



Royal Vale School Governing Board

Minutes of the meeting of March 31, 2026

Minutes of the Governing Board meeting held March 31, 2026, at 7:00 pm at 5851 Somerled, Montreal, Quebec, H3X 2A5.

Present: Andrea Batsis, Jonathan Mustillo, Howard Magonet, Andale Evans, Davy Lambiris, Nathalie Malhamé, Valerie Hatchwell, Anthony Di Domizio, Alan De Aguiar Lopes, Stephen Concister, Marion Albrecht, Ellie-Rose Robichaud, Mayra Waygood, Benjamin Bacon, Olivia Catchlove (alternate)

Also present: Despina Michakis (Principal), Sharon Nelson (EMSB Commissioner)

Absent: Christos Lagakos (Vice-Principal, High School), Ivan Spilak (Vice-Principal, Elementary), Karyn Pellatt-Caron, Vincenzo Monticciolo, Ariella Pardo, April Edwardson, Paolo Ruscito, Stephanie Suissa (alternate), Marni Rubin (RVEHSA, President)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by A. Batsis at 7:01 pm. A. Batsis was secretary.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

On motion by H. Magonet and seconded by D. Lambiris, the agenda was unanimously approved.

3. Adoption & signing of minutes of the Feb. 3, 2026 meeting

On a motion by N. Malhamé and seconded by A. Lopes, the minutes were unanimously approved

4. Business arising from the minutes of the meeting of Feb. 3, 2026

4.1. N/A

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

5.1. Student Life report (*student reps*)

Events Held:

Pink Shirt Day (Valentine's Day)

Prizes awarded for green attire (St. Patrick's Day)

Assisted with parent-teacher interviews by providing student guides

Upcoming Events:

Spirit Week for High School students in June

Dress Down Days



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5.2. RVEHSA report (*President*)

Staff appreciation week events were a success!

Thank you to Co-Chairs Lanni Frankel and Melissa Keller and their whole committee. Thank you to Andrea Batsis for supporting them as the outgoing chair.

Parent Volunteers from the elementary school worked hard to make it special for the elementary and high school staff!

2 successful fundraisers to cover costs for the events:

-Cookie fundraiser was a success, profit \$ 2769.60

-General fundraising cash and online \$ 2675

There are some left over funds, we will plan an end of year coffee event for staff.

Literacy week, was Feb. 23-26

RVEHSA recruited parent volunteers to support the elementary book swap. A big thank you for Ms. Stephanie for bringing this new initiative to the RVS community and for Nadia Borsillino who coordinated the volunteers.

Another library initiative, over 40 new books were purchased from the 23 elementary school families making donations in honor of their student at Royal Vale. Ms. Stephanie received the budget and created the list of books to purchase. She makes an effort to purchase a variety of English and French books for Pre K- Grade 6 and parents received a thank you letter from Ms. Stephanie with the list of books purchased.

Science Exploration evening for elementary school is happening May 12th. A volunteering recruit form will be sent out to parents soon. Science Fair for elementary is April 11th – we are still looking for more judges. A sign-up form was emailed to elementary parents.

Carolyn's Community food drive

April 13 – 24: Liz Ostroff will help organize with Carolyn, School admin can help by posting on social media. For two weeks, we ask for non-perishable food donations from the school community. The After-school program of older groups will be involved in helping to sort food and the younger groups in decorating the collection bins.

Earth Day initiative, April 21st

RVEHSA and school admin are organizing a year clean-up. Similar to last year, we are acquiring supplies from Eco-quartier and communications will go out to parents and school staff to let them know of the initiative.

Jump Rope for Heart- Andrea Batsis is working with Mr. Katz on the volunteer schedule, and we will recruit through RVEHSA communications.

RVEHSA programming

Ped day programs and After school and enrichment programs are going very well. We offered field trips for grades K- 6 for all the ped days when we did not have access to the school building. **This is the first year that RVEHSA was able to offer Ped day programs on all PED days.** They were all a success!



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We started the Enrichment Program for Term 3 on March 24th.

There are 2 new programs:

-KidPreneur Accelerator Course Students will learn product ideation, branding, market research, finance, sales and more! Whether they grow up to work for a company, or start one themselves, entrepreneurship flexes more essential soft skills than any other program. This hands-on experience will fuel their growth as they learn to make independent decisions, build resiliency and gain valuable self awareness. **Student Outcome:** They will get to start and launch their own business using their own ideas, designing products and making real money selling to real customers. The RVEHSA office team applied for a grant and it was accepted to receive the curriculum free of charge. We hired a teacher to teach the curriculum.

Champions in Motion- This was another grant we applied for and received for a new program. We are receiving the program and instructor at no charge and offering it to families for free! Champions in Motion is a program offered by the Champions for Life Foundation, founded by former Canadian Taekwondo champion David Arsenault. Rooted in a love of movement and physical literacy, the program provides fun, inclusive activities where children run, jump, kick, throw, and play through engaging challenge stations.

All games are non-competitive, non-elimination, and fully adaptable, ensuring every child can participate, build confidence, and experience success—making movement joyful, social, and something they look forward to each week.

The next RVEHSA meeting is April 7th and then the AGM takes place on April 30th. An email will go out soon with all the positions available on the executive and committees and reminder on the date of the election.

Staff Acknowledgment: Staff expressed sincere gratitude for the successful staff appreciation event, noting that the hot chocolate and wellness activities provided were excellent.

6. First Question Period

N/A

7. Discussion items (votes required)

7.1. Budget Building Process Consultation (Chair)

A one-day-per-week position for resource assistance was added based on last year's requests.

This year's priorities are:

- Resource staff
- Mental health support
- Tutoring/Study skills support
- Instructional materials (laptops and cart)
- Major repairs (specifically for the high school basement)

On motion by J. Mustillo and seconded by A. Di Domizio, the Budget Building Priorities consultation was unanimously approved. Please see the attached document.



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7.2. RVEHSA School Supplies Fundraiser (Principal)

On motion by H. Magonet and seconded by A. Evans, the school supplies fundraiser through Magasin Scolaire was unanimously approved.

8. Information and Reports

8.1. Administration's Report (Vice-principals)

February 9th - Sec. 5 Grad Photos session (Ped. Day)

February 11 - Simeon Pompey Black History Month Presentation Elementary & High School: Simeon Pompey is a prominent Montreal-based educator, community leader, and mentor widely recognized for his decades of service in the Notre-Dame-de-Grâce (NDG) area. He is currently a professor at Dawson College and serves as the Animation Director for Comité Jeunesse NDG.

February 12th – Hot Chocolate Day

February 16th to 19th - Elementary Level assemblies covering various topics from safety.

February 19 – Dental Screening Sec. 2 and Grade 2.

February 20th – Elementary Cycle 3 ski/tube day

– College Pod Sessions for sec. 5 student with our Guidance Counselor:

This session provided students with the opportunity to:

- Ask questions about specific schools and programs
- Review admission requirements and academic averages
- Discuss letters of intent and supporting documents
- Review key deadlines and application procedures
- Research programs in small collaborative pods
- Share resources, notes, and strategies with peers
- Students also had access to curated tools and materials to support thoughtful decision-making and planning.

February 23 – High School Winter Carnival (ski & Tubing) – Huge success great level of participation!!!

February 25 – Pink Shirt Day - Pink Shirt Day (anti-bullying awareness day) Participation was great as we came together to promote kindness, inclusion, and respect within our school community.

February 26 – Parent Teacher Interviews took place

March 10th - Jump Rope for Heart kick-off

March 17 – Mothers Against Drunk Driving MADD presentation for the secondary 4 and 5 students (impaired driving – drugs and alcohol consumption)

March 17 – St. Patrick Day (Wear Green Day)

March 19 – Sec. 5 - Grad Photo Retakes

March 26 – High School Holocaust Museum visit sec. 3

March 27th - Spelling Bee Competitions – elementary

March 30th - Elementary Holocaust Museum visit – grade 6

March 31st – Storytelling Competitions.

8.2. EMSB PC Report (J. Mustillo and K. Pellatt-Caron)

Report to be presented at the next meeting.

8.3. Commissioner's Report (S. Nelson)

Commissioner S. Nelson sent her regrets for this meeting. Nothing to report at this time.



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9. Varia

9.1. In response to V. Monticciolo's email to the Chair, A. Batsis acknowledged receiving the email and will address the items at the next meeting when Mr. Monticciolo is present.

9.2. Student Support:

Elementary Student Support: Elementary parents voiced interest in establishing an afterschool tutoring program for elementary students. The recommendation is to consult with the Home and School, as they are responsible for afterschool activities.

High School Student Support: High School parents voiced concern regarding insufficient support for student self-study skills.

- **Action:** Administration will speak with staff to reinforce self-study skills in the curriculum, as a specific course is not available.
- **Suggestion:** A suggestion was made to implement this support during Home Room / Resource room, similar to the model used at schools such as Marymount.

10. Second Question period (Chair)

N/A

11. Adjournment & Closing Remarks (Chair)

- On motion by A. Di Domizio and seconded by J. Mustillo, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:41pm.
- The next meeting will take place on Monday, May 4th, 2026 at 7:00 pm in the School Library.

Andrea Batsis
Chair, Royal Vale Governing Board 2025-26

Despina Michakis
Principal, Royal Vale School

