



Royal Vale School Governing Board

Minutes of the meeting of October 20, 2025

Minutes of the Governing Board meeting held October 20, 2025, at 7:00 pm, 5851 Somerled, Montreal, Quebec, H3X 2A5

Present: Andrea Batsis, Howard Magonet, Karyn Pellatt-Caron, Ariella Pardo, Vincenzo Monticciolo, Davy Lambiris, Jonathan Mustillo, Stella Halaris, Valerie Hatchwell, Nathalie Malhamé, Anthony Di Domizio, Alan De Aguiar Lopes, Marion Albrecht, Paolo Ruscito, Ellie-Rose Robichaud, Mayra Waygood, Olivia Catchlove (alternate)

Also present: Despina Michakis (Principal), Christos Lagakos (Vice-Principal, High School), Ivan Spilak (Vice-Principal, Elementary), Melissa Gencher (RVEHSA Treasurer)

Absent: Andale Evans, April Edwardson, Stephen Concister, Benjamin Bacon, Stephanie Suissa (alternate), Marni Rubin (RVEHSA, President), Sharon Nelson (EMSB Commissioner)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by D. Michakis at 7:02 pm. A. Pardo was secretary.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was amended. Points 12.1 (Questions from parents) & 12.2 (Music & After School Program) were added. The date in point 6 was changed to June 17, 2025. Point 10.9 (Grade 8 and 9 Science in English) was removed.

On motion by V. Hatchwell and seconded by A. Di Domizio, the amended agenda was unanimously approved.

3. Election of Board members:

3.1. Election of Governing board chair (Principal)

***The chairing of the meeting is transferred to the newly elected chair.**

A. Batsis was nominated by V. Hatchwell.

By acclamation, A. Batsis was appointed as Chair of the Governing Board for 2025-2026.

3.2. Election of governing board vice-chair (Chair)

K. Pellatt-Caron self-nominated herself, seconded by A. Batsis to be Vice-Chair.

H. Magonet self-nominated himself, seconded by A. Di Domizio to be Vice-Chair.

By acclamation, H. Magonet was appointed as Vice-Chair of the Governing Board for 2025-2026.

3.3. Election of Governing board chair secretary (Chair)

No nomination, so Secretary for 2025-2026 will be on a rotating basis.

For this meeting, A. Pardo was secretary.



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3.4. Election of Governing board treasurer (Chair)

J. Mustillo self-nominated himself, seconded by H. Magonet to be Treasurer.

By acclamation, J. Mustillo was appointed as Treasurer of the Governing Board for 2025-2026.

4. Adoption & signing of minutes of June 2025

On a motion by K. Pellatt-Caron and P. Ruscito, the minutes were unanimously approved.

5. Adoption & signing of minutes of September 4, 2025 (General Assembly)

Tabled to next meeting.

6. Business arising from June 17, 2025

None.

7. Business arising from the General Assembly of September 4, 2025 (Principal)

J. Mustillo nominated K. Pellatt-Caron, seconded by A. Pardo to be represent RVS at PC Meeting.

By acclamation, K. Pellatt-Caron was appointed as PC alternate delegate for 2025-2026.

8. Information and reports (Student & H&S reps)

8.1. Student Life report (*student reps*)

Past Events

- Back-to-School Welcome Decorations:
School entrance and hallways were decorated to create a welcoming atmosphere for students returning in September.
- Open House:
~140 student ambassadors participated.
80 ambassadors specifically represented Student Life.
Alumni also returned to help.
Responsibilities included welcoming visitors in the gym, labs, and music rooms.
- Entrance Exams:
~30 students attended (held on a Saturday).
Ambassadors supported attendance management, escorted students, and assisted teachers throughout the day.
- Terry Fox Run:
Student Life contributed by decorating both gymnasiums.
- "Thank You" Events for Open House Student Ambassadors:
Elementary: September 25 (Thursday).
High School: October 10 — included a pizza lunch during the last period.

Current / Ongoing Events

- Haunted House:
~100 students are helping.
Decorations are ongoing:
 - Some students participated all day.
 - Others assisted with preparation only.



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Free candy for everyone.
"Best Dressed" costume prizes.

Upcoming Events

- Diwali Decorations
- Office Thanksgiving Decorations
- Elementary Halloween Party (Thursday): Student Life helping alongside H.A.N.D.S.
- Curriculum Night
- Pedagogical Day — Friday: Ambassadors assisting at the board office.

8.2. RVEHSA report (*President*)

Strong start to the school year.

The following **past events** were successful:

- Pre-Kindergarten & Kindergarten Meet & Greet
- Back to School BBQ
- Corn Roast
- Used Uniform Sale
- Ped Day: Foam Party

Upcoming Events

- Elementary Halloween Party → need for more volunteers; call-out to be sent
- Kindergarten Party
- Staff Appreciation
- Ped Day: BoulZeye (K-6)
- Next RVEHSA meeting is in November.

Ongoing

- Bi-weekly email reminders/updates
- After-School & Enrichment Programs
 - Looking to add new programming for next term (Term 2)
 - There are over 200 students per day that attend
- Kindergarten enrichment program begins in Term 2
- All Ped days will be a field trip
- Support fund
 - Term 1 = 3 families
 - Last year, 14 students in after-school & 1 in enrichment program benefited from support fund.



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9. First Question Period

Submitted By: Olivia (Parent)

Question: Students appear to receive a significant amount of candy while at school, given to them by both teachers and after-school staff. Should this practice be permitted, and are the Governing Board and administration aware of the extent of this issue?

Administration Response (Principal and Vice-Principals):

- During the holiday season (specifically Halloween), the distribution of candy is expected.
- The amount of candy students receive and the timing of its distribution, is currently being monitored.
- It has been observed that a considerable amount of candy is brought from home by students, who then distribute, trade, or sell it to others.
- This issue of candy distribution, both by staff and students, will be addressed with all school staff.

Suggestion by A. Batsis: Parents with concerns are also advised to contact the After-School Director in writing to inquire further about this issue.

10. Discussion items (votes required)

10.1. Governing Board annual report

Uniform policy was never addressed but topic will be discussed at a future meeting.

On motion by V. Monticciolo and seconded by A. Di Domizio, the report was unanimously approved.

10.2. GB financial report

Tabled to an e-vote to be adopted into next meeting's minutes.

10.3. Grade 6 graduation trips

Price is \$250 for 1 night, 2 days.

On motion by A. Batsis and seconded by V. Hatchwell, Grade 6 trip was unanimously approved.

10.4. Grade 6 fundraisers for the year

On a motion to fundraise for Grade 6 by V. Hatchwell and seconded by S. Halaris, fundraising for Grade 6 was unanimously approved.

10.5. High School trips

It was stated that the cost for the trip has almost doubled this year. The cost per trip is approximately \$1000 to \$1300 per student, based on the number of students attending.

On motion by A. Batsis and seconded by A. Di Domizio, the high school trips were unanimously approved.

10.6. Elementary Trips

Blanket motion was requested for all cultural trips for 2025-2026, up to a cost of \$30/student; anything above this amount would come to Governing Board for approval.

On motion by A. Batsis and seconded by A. Di Domizio, the high school trips were unanimously approved.



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10.6.1 Tubing/Skiing Trip for Cycle 3

On motion by K. Pellatt-Caron and seconded by H. Magonet, the Tubing/Skiing Trip for Cycle 3 was unanimously approved.

10.7. PELO Program and Budgets (discussion)

No amount was received by Government for PELO program. The school is currently working with 80% of its usual budget (20% budget cut). PELO program can be provided by an organization outside of the school/Board, but there is no funding to pay for this.

10.8. Enrichment programs (discussion)

After discussion with consultant at the Board, three enrichment programs will be created for students who are high achieving (have high grades, over 90%) as they will be removed from class to participate in these enrichment programs and will need to catch-up on missed materials. These will be at no cost to students; school will take on the costs. Teachers will select the students who will participate.

The enrichment programs are:

- Battle of the Books
- Global Issues Problem-Solving
- Public Speaking & Debate (as per Canadian Standards)

On motion by A. Pardo and seconded by N. Malhamé, these enrichment programs were unanimously approved.

10.9. Governing Board meeting dates (Chair)

The following meeting dates have been scheduled for 2025-2026:

- Monday, December 8
- Tuesday, February 3
- Tuesday, March 31
- Monday, May 4
- Monday, June 15

All meetings to take place in the School Library at 7:00 pm unless otherwise noted.

10.10. Staff Appreciation fundraisers (Andrea)

Blanket motion was requested for fundraising for Staff Appreciation for 2025-2026.

On motion by P. Ruscito and seconded by V. Hatchwell, the blanket motion was unanimously approved.

11. Information and Reports

11.1. Administration's Report (Vice-principals)

GB report: (September – October 20)

- September 2 – First day of classes
- September 3 – High school photos
- September 4 – Curriculum Night
- September 5 – Welcome back BBQ
- September 9 + 11 – High school level assemblies



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September 11 – Open House (*Excellent participation — over 400 families attended based on our booklet count. A special thank you to Ms. Halaris and the Student Life group, as well as Ms. Malhamé for preparing our student ambassadors, who did a wonderful job presenting the school to prospective students and their families.*)

September 15 – 17 – Elementary level assemblies

September 19 – OPUS photos

September 20 – The entrance exams were a great success and ran smoothly with close to 300 participants. A special thank you to all the teachers and staff who generously volunteered their time over the weekend, as well as to Ms. Halaris and the Student Life group for their excellent support and coordination.

September 25 – Terry Fox Run (Indoors due to weather) We wish to also take this opportunity to thank all for your generosity with our Terry Fox Run Campaign. Our school raised over \$11,750 and we broke all our previous Terry Fox Run fundraising records.

September 26 – Elementary school photos

September 29 – GMAA Soccer Playday (great success)

September 30 – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (Orange Shirt Day) + Attestation Day

October 9 – CEGEP Seminar – *Our guidance councillor had a great presentation for our sec. 5 students. The goal of the Seminar is to prepare students as they begin to embark on their career exploration and prepare for their post-secondary studies. The students received valuable information on exploring the Quebec Education System, High School Graduation Requirements, in-depth Post-Secondary Programs and Pathways information, Key Online Career Platforms, as well as encouragement for careful and authentic self-reflection about their aspirations, goals, and interests*

STUDENT SUCCESS PORTFOLIO Personalized

During the seminar, the students will each be provided with a portfolio called the Student Success Portfolio. The portfolio allows students to assemble their own documents as they begin their individual research, visits at Open Houses, and consultation with the Guidance Counsellor.

Among some of the various helpful tools and forms; the portfolio includes:

- *Personal Graduation Planner*
- *High School Graduation Requirements*
- *Five Steps to Making the Right Choice*
- *Open House Info*
- *Where Can These Programs Lead To?*

October 10 – Corn Roast - A huge success, thanks to our amazing parent volunteers for their tremendous help and to the wonderful weather we ordered for the day!. + Pizza appreciation for Open House volunteers in the auditorium

October 15 – Progress reports published

October 16 – STM Inclusive Mobility

Royal Vale School has partnered once again with the STM to offer a public transit training and education program called Inclusive Mobility for sec. 1 neurodivergent individuals throughout the Greater Montréal area. Inclusive Mobility aims to teach potential public transit users how to use public transit independently, comfortably and safely.

The program is free of charge and includes practice sessions, for which transit fares are provided. At the end of the sessions the students will receive three free monthly passes.

October 17 – Photo retakes



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October 17 deadline – **GemStar Circle of Excellence Program**

The *GemStar Circle of Excellence*, offered through the **Playmas Association**, provides one-on-one mentoring and scholarship opportunities to high-achieving Black students currently in Grade 11 (Secondary V) in the Montreal area. The mentorship program runs from **October to May** and includes access to **scholarships and bursaries ranging from \$500 to \$1,500**. Eligible students are those who:

- Maintain an academic average of **80% or higher**
- Are actively involved in their **community**
- Identify as part of the **Black community**

At **Royal Vale High School**, a few of our students have already applied to this valuable program.

GMAA Report:

-Volleyball Juvenile Girls doing well, 3rd place finish in their division going into the playoffs.

-Bantam Girls volleyball in 1st place in their division heading into the playoffs.

-Juvenile Boys in 1st place going into the playoffs.

-In outdoor soccer our Juvenile Boys struggled this year.

-The Cadet Boys ended in 2nd place in their division.

-The Bantam Boys ended in 3rd place in their division heading into the playoffs.

-In Flag Football our Cadet boys ended their season in 3rd place in their division.

-The Bantam Boys ended their season in third place in their division.

-In the Cross-Country Run, the event went well for our school with both High School and Elementary students participating.

-The elementary soccer play day was a success, with our elementary boys' team going undefeated till the end and losing in penalty kicks in the final.

11.2. EMSBPC Report 2 min

Nothing to report. Meeting will take place later this month.

12. Varia

12.1. Questions From Parents

K. Pellatt-Caron asked, "What do we do if we missed the OPUS Card Day?" Instructions were given to email administration. Several parents on Governing Board suggested to take child to an OPUS Point of Service to get the card done.

12.2. Music & After School Program

H. Magonet (Parent) brought an issue with RVEHSA to Governing Board, as per instruction from last year's administration. As RVEHSA is an organization that functions independently from the administration and Governing Board, it was suggested to address this issue with QESBA.



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13. Second Question period (*Chair*)

None.

14. Adjournment & Closing Remarks (*Chair*)

On motion by A. Di Domizio and seconded by H. Magonet, adjournment was unanimously approved.

The next meeting will take place on Monday, December 8 at 7:00 pm in the School Library.

Andrea Batsis
Chair, Royal Vale Governing Board 2025-26

Despina Michakis
Principal, Royal Vale School