



LEONARDO DA VINCI ACADEMY

Governing Board Meeting Minutes Tuesday, September 17, 2025

Members in attendance (alphabetical)

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

Fatima Marandola

1. Welcome and opening remarks

As a chairperson had not been elected yet, Mrs. Sammarco welcomed the members and started the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

2. Additions to the agenda

No additions to the agenda.

3. Adoption of the agenda

Motion to adopt the agenda by Stellana Romeo, seconded by Vanessa Giancioppi. All in favor.

Motion approved.

4. Approval of the minutes of the June 11, 2025 meeting

Motion to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2025 by those who were in attendance at that meeting, by Johanne Lancelotta, seconded by Maria Loria. All in favor.

Motion approved.

5. Business Issues

a. Code of Conduct of the Governing Board

Mrs. Sammarco reviewed the Code of Conduct document with the members. Motion to adopt the Code of Conduct by Vanessa, seconded by Rosemarie. All in favor.

Motion approved.



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b. Assignment of the roles: Chair, Alternate Chair, Secretary and Treasurer

- Johanne nominated Stellana as Chairperson of the Governing Board, seconded by Renata. Stellana Romeo accepted.
- Antonella D'Angelo volunteered to act as alternate Chairperson. Motion by Karen Polletta, seconded by Francesca Santone.
- Francesca Muro nominated Tina Spiridiglioizzi to be Secretary, seconded by Karen, seconded by Kurt. Tina Spiridiglioizzi accepted.
- Johanne Lancelotta was nominated to be the treasurer. Motion by Sabrina Gavita, seconded by Maria Loria.

c. Scheduling of meeting dates for the 2024-2025 school year

- October 15, 2025
- November 18, 2025
- December 16, 2025
- January 21, 2026
- March 17, 2026
- April 15, 2026
- May 19, 2026
- June 10, 2026

Motion to approve meeting dates for 2025-2026 by Johanne, seconded by Francesca Muro. All in favor.

Motion approved.

d. Approval of virtual meetings to have a hybrid model for meetings

Mrs. Sammarco explained that a hybrid model would mean some meetings take place in-person and others virtually via Teams is helpful in ensuring quorum. A discussion ensued.

Motion to adopt a hybrid model for meetings by Maria, seconded by Parente. All in favor.

Motion approved.

e. Approval of online voting

Motion to approve the use of online voting for motions that require urgent approval. motioned by Maria, seconded by Gavita. All in favor.

Motion approved.



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f. Approval of Scholastic Reading Club

Mrs. Sammarco explained that the Scholastic Reading Club is a great opportunity for parents to purchase books for their children.

Motion to approve the Scholastic Reading Club by Antonella, seconded by Rosemary. All in favor.

Motion approved.

g. Approval of Home and School for the 2025-2026 school year

Motion to maintain the Home and School Association for the 2025-2026 school year by Maria, seconded by Kurt. All in favor.

Motion approved.

h. Approval \$3.00 representation fee per student fund 3

Mrs. Sammarco requested an amount of \$3.00 per student from fund 3 to be used as a representation fee. These funds would be used to benefit the children either in the form of an activity or item that all students benefit from.

Motion to approve by Antonella D'Angelo, seconded by Francesca S.
All in favor.

Motion approved.

i. Daycare Ped Days to be approved

DATE	ACTIVITY	COST
October 24, 2025	LDVA Halloween Fun – in house	\$16 daycare \$11 activity fee
October 27, 2025	SportsLife – in house	\$16 daycare \$18 activity fee
November 7, 2025	NO DAYCARE	
November 27, 2025	MegaMaze	\$16 daycare fee \$26 activity fee \$16 bus fee
November 28	PJ and movies	\$16 \$6
January 30, 2026	Winter Wonderland	\$16 \$11



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Motion to approve the Daycare Ped Day activities by Maria, seconded by Anna-Maria Parente. All in favor.

Motion approved.

j. Update re: PELO program at lunch for grades 1-6

Mrs. Sammarco explained that the PELO program has been put on pause due to budget cuts. This is throughout the EMSB and all languages. As soon as she receives more information, she will advise.

k. Approval of Terry Fox Fundraiser

Motion to approve the Terry Fox Fundraiser by Vanessa, seconded by Kurt. All in favor.

Motion approved.

6. Reports

a. Principal's Report

- Budget Cuts: Ms. Sammarco explained this has made the start of the school year quite challenging due to uncertainty of funds. Student life has absolutely been impacted despite the promise that it wouldn't. There has also been an impact on staffing of support staff and special programs. Ms. Sammarco acknowledged the LDVA staff for pulling together and doing the best they can to ensure the students are getting the support they need. Ms. Sammarco also commended the Regional Directors for being supportive though these challenges. At the moment the school is functioning with just 25% of the Operating Budget. A clearer picture of the budget is expected in November.
- Welcoming Day took place Friday, September 12. The children had a blast and all of the activities went very well. Home and School was instrumental in helping with the funding for this event
- Two fire drills have taken place already. During both events the students and staff evacuated successfully. Lock down drill will take place later in the year but the staff and parents will be advised beforehand.
- Luna the dog is the newest addition to the LDVA family. She is currently in training. She will regularly visit LDVA and spend time with students in class, at recess and help those struggling with anxiety.
- The grade 6 Buddy Program will be launched again this year.
- After school activities such as kickboxing and soccer have begun.
- Enfant en Compagnie will be offering extra-curricular activities in near future.
- September 30th is a critical day for student attendance as it is attestation day, as funding is determined based on these numbers.



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- Orange shirt day is also taking place on Sept. 30. More information to come about that.
- School Pictures will take place October 1. Sibling photos will take place on October 2. Students should wear their white shirt with school logo.
- October 3 is World Smile Day. Activities will be planned for the children. Student council will provide their input to bring smiles to LDVA.
- First communication to parents will be available to parents on October 10 via the Mozaik Parent Portal.

b. Vice Principal's Report

Mr. Joseph said that he's happy to be back and to have had the experience of starting off the school year.

High schools will be visiting next week to speak with grade 5 and 6 students.

c. Commissioner's Report

Mr. Mercuri thanked the members for their time and dedication to the community. Budget cuts: The ministry has blocked the EMSB from accessing its accumulated surplus. The school board is only allowed to use 12% of these funds. This money would have been helpful in offsetting the budget cuts. The Ministry proposed reinjecting some money back into the system but there are many unclear requirements imposed that make accessing these extra funds nearly impossible. The council of commissioners has decided to take the Government to court.

Mr. Mercuri expressed appreciation for all the efforts made by all the staff in our schools to meet the needs of students.

d. Teacher's report

The tradition continues with kindergarten students paired up with grade 6 students for the Buddy Program. Grade 6 students are currently writing letters to their kindergarten buddy, and they will soon participate in the Terry Fox run together.

e. Regional Delegate Report

No report.

f. Daycare Report



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Mrs. Muro explained the following changes in daycare fees as announced by the government:

The daycare fee has been increased:

Regular students who participate 1-5 times a week \$9.70

Sporadic students participate only when the service is needed. \$13.05

Ped day fees \$15

The daycare is growing and LDVA has one of the largest daycares in the east. There are currently 255 students.

g. Home and School Report

Antonella D'Angelo explained that they will be kicking off with the chocolate bar fundraiser and looking to plan other fundraisers throughout the year. They are thrilled to be back for another year to continue collaborating to support the school.

7. Question Period

No questions.

8. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20pm by Johanne and Rosemarie. All in favor.

Motion approved.