



## Royal Vale School Governing Board

Minutes of the meeting of December 8, 2025

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Minutes of the Governing Board meeting held December 8, 2025, at 7:00 pm, 5851 Somerled, Montreal, Quebec, H3X 2A5

**Present:** Andrea Batsis, Howard Magonet, Karyn Pellatt-Caron, Vincenzo Monticciolo, Davy Lambiris, Jonathan Mustillo, Andale Evans, April Edwardson, Valerie Hatchwell, Nathalie Malhamé, Anthony Di Domizio, Marion Albrecht, Mayra Waygood, Benjamin Bacon, Olivia Catchlove (alternate)

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

**Absent:** Ariella Pardo, Stephen Concister, Paolo Ruscito, Alan De Aguiar Lopes (N/A), Stella Halaris (N/A), Ellie-Rose Robichaud, Stephanie Suissa (alternate), Marni Rubin (RVEHSA, President), Sharon Nelson (EMSB Commissioner)

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by A. Batsis at 7:04 pm. H. Magonet was secretary.

### 2. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was amended with the following changes:

- Item 7.3 (Educational Project Action Plan – Principal) and Item 7.4 (ABAV-Anti-Bullying and Anti-Violence Action Plan – Principal) were moved to the February 3, 2026, Board meeting as some data is missing.
- A new motion 7.3 – the Annual General Assembly minutes of September 11, 2025, was added to the agenda
- A new motion 7.4 – Music Fundraiser, was added to the agenda.
- Under Varia, a new Item 9.6 – Class Photos, was added to the agenda.

On motion by V. Hatchwell and seconded by V. Monticciolo, the amended agenda was unanimously approved.

### 3. Adoption & signing of minutes of the October 20, 2025, meeting

On a motion by A. Di Domizio and N. Malhamé, the minutes were unanimously approved

### 4. Business arising from the minutes of the meeting of October 20, 2025

#### 4.1. Pelo Program Follow-up

This item is to be reviewed at the next board meeting

### 5. Information and reports (Student & H&S reps)

#### 5.1. Student Life report (*student reps – Benjamin & Mayra*)

- Fundraising for charity: nonperishables and money (9th to a TBA date)
- Door decorating (9th to the 19th)



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- Candy grams (5th to the 9th or 10th)
- Spirit week:
- 15th: name the elf with teacher's photos around school
- 16th: photos in Draper
- 17th: holiday music in cafeteria
- 18th: holiday sweater
- 19th: pajamas, class potluck and movie

### 5.2. RVEHSA report (*President*)

- RVEHSA initiatives that have occurred since the previous meeting
  - Halloween party for elementary students was a success- many families from elementary gathered and great time to socialize
  - Kindergarten party had a great turnout, many families gathered and enjoyed the pizza dinner provided at no cost for the families. A fun soccer game was set up in half the gym, the activity was provided by JOX - also a successful event!
- Upcoming events RVEHSA committees are currently planning for:
  - Staff appreciation planned for February
  - Science Exploration week/month. In May there will be an open house exhibition of various grades projects for families of the students to discover and engage with the students.
- This is the second year we have started Term 2 after school enrichment programs before the Winter break. Operations wise it's working very well. Pre K and K have a couple program offerings too this term, and completely sold out and we added one extra program after registration was filled to try to meet the demand.
- One of our suppliers JOX has offered to not charge for the spots of any Myra kids foundation recipient. This is aligned to the type of community support RVEHSA strives for.
- The Support fund is running well. We have a few more corporate donations and applicants for term 2 who are benefiting from this initiative.
- There have been 4 Ped day programs! Three of them being field trips! All ran smoothly and had high registration numbers.
- The cookie dough fundraiser for staff appreciation is picking up in the final days. We are at \$2335 profit- all profits go to pay for staff appreciation events/ food.
- The next RVEHSA meeting will be in the new year in February.

### 6. First Question Period – No Questions



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### 7. Discussion items (votes required)

#### 7.1. Internal Rules and Code of Conduct (Chair)

A. Batsis reviewed the internal rules and code of conduct document with members. On motion by K. Pellatt-Caron and seconded by V. Hatchwell, the report was unanimously approved.

#### 7.2. Uniform Supplier Approval (Principal)

D. Michakis shared the following news from the current uniform supplier (TOPMARKS).

- IF RVS will renew their contract for a 3-year period, the school will receive 5% of the annual net profits.
- Any price increases will not exceed an increase of 2.5% annually
- Discussion: Pieces can be added or removed without penalty. This is a motion only to renew the contract with the new conditions.
- On motion by A. Di Domizio and seconded by A. Edwardson, the motion was unanimously approved.

#### 7.3. Annual General Assembly Minutes

Correction was made to the minutes to add that Joyce Bernas and Shimon Becker were the scrutineers .

On motion by K. Pellatt-Caron and D. Lambiris, the motion was unanimously approved.

#### 7.4. Music Fundraiser

A request was made that all proceeds raised in December for Ms. Smith's music program be used for the music program.

On motion from V. Hatchwell and A. Edwardson, the motion was unanimously approved.

### 8. Information and Reports

#### 8.1. Administration's Report (*Vice-principals*)

#### 8.2. EMSBPC Report (J. Mustillo and K. Pellatt-Caron)

#### 8.3. Commissioner's Report (S. Nelson)

Commissioner Nelson sent her apologies for being unable to attend.



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### 9. Varia

#### 9.1. School Website

Batsis and C. Lagakos reported that the school website is being updated and revamped for the new year, and will be reconfigured and aligned with all the EMSB websites .

#### 9.2. Sports Concentration Supervision

V. Monticciolo enquired if there can be use of the weight room during lunchtime, as it appeared that there was no available supervision. We were informed that the room is now open and supervision is available at that time. This request was extended for the rock-climbing room. We were informed once proper supervision is available and secured this can be an option.

#### 9.3. PT Interviews

A. Batsis, in speaking with other parents, suggested that for high school parents have a sign-up for PT interviews, like that of the elementary school, as line-ups were quite extensive. C. Lagakos responded that it has been this way historically, but that changes can happen, and this can be re-visited.

#### 9.4. Dance for Alex

A. Batsis reminded everyone that the Dance for Alex fundraiser will take place next week to support the Myra Kids Foundation.

#### 9.5. EMSB Town Hall Debrief

This Town Hall meeting took place for Governing Board Chairs and delegates. Chair Ortona reviewed and summarized the many changes and legal challenges the Board is dealing with, including the state of the current EMSB budget, and other discussion items.

#### 9.6. Class Photos

H. Magonet reported that some parents whose children participated in the photo re-take day were having difficulty with the photo company in having their photos sent to the school for free. It appears that this option, while available on their website, doesn't allow for this option. A similar issue occurred last year, and the school was able to intervene to have the photos sent to the school at no charge. C. Lagakos asked to be kept in the loop and would intervene if this is not corrected.

### 10. Second Question period (*Chair*)

O. Catchlove enquired if there would be field trips available to the kindergarten and younger elementary grades. She further stated that if helpful, many parents would offer to volunteer. The administration mentioned that there are some trips planned for later in the year and that they would follow up.



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V. Monticciolo requested if the school could open earlier. The administration remarked that they are unable to do so due to a lack of qualified supervision and staff availability at that time.

J. Mustillo made a similar request to have the weight room available earlier, or perhaps to form a club. A similar issue with a lack of certified supervision, as well as liability issues are the problem.

V. Monticciolo enquired if a guest speaker could be brought in to discuss topics of interest (such as math, engineering) to expose students to different areas of interest/careers. The administration mentioned that this does take place and that this could be raised with the school guidance counsellor.

### 11. Adjournment & Closing Remarks (*Chair*)

- On motion by A. Di Domizio and seconded by V. Hatchwell, the meeting was adjourned at 8:24PM and was unanimously approved.
- Best wishes for a safe, relaxing, and happy holiday were shared.
- The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at 7:00 pm in the School Library.
- Minutes submitted by H. Magonet.

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Andrea Batsis  
Chair, Royal Vale Governing Board 2025-26



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Despina Michakis  
Principal, Royal Vale School

