



Leonardo da Vinci Academy

Governing Board Meeting

Wednesday, November 18, 2025

Members in attendance (alphabetical)

Kurt Blagden, Rosemarie Carlomusto, Antonella D'Angelo, , Sabrina Recine Di Nezza, Sabrina Gavita, Vanessa Giancioppi, Johanne Lancellotta, Maria Loria, Fatima Marandola, Francesca Muro, Renata Nespeca, Anna-Maria Parente, , Nadia Sammarco, Francesca Santone, Stellana Romeo, , Joseph Carlucci, Pietro Mercuri

Absent: Anna-Maria De Gaetano, Karen Polletta, Tina Spiridigliozzi

1. Welcome and opening remarks

- Chairperson, Stellana Romeo, welcomed everyone.

2. Additions to the agenda

- Number 4 – added - need to adopt the minutes of the general assembly from September 17, 2025.

3. Adoption of the agenda

Motion to adopt the agenda by Kurt Blagden, seconded by Francesca Muro.
All in favor.

Motion approved.

4. Approval of minutes of the September 17, 2025 meeting- Motion to approve the minutes of the September 17th, 2025 by Francesca Santone, seconded by Kurt Blagden
All in favor.

Motion approved.

Motion to approve the minutes of the General Assembly held September 17th, 2025, by Johanne Lancellotta, seconded by Sabrina Gavita. All in favor.

Motion approved.

5. Business issues:

a. Approval of Daycare Handbook

Francesca Muro presented the daycare handbook and informed us that this year there is both an English and French version of the document. Both versions will be posted to the school website.

Not many changes made other than changes in dates, in fees and pick-up procedures. Francesca explained the pedagogical day refund policy- which is 48 hours, to get refunded. This is important due to payments which must be made to outside organizations and staffing allocations.

A letter will be sent to daycare parents for them to verify the email and website to read and sign the last page as proof of acknowledgement of document.

Ms Sammarco reiterated that we as a school, we have no control over the fees. This is directly from the government. This part of the document is strictly informative because the government standardizes all rates for all daycares in schools.

Motion to approve the Daycare handbook for the 2025-2026 school year by Fatima Marandola, seconded by Sabrina Gavita. All in favor

Motion approved.

b) Approval of email votes

Email votes were taken to approve both the daycare fundraiser for the animal shelters and for the collection of gift cards for the Holiday Musical Concert. These gift cards for food will be given to St. Brendan's Parish who services the English speaking community of the east end.

Both motions were approved

c) Approval of field trips:

Pre-K- May 26, 2026- Theatre Tortue Berlué- in school presentation

Grade 3 and 4- March 25, 2026- École de Cirque de Verdun

Kindergarten- May 7, 2026- Musée Pour Enfants

Grades 1 and 2- June 15, 2026- Inter Miel

Grade 5- June 4, 2026- Quebec City

Grade 6- June 16, 2026- Ottawa

Pricing to come due to confirmation of bussing. Trips PreK up to grade 4 will be under 50\$/student.

Grade 5 and 6 will be a little over 100\$ due to meals included and travel by coach bus.

Motion to approve the school field trips by Renata Nespeca, seconded by Antonella D'Angelo. All in favor.

Motion approved.

d) Budget Updates

- Started the year with uncertainty and very little funding. The council of commissioners has approved a deficit budget. Will receive a budget based on the 2024 enrollment. It is a little less for us because our numbers went up. There is a reduction for photocopies, supplies and caretaking. The school board has tried very hard to maintain direct service budgets to students.

- LDVA received sufficient funds to offer robotics program.

- LDVA received sufficient funds to offer phonics tutors in English and French

- Received some money to hire math tutors for grades 3 to 6 to help those students struggling. Alumni students were hired- they are secondary 5 students. The tutors have been given guidelines from the teachers to know which concepts to focus on. It is an afterschool program from 4 to 5 pm.

- Cuts in staffing for attendants- as of today short only one attendant.

- No news for budgets ex: PELO- still on pause for all EMSB school that offer PELO as an extra curricular.

e) Open House update

- Ms Sammarco requested any feedback
- Mr. Joseph said parents were very impressed by our students (tour guides) and their explanations. Parents were very impressed with the teachers and how they supported the students.
- Ms. Renata- mentioned that the tour guides were great no congestion and the numbered groups worked well. All ran smoothly
- Ms. Francesca had many parents wanting a guarantee of a spot at the school and asking where to sign to register.
- Ms. Sammarco commented on how well the tour guides did and how well spoken they were. The adjustments made to the tour were positive. Many more visitors this year. Noticed that parents are visiting multiple school before making a choice. We will see the results at registration.

f) Approval of fundraiser for the Montreal Neurological Institute

- It is 10 years we have been fundraising for the Neuro. We would like to make this year a big celebration. It will be a Neuro Gala – diner and a show on April 17th. Guests will be seated at a table served a full course meal and watch a show. There will also be a raffle with prizes to be won.
- Sabrina Gavita mentioned that every year we are privileged to have the support of staff, and the community and hoping that it will continue this year. After ten years, we have come a long way and it is due to the support of the administration. Nice to see that it has had a great impact on our community
- Ms. Stellana mentioned that many alumni she crossed at the various high school open houses commented on our past events, and how they have fond memories.

Title - Celebrating a Decade of Love and Hope at LDVA

Motion to approve the Neuro Fundraiser by Sabrina Di Nezza, seconded by Renata Nespeca – all in favor.

Motion approved.

g) New Report Card Format

- On November 20 report cards will be available on the Mozaik portal. The government changed the format of the report card, with slight changes. In the past, you could see the cycle marks. This year you will only see the current grade marks.

Preschool report card had been updated last year and there is no change this year.

Grade 1 to 6 report card no longer shows a cycle just the marks for the grade they are currently in.

h) Benchmark and GB+ results

- For students in grade 2 to 6 in addition to the report card, a letter will be sent home on November 20 with the child's Benchmark English reading level and the child's GB+ French reading level. These reading levels indicate the range the child should be in for their grade level. This level indicates both their decoding and comprehension skills. These reading levels are a useful tool to help select books at the child's independent reading level. It is important to select books that a child can read and not books that are too difficult, so they do not get discouraged.

Maximum level is 30- many grade 6 students have already achieved this level; therefore, the letter they receive will state their achievement.

i) PT Interviews- Book Sale and Bake Sale- November 27, 2025

PT interviews in person on November 27th, bookings link was sent out to parents to book their appointment.

Teachers will be in specific classrooms and specialists will be in the library. No need to book an appointment for specialists.

In the gym there will be the book fair. The day before, students will visit with their classes and can purchase books then. Pre k and K- it is recommended that students simply make a book selection and parents can go purchase the next day. Card payments accepted will be accepted on November 27.

Bake sale run by the Home and School is also being held on the 27th. There is a raffle for hockey tickets. Cash payment only.

6) Reports:

a) Principal's Report

- **Updates** – since last in person meeting the alternate Elisabetta Polito resigned.
- **Holiday Concert**

It will be a matinee show on December 9. There will be both a junior and senior concert. Concert tickets will be color coded. One color for parents only attending the junior concert, one color for parents only attending the senior concert and one color for parents that will be attending both concerts. 2 tickets per family.

The entrance fee to attend is a gift card to grocery stores and pharmacies. These will be given to St. Brendan's Parish, which services the English community in the east-end.

- **Important to note:**

Pleased to continue offering the phonics and robotics program and adding math tutoring this year

For the robotics program, Ms Batios and Ms Angela are looking into robotics competitions for elementary schools . Also, they are speaking with consultants at the board to get new equipment.

Dec 15th Holiday Dress Up Day

Dec 18th a.m. – Breakfast with Santa hosted by Home and School- full breakfast for all students. Santa and Mrs. Claus will make an appearance.

Dec 18th p.m. – Rosemont High School band coming to perform for the school.

b) Vice Principal's Report

- LDVA students have made a nice appearance on television with the Remembrance Day tribute on CTV and CBC. Students did a great job and represented our school well.
- On Friday November 14th, there was a workshop for grade 5 girls, "Fearlessly Kind". An animator came in to help the girls learn about kindness and being positive.
- Afterschool kickboxing and soccer end – new session will start in the new year.

- Ball hockey started for grade 3 to 6, Mr. Gaudette and Ms Chelsea are the organizers.
- Student council students present weekly messages for the school on the intercom.
- Grade of the Week- staff submit the great behaviours the students are exhibiting and it is announced weekly. A surprise from administration will be given to the grade that gets the most votes.

b) Commissioner's Report

- Mr. Mercuri was not present. Advised that he will send his report at a later date.

c) Teacher's Report

- Mme Carlomusto- said thank you, on behalf of all the staff, to the parent volunteers for the Halloween activities. Also thanked Home and School for the 50\$ allocation to be spent on classroom supplies.

d) Regional Delegate Report

- Budgets for PC has been cut significantly. Due to this budget cut, the yearly PC award will not be possible this year. The committee has been having discussions to find ways to keep the literacy award.
- Funds are there for travel and childcare for members who have lesser means.
- Physical education inspection of Phys Ed equipment. The board wanted to abolish it however, the PC wants there to be a verification of equipment and waiting for a replacement policy. A letter was sent from the PC committee to the school board
- Asking all schools to support that high schools be permitted to have crossing guards. If the population of a school is 12 years old or older, there is no crossing guard currently given. However, due to some high schools being in high traffic areas, it is recommended that they should still have a crossing guard. There is a petition being sent out to all schools to sign asking the government to change this rule.

e) Daycare Report

- Ms. Francesca thanked the governing board for supporting the daycare fundraiser. Many donations are already coming in. Passion for Paws may send a nice little surprise visitor to pick up the donations.

Students are working very hard to create toys for animals. Ms. Francesca thanked the governing board for approving the closure of daycare at 5:30 for open house.

Ms. Francesca thanked Home & School for the 50\$ allocation that also included the educators this year- the educators were very grateful.

f) Home and School Report

Antonella D'Angelo reported:

- The first meeting went well. There is a huge turnout, most members to date; 80 including four fathers who have joined.
- Chocolate fundraisers – all 350 boxes were sold. Great success.
- Halloween – it was great, unfortunately, had to end things early.
- Next week bake sale many bakers are preparing treats and there is the hockey tickets raffle as well.
- Next big event is Santa's Breakfast – caterer already booked- many little surprises for the students that day.

7. Question Period

8. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:34pm by Fatima Marandola and seconded by Vanessa Giancioppi. All in favor.

Motion approved.