

**Roslyn School**  
**GOVERNING BOARD Minutes**  
**June 10, 2024**



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**Minutes Prepared by Meaghan Daniel**

**Governing Board Members Present**

Daniel Khazzam (Parent)  
Marie-Laure Casa-Martin (Teacher)  
Julie Marcus (Teacher)  
Karen Bejjani (Teacher)  
Scott Pringle (Alternate)  
Meg Daniel (Parent)  
Amanda Henry (Parent)  
Suzanne Wexler (Chair)  
Jo-Ann Wong (Parent)  
Annick Davies (Hands Co-Chair)

**Also Present**

Joanne Genovezos  
Mirelle Tehbelian

**Regrets**

Vanessa Campbell (RGB Secretary)  
Kori Betsalel (Parent)  
Stephanie Ianelli (Resource Teacher)  
Géraldine Gras (Teacher)  
Melani Fernandas (Teacher)

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| <b>1. Welcome</b> |
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Motion to open the meeting by Marie-Laure Casa-Martin, seconded by Karen Bejjani. All in favour.

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| <b>2. Adoption of Agenda</b> |
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Two changes to the agenda proposed:

- i) Next meeting date is September 2024, AGM
- ii) Item 12.6 is to add the approval to have a pre-K program in 2024-2025

Motion to adopt the agenda as amended by Amanda Henry, seconded by Daniel Khazzam.

### **3. Adoption of Minutes**

One change to the minutes proposed: placing the workbook prices on a separate page.

Motion to adopt the minutes of May 27, 2024 as amended by Amanda Henry, seconded by Daniel Khazzam.

- When a parent makes a comment, the minutes do not record their name. When teachers provide a comment, we do include the name.

### **4. First Question Period**

No Questions.

### **5. Business Arising from Last Meeting**

No Business.

### **6. Update from Community Partners**

#### **6.1 Hands:**

End of Year Celebration Party after Portfolio Night had a huge turnout. Dilallo Food Truck had a huge line up, and there were snacks for sale. Games were purchased this year instead of rentals, good for reuse. There was a photo booth and uniform exchange table as well. Need to tally up financials, but it is expected to break even. HandS AGM is tomorrow for voting in returning and new executive members for next year. There are a couple of positions to be filled.

Q – Will there be registration for activities in June again?

The coordinator has the activities lined up. The goal is to have registration for after school activities done in June, and lunch activities organized in September. We have discussed offering activities in French, as per suggestion from RGB meeting.

## **7. Teachers Report**

Marie Laure Casa-Martin: In Grade 2, there was international food day, and there is a restaurant project, where the kids are putting on a restaurant for the parents with every child having a role, waiters, cooks, etc. With the funds, we will be doing a special activity for the kids.

Q - How are the roles assigned?

MLCM: In some classes there was more debate, but in my class, it worked out without a lot of discussion.

Julie Marcus: Benchmarking was completed every single child in grade 1 and grade 2, with every child who needed a phone call home got one outlining what they can do over the summer.

Q - How are kids with reading?

JM: On the whole, there is a high success with reading, and if there is not, then we will deal with it.

## **8. EMSB Parents Committee Report**

EMSB Parents Committee was not able to get quorum. Individual items are being passed via email. One example is to make use of the school for other purposes in off hours to build the community.

## **9. RGB Chair Report**

We had the Scholastic Sale, thank you for everyone who came out and hustled and sold. People were lined up before it opened.

Q - Do we choose what we are selling?

We request more French books, and more early readers.

We are thinking of sending a letter to parents of children in the enrichment program, open ended to find out what information they could share to be helpful.

Parent comment: It wasn't clear what the subjects and the curriculum would be beforehand, and therefore hard to gauge how useful it would be for the child.

Parent comment: My child did not enjoy the math program as much, as there was no class component learning about the subject. Rather math is very focused on the competition.

Mireille Tehbeilian: Before COVID, the program was run by university students. What you are getting from Dr. Birlean is a gifted program, run by gifted students, for gifted kids.

Q - What is the criteria for selection?

MT: Students that score 90+ in classroom, and are independent learners and can catch up with the class work that is missed. Schedules are made on enrichment coaches availability, program standardized, have to be capable of catching up with missed classwork, teacher won't reteach what was missed. Letters are given to parents when children are selected by teachers. Parent can email, and inquire if feel child is a good candidate. We will try to then reconvene and go through the process. Also parents will enroll but then feel that this is not a good fit for their child.

Q - Are they all gifted programs?

MT: Yes

Chair: Gifted programs – they want the kids to feel very challenged and overcome setbacks. The math Caribou challenges children where everything is typically easy and so they experience in obstacles. Not surprising when kids go in there and get nervous at first. The books for Battle of the Books tend to be very hard too.

Joanna Genovezos: Coordinator is also available to meet with parents for individual projects. Some children like to work at home with their gifts. This can be requested. As well she is also open to teachers to go into the classroom. We haven't done this yet, but are open to it.

## **10. Vice Principal Report**

Mireille Tehbeilian: June 3 - Gr. 2 had Class Multicultural Food Event  
June 4 - Gr. 3: In-Class Comedy Workshops and Gr. 6 had last Let's Talk Science Enrichment Session  
June 5 - Gr. 3 continued In-Class Comedy Workshops and K5 had a Fieldtrip to the Museum Gr. 5 & 6: Assembly  
June 6 - Pizza Lunch  
June 7 - Pedagogical Day/No School  
June 10 - Governing Board Meeting in -person  
June 11, 12, 13 - Gr. 6: End of Cycle Math Exam  
June 11 - Gr. 3: In-Class Dance Activity Gr. 5: Assembly  
June 12 - Kindergarten (K5) End of Year Celebration (June 14 in case of rain)  
June 14 - Pre-Kindergarten (K4) End of Year Celebration  
June 17 - Grade 6 Graduation Field Trip Grade 2 Picnic  
June 18 - Field Day for Pre-K to Grade 2, Grade 6 Grad Rehearsal  
June 19 - Field Day for Grades 3 to 6, Gr. 1 Picnic, Pre-K Fieldtrip to the Museum  
June 20 - Grade 6 Graduation (5pm Ceremony followed by Grad Dance) Grade 1 Visit to Westmount Library "Club de lecture d'été"  
June 21 - Last Day of School Rainbow Clothing Day Report Cards Issued to Parents

## **11. Principal Report**

Joanna Genovezos: Thanks RGB for hard work; to Chair of the Board, for guidance, food, Scholastic books, and bringing our community together; to secretary, for wonderful notes; to HANDS, for Annick and Debbie, and now Chelle, for doing a phenomenal job and the work to keeping the program afloat this year, with the most ECAs of any school in the city, spread the word. We need members to join HANDS, to prevent burnout, to tap energy of parents in the school; to staff, you guys are awesome, and this year you blossomed; to VP, who keeps us running quickly and efficiently. She is a whirlwind and keeps us organized.

Chair: Thank you to you Joanna and Mireille, you are doing an outstanding job, it is amazing how much the children love this school.

JG: Summer begins a two-year plan to fix the inside the building. They are refurbishing all of the floors, some doors, they fixed the boiler room this year, the gym stage is being fixed. But it is challenging because we must pack up each classroom. Enrollment is still at 543.

## **12. New Business Arising**

### **12.1 Budget**

Joanna Genovezos: Budget is a projection of a few budgets. It covers amount for classrooms, including chalk, materials, supplies. Then there are service contracts, furniture, materials. This is 37K. There is an increase in caretaking, including 3.5 employees with a caretaker on each floor. There is still an old deficit with regard to school activity fees and supervision, but the amount has been raised in order to break even each year.

Q - Where is the deficit?

JG: In the lunch fees, it is in the amount we collect as opposed to what we pay out. During Covid, we had a huge deficit, because we paid lunch monitors, and returned the fees to parents. We are not the only school in this position.

Q - For the equipment budget of \$3000, how is this enough for classroom furniture?

JG: Asks for money every year to change furniture in the classrooms. For some of the bigger purchases the board gives, but we don't generally get access to money.

Resolution for the Adoption of the School Budget – moved by Marie Laure Casa-Martin, seconded by Daniel Khazzam. All in favour.

### **12.2 Subject Time Allocation**

Mireille Tehbelian: Need to approve amount of minutes taught for each subject matter. (See attached for breakdown of the minutes by cycle and subject)

Motion to Adopt the immersion program as presented: Daniel Khazzam, seconded by Marie Laure Casa-Martin. All in favour.

### **12.3 Lunch Provider**

Mireille Thebelian: Need to pick one and submit name to school board. There was Petit Bistro, Le Dorale, Merenda.

Chair: We understand the prices, we have sampled the meals. With re to Merenda, cancelation policy is good. With Le Doral food quality is high, but need warmers.

MT: Does happen that children come to office to say they don't like lunch, but not that often. Also with re to Merenda, relationships are important, they do the pancake breakfasts, and are generous about this. For Le Doral, any inquiry was made with the board to find out about the placement of the heaters, suspect they cannot go in the hallway.

Chair: Do we need more info or can we vote? Need motion to extend the meeting.

Motion to Extend the meeting until 8:30, made by Amanda Henry, seconded by Daniel Khazzam. All in favour.

Motion to continue with Merenda as Caterer made by Scott Pringle, seconded by Karen Bejjani. 2 approve, 5 abstain. Passed.

### **12.4 CCQ Program**

Joanna Genovezos: New program will be replacing ethics and culture program. All teachers, mandatory between 1-6 are being trained on new program. Ministry is looking to approve which text book is approved. All material online, there is no workbook. Within the culture and citizenship in Quebec will be the mandator sexuality education. It is to develop critical thinking. They explore cultural reality, examine their cultural reality and think of how they fit in society. There is no political agenda, Quebec is just the setting. It is supposed to be natural and organic about where they fit in society. Any questions?

Q - This is straight from Provincial gov?

JG: Yes

Chair: Do we have to inform parents?

JG: Mandatory, don't have the same necessity of approval.

Chair: Do private schools have to do it?

Marie Laure Casa Martin: Yes

Mireille Tehbelian: During curriculum night, parents will be informed, and the information will be placed on our school website. Parents will know ethics is now called Citizenship and Culture in Quebec.

JG: The board will be sending information to the parents. They will receive the information by the EMSB.

## **12.5 Code Silver**

Joanna Genovezos: We met with upper management of school board reps and the SPVM. There was a technical error at the school board level, have fixed, it won't happen again. Once we went on lockdown, MT locked in, JG locked in. SPVM showed up, moment they step on threshold, they take over. They determine where to send children, how to investigate, they take over. This is new. One of the things complained about that the protocol practiced by SPVM is not the same protocol as EMSB. i.e. How to say it's over, 3x with one minute intervals apart. They have been asked to come speak to staff, to give the new protocol, to ensure we are all on same page. Talking about creating a parent line for all schools in case of such an emergency. They will come in fall to train us again.

Q – So protocol is in place, but when police arrive, they take over?

JG: Yes. If kids outside, they have safe place to go. But police come and move kids around, moving to Marianopolis, to Victoria Hall. This is police decision. A parent line is important so kids don't panic.

## **12.6 K4**

JG: We must approve the K4, it is 17-18 students. Next year we have 5 K5s. minimum needed would be 7 in a class, maximum is 17.

Q - What are options if you have 20 students?

JG: Can open two classes, or create a split class. Try to avoid splits, but they have been successful.

Motion to have a K4 for 2024 - 2025 school year: Marie Laure Casa-Martin, seconded by Karen Bejjani. All in Favour.

### **13. Good and Welfare**

With the school survey, focus on community, class parents, people have great ideas, HANDS has new people coming, parents seem excited to participate, thank you so much to everyone – we have come a long way, and we are going great places.

Julie Marcus: I attended a community event, our chair was unbelievable dancing raising money, blown away.

Re food, for next year, important points that were discussed, heaters, electricity, staff room, we will have the benefit of this, when questions re-arise.

### **14. Question Period**

No Questions

Motion to close meeting: Scott Pringle, seconded, Karen Bejjani. All in favour.

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Joanna Genovezos – Principal

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Suzanne Wexler – Governing Board Chair

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Date