

Parent Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
GP Vanier Secondary School
Date: April 21, 2026

Recognition of Traditional Territories - Karma Taiji.

In attendance: Karma Taiji, Hayley Dato, Jennivieve McRae-King, Bev Wilkie, Rae Walsh, Amy Pollard, Lisa Ludwig

1. Call to order 6:33 PM. Introductions.
2. Adoption of February 24th, 2026, PAC minutes (sent by email and posted online). Motion by Bev, second by Rae; carried.
3. Review and Adoption of Agenda – motion by Jennivieve, second by Bev; carried.
4. Unfinished Business:
 - a. Fundraising for teacher appreciation lunch
 - Bev/Jennivieve setting up e-transfer capability with bank
 - Jennivieve/Bev to draft email to parents and include photo from last year's lunch. Rest of exec review by email. Aim to send email and have an early sense of contributions before next meeting (May 19). Date for lunch - aim for Friday June 5th. Jennivieve and Jackie organize food.
 - Motion by Jennivieve to send email to parent body from PAC executive requesting support for teacher appreciation - financial donations and/or helpers. Second by Rae; carried.
 - b. Discussion of DPAC Best Practices Guidance Document
 - Discussion on what people read from school/how get info? **email**, website for stock info, emailed WAG/weekly calendar, newsletter. Daily Announcements on website - really interesting but rarely checked
 - Could update PAC page on website to be more clear that all are members of PAC and to help clarify/remind of information sources. Susan Quinten contact for web updates.
 - Motion by Hayley to update PAC page on Vanier website to clarify wording around membership and direct readers to various information sources. Bev second. Carried.
5. Reports
 - a. Chair - Jennivieve McRae-King. Jennivieve reached out to Lorraine (copied DPAC). Follow up. No response.
 - Discussion on student learning around harm reduction/Naloxone kits. Students learn in some PE classes and Emergency Care. Discussion on availability of kits etc. at school

- b. Administration – Karma Taiji (see below)
 - School fee changes
- c. DPAC – Rae Walsh/Hayley Dato (see below)
 - BCCPAC membership - Bring to September meeting
- d. Trustee – Michelle Waite. Written report via Karma (see below)
- e. Treasurer – Bev Wilkie.
 - Online banking - Bev, Jennivieve, Hayley, Laura all on banking info. Two required for approvals. All can sign for cheques
 - Funding discussion: sports clubs (e.g. weightlifting and badminton) vs Athletics (funding allocated by sports team)

6. New Business

- a. Nil

7. Q&A

- Feeder schools that don't have sports teams; any opportunity for students from feeder schools to play on Vanier teams? Discussed BC schools sport issue

The next PAC meeting is on Tuesday, May 19th at 6:30 pm in the library of GP Vanier School. PAC meeting to end at 7:30 pm promptly.

Adjournment 7:42 PM.

Vanier Admin PAC report April 2026

- Vanier Model UN club is putting on an elementary Model UN hosted at the SBO on Friday, April 24th. They have done an incredible job organizing and preparing the students including finding keynote speakers and working with students and staff from our elementary feeder schools. There will be ~50 elementary students attending on Friday for a full-day session. The Model UN club has put in hundreds of hours to prepare this and to make it seem like a 'real' model UN conference.
- Vanier Rugby Field layout is a work in progress. We will be increasing the margin of safety from 3m to 5m away from the new ATF turf. Maintenance is going to pin a new 68m wide field and then lay out options for the second field at 60m, 64m, and 68m. There will be additional work required which will take place in the summer. It is possible there will need to be remedial field work on the grass closest to the road. I am hopeful that we will be able to have two x 68m full width fields.
- Hold & Secure and Lockdown Procedures have been updated and distributed to staff. These have been co-created in collaboration with our Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee to incorporate best practices and keep our students safe.
- The new daycare is slotted this week for an occupancy review and the plan is to have the daycare team move into the building for the first week of May.
- Awards planning is underway with a planning committee, and we have shifted the event to the evening to better work for families.
- We are looking at data around attendance, literacy, and numeracy assessment results at Vanier to inform our school goals for next year. The school goal/s will align around the strategic plan focus on core competencies.
- We had a great presentation by a teacher today around UDL (Universal Design for Learning). It has inspired us to allow all learnings to access and participate in learning opportunities.
- The grade 9/10 band trip to Sun Peaks is coming up at the end of this month. We are very excited that we can make this opportunity work for the students.
- Explore trips have started. The second group is currently at Cape Scott. The big Explore garage sale is coming up on Saturday May 2nd, 2026 from 8:00am-2:00pm.
- Vanier student Leadership classes and the International Student Program hosted a fun cultural food fair in March. There were around 12 different tables hosting their national dishes.

- We discussed proposed fee structure for next year. Note that we have not raised fees for next year.

Proposed School Fees for 2026 - 2027

As per section 82 (Fees and Deposits) of the School Act please note the following.

Fee	Amount	Description
Student Fee	\$25	Leadership activities, student recognition, fine art performances, career planning
Graduation Fee	\$125	Facilities rental, dinner, entertainment, commencement photo
Course Fee Adventures in the Outdoors	\$150	Cost of field trips
Program Fee Explore	\$850	Cost of field trips, supplies, and overnight stays
Optional Fees		
Yearbook	\$60	Cost of the yearbook
Senior Mathematics	\$10	Graphing Calculator rental fee
Athletics	varies	Tournament fees, partial costs of referees, travel etc.
Fine Arts	varies	Band and Drama trips, travel, accommodation etc.
Tech Ed.	varies	Base projects have no cost. Costs for materials used beyond base level.

The school and district have a hardship policy that supports students wanting to participate in these activities, and struggle to cover the fees.

Financial Hardship

No student will be denied the opportunity to participate in a course and/or activity associated with a course or specialty program in which they are enrolled because of financial hardship.

1. Parents/guardians and/or students should contact the principal in order that confidential, respectful, and discreet arrangements can be made to ensure that a student is not denied an opportunity to participate in a course, program, or activity.
2. Principals have a responsibility to ensure that students are not excluded from a course, class, program, or activity due to financial hardship. Principals will ensure that such cases are handled in a confidential, respectful, and discreet manner.
3. Any decision to refuse financial assistance may be appealed to the Assistant Superintendent.
4. All procedures to determine financial hardship will follow the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* legislation.

From Michelle Waite (trustee):

- [District Progress Report March 2026](#) this covers the period of Dec-Feb. This is the second quarter report and provides a snapshot into many areas of Comox Valley Schools.
- At our upcoming Regular Board meeting on April 28 the three year calendar will be presented for approval along with Ministry data-based reporting on our students.
- Budget 2026/27 planning is well underway with important information on the status of where we are at in terms of impacts to the current levels of supports and operations as we are no longer anticipating moderate student numbers growth in our District.
- There is a survey available to share your thoughts on the Long Range Facilities Plan. It is not very long and includes one open-ended section to share your specific thoughts that were not captured in the rest of the survey. [Long Range Facilities Plan - Comox Valley Schools](#)



Report from the April, 2026 DPAC Meeting:

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

Email: dpac@sd71.bc.ca

THANK YOU TO ALL PAC AND DPAC VOLUNTEERS, YOUR TIME IS APPRECIATED.

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.

Change to Consent Agenda for more collaborative, supportive and discussion-based meetings. Committee reports will be attached to the Friday Agendas, please review in advance of the Monday meetings. For past Minutes and this month's Committee Reports, please see the MINUTES

Anti-Racism Subcommittee - Email: antiracismcommittee.sd71@gmail.com

Committee Focus and Next Steps: Our committee continues to focus on understanding district processes in order to better advocate for and support the development of respectful, inclusive, and safe school communities. Our next (and final) meeting for this school year will be: **Friday, May 22nd, 9:15–11:00 AM at the school board office.**

Emergency Preparedness: Some ideas (from March 3 meeting) included reaching to the Quake Cottage (an earthquake simulator) and advocating for changing the way evacuation drills are conducted, such as having a student hide in the school and having staff do a sweep, or randomly blocking halls or exits to force staff to find alternate exit routes.

Speaker Series: Send in your requests for subject matter & speakers.

Sexual Health Committee: No updates at this time.

New DPAC Business/Building & Sharing:

BCCPAC - Community Gaming Grants are open:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/gambling-fundraising/gaming-grants/cggapply>

- Quick little How-To available, the \$20 per student based on previous year's enrollment.

BCCPAC AGM happening this month, please send your [proxy forms](#) in. Two PAC Executive signatures required, then email to BCCPAC at: info@bccpac.bc.ca with email addresses of the signors cc'ed on the email. There is also an entirely digital way to submit. Although past deadline, proxy forms will continue to be accepted - please submit! Put Joanne Barr and Megan Cowling as the Proxy voters.

See the 2026 BCCPAC AGM Booklet here: https://bccpac.bc.ca/images/AGM/2026_AGM_Booklet.pdf

SD71 DPAC submitted two motions for consideration to the BCCPAC AGM, one about priority boarding on BC Ferries for student-facing staff. The second regarding the creation of a provincial-level committee to examine classroom complexity (Credit to our local [Comox Valley Teachers' Association](#) for their motion we are amplifying at BCCPAC.)

Please note we have now passed our [Executive Code of Conduct](#)

To contact, email: DPAC@Sd71.bc.ca and put your committee contact in the subject line to be forwarded to the relevant contact. Next Meeting: Monday April 13th - Isfeld Library and Zoom.

Are you a new DPAC Representative or a PAC wanting to stay in the loop?

[Email us](#) to get on our mailing list! Find the full Minutes (7 pages): [HERE](#)