinator Thea Cockerton to look at options for providing food to students.
- We are looking for ideas that will work with our student-centered caf program

Grad update

- We looked at moving to Saturday and two pieces were in the way
 - had to check for staff support attending a Saturday grad
 - This year Indigenous Peoples' Day is hosted in the same location, so we could not this year.
- Grad is booked for Wed., June 24, 2026 at 4pm either at the Rotary Bowl or Sports Center
- Grad committee is numerous and has great ideas so far – Winterfest is on, and the fun there

- (casino-like or dance party) is still TBD
- Committee is even looking at items like Cap & Gown for ceremony
- Grad Group photo will be taken at lunch on photo day for use in the yearbook.
- Grad parent meeting Oct 8 at 6:30 pm in the MPR.

From Dave:

Athletics

- Fall sports have started up with an outpouring of staff support for all the teams. Lots of students are trying out and it's great to see an increase in athletes.
 - Fall sports include weight training (club), girls volleyball (Jr & Sr), grade 8 girls and boys volleyball, junior boys volleyball, boys soccer, and cross country.
- Megan Dalziel Memorial Bursary game: The University of Victoria Women's team to play the Vancouver Island University Women at VANIER on September 27th at 6:00pm. Will be a basketball clinic for girls.
- Terry Fox Run is set for the whole school for Oct 2.

Facilities:

- 100 more kids this year, so we have converted spaces into more classrooms, we will have a portable moved in for second semester (more students join us).
- Work on the second artificial turf is starting and will impact the fields to allow space for equipment and fencing.
- Childcare centre is moving along. A concrete pour happened this morning.
- Hope to have a second set of rugby uprights in place for the season
- We have renovated one of our Foods rooms

Other:

- A school nurse is now coming every week to support students. The nurse will be here on Tuesdays from 11:30-12:30 in the counselling office.
- A note has been sent home about an upcoming parenting workshop
- This week is Consent Week and we have the White Hatter presenting to all students and classes on Thursday.
- Student vote for student government will take place next week.

From Sherrie:

- First Flex Day is coming up on October 1st. The day before the students will have a homeroom class to plan for the day. Grade 8s will be in school regularly for the first couple of Flex Days. Information will come home from teachers who would like a student to attend school to make up learning on that day. Some students will stay home that day or take part in other self-directed learning opportunities.
- The Italian exchange group will be visiting Vanier from the end of September into the beginning of October for two weeks. We look forward to welcoming out visitors to the school.

Upcoming Dates:

September 17th, 6:30pm: Thrive at High School in MPR

September 22nd-26th: Truth and Reconciliation Week

September 26th-27th: Megan Dalziel basketball game and events

September 29th: Orange Shirt Day

September 30th: Truth and Reconciliation Day-schools are closed.

October 1st: Flex Day

October 2nd: Terry Fox Day

October 13th: Thanksgiving, Schools are closed

October 21st: October PAC Meeting, 6:30

PAC REPORT

SD71 District Parents Advisory Council welcomes Comox Valley Schools Inclusive Education to present to parents & caregivers on the important topic of Understanding Individual Education Plans for Parents & Caregivers (IEPs).

From the Presenter, Tracy Pederson, District Principal Inclusive Education:

"Join us for an informative and supportive information session designed to help parents and care givers navigate the Individualized Education Program (IEP) process. Learn how to advocate effectively for your child, understand key components of the IEP, and collaborate with school teams to support your child's unique learning needs. Whether you're new to the IEP process or looking to deepen your understanding, this session will provide practical information and a space to ask questions."

This event will be both in-person and virtual (by Zoom) with a free childcare option for children ages 30months-12years (as of Sept 25th). Pre-registration required. We would like to extend our deep appreciation as DPAC to Puddleduck Early Learning Society for their assistance to the families in offering this option free of charge. *Please note childcare is off-site and approximately 10-15 minutes away from the speaking location (Puddleduck Early Learning Society, [295 Back Rd, Courtenay, BC.](#)) Please allow yourself time to drop-off and commute to the Board Office.

Please note you are not confirmed for in-person registration or for in-person registration with childcare until you receive a confirmation email. Please email: DPAC@sd71.bc.ca for registration, more information, and with questions you may have

In-Person registration is limited at this time, but we are doing our best to make it as accessible as possible to parents/caregivers. Registration closes Sept 23rd. (Please note this event is being organized by parent volunteers and we apologize in advance for delays in response.)

An additional resource you may wish to familiarize yourself with ahead of the presentation is The Parent's Handbook on Inclusive Education, [pdf version here](#) and the [Inclusion BC resources here](#).

Thank you.