



Royal Vale School Governing Board

Minutes of the meeting of May 4, 2026

Minutes of the Governing Board meeting held on May 4, 2026 at Royal Vale School, 5851 Somerled, Montreal, Quebec, H3X 2A5.

Present: Andrea Batsis, Howard Magonet, Anthony Di Domizio, Karyn Pellatt-Caron, Davy Lambiris, April Edwardson, Nathalie Malhamé, Valerie Hatchwell, Olivia Catchlove (alternate), Ellie-Rose Robichaud, Marion Albrecht

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

Absent: Vincenzo Monticciolo, Mayra Waygood, Benjamin Bacon, Ariella Pardo, Jonathan Mustillo, Andale Evans, Alan De Aguiar Lopes, Stephen Concister, Paolo Ruscito, Stephanie Suissa (alternate), Sharon Nelson (EMSB Commissioner)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by A. Batsis at 7:05pm, with K. Pellatt-Caron as Secretary.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

On motion by A. Edwardson, seconded by V. Hatchwell, the agenda as amended, was unanimously approved.

3. Adoption & signing of minutes of March 31, 2026

On motion by A. Di Domizio, seconded by H. Magonet, the minutes of the meeting of March 31, 2026 were unanimously approved.

4. Business arising from the minutes of the meeting of March 31, 2026

None

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

5.1. Student Life report (Student reps)

Leadership Camp was a success. A. Edwardson was recognized for her contributions to the event.

No current events but Leadership Camp set the stage for events for next year.

5.2. RVEHSA report (RVEHSA President)

RVEHSA President M. Rubin presented her report.

Highlights include:

- Food Drive
- Earth Day



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- AGM for RVEHSA and elections April 30 2026 – new members, missing co-chair for Staff Appreciation
- Science week scheduled for May 12 -15th with Robotics and Science Projects to be exhibits and Mad Science presentations
- Year end party scheduled for Thursday, June 9th, with rain date Friday, June 12th 2026

6. First Question Period

- i) Appreciation expressed for Wonka Musical Theatre event. Parent asked if it could be an after-school activity. Principal D. Michakis advised that it is a broad event aimed to include all students. RVEHSA President concurred.
- ii) Parent expressed interest in more field trips and proposed that more than 1 parent volunteer be able to participate. Administration explained school staff attend and support students and the need for chaperones depends on the event and ideally class experience, continuity and focus vs parental involvement. It was proposed that there can be connection with parents' possible opportunities in school to connect. Parents can propose ideas (ie. career day) to administration.

7. Discussion items (votes required)

7.1 RVEHSA financial report (RVEHSA President)

M. Gencher presented the 2025 financial report - RVEHSA Budget – Statement of Operations, identified and explained changes compared to 2024. M. Gencher walked the Board through the Financial Report Schedule of Expenses, explained cost increases due to increased enrollment, therefore increased need for supplies, plus additional ped days and now off-site ped day programs, but that the costs were offset by increased fees paid for participation. She addressed increased fees for After School Programming and Registration, a decline in interest in Music Program, particularly Guitar. RVEHSA is in a solid financial position with excess funds accumulated but earmarked for special projects, namely i) Outdoor Classroom Structure to be funded by RVEHSA but managed by the EMSB; ii) Emergency Fund as RVEHSA is a non-profit organization and cannot secure lines of credit and cashflow varies depending on when fees come in and when payments need to be made for staffing, etc.; iii) Appliances for Staff Room; iv) Equipment for After School Programs.

Motion to approve the RVEHSA financial report by H. Magonet, seconded by A. Di Domizio. Motion carried - unanimously approved.

7.2 Trip to Europe

I. Spilak proposed Trip for Sec III, IV and V in April of 2027; destination to Greece, duration of 9 days, 3 Star Hotel, cost between \$4,000 - \$5,000 per student. Minimum of 16 students are required for a cultural and educational experience.

Motion to approve Trip to Europe by N. Malhamé, seconded by A. Edwardson. Motion carried - unanimously approved.



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7.3 Exam Dates and End of Year Calendar (Principal)

D. Michakis proposed that last day of school for Sec III, IV, and V be June 9th 2026; All high school students to have a 3 hour exam on June 10th; Sec I and II students to finish school on June 12th, but June 11th and 12th will be half days to review and prep for exams. Exam schedule to be circulated to students this week.

Motion to approve the Exam Dates and End of Year Calendar by V. Hatchwell, seconded by D. Lambiris. Motion carried - unanimously approved.

7.4 Lunch Change for Elementary Students (Principal)

D. Michakis proposed a new schedule for Elementary Students, 15 mins earlier at 11:20am to allow for a break for the kitchen staff, and for traffic control between Elementary and High School lunch hour.

Motion to approve the Lunch Change for Elementary Students from 11:20am – 12:10pm by V. Hatchwell, seconded by A. Edwardson, 3 abstentions. Motion carried.

8. Information and Reports

8.1 Administration's Report (*Vice-Principals*)

Report provided by C. Lagakos.

April 1 – Grade 6 SPVM presentation session

April 10 - Elementary Robocup Challenge

April 10 - Grade pre-k to 2 Play – Auditorium

April 13 - Le spectacle de Kattam - K4-K5 (Mini Auditorium)

April 13 - Elem. Science Fair (grade 4 & 5) (35 students) library

April 13 - Unpacking the N-Word (Cycle 3 8:15-9:15 - High School 9:25-10:15)

Unpacking the N-Word is a bold, eye-opening anti-racism presentation designed for students and educational staff. In response to the global conversations sparked by the Black Lives Matter movement, OWTA created this presentation to help students and educators address the often uncomfortable—but necessary—topic of racism.

April 14 - Herzl Clinic Tentative (Natasha) Sec. 2 & 4 - Period 1 & 2 - The doctors covered a range of important topics, including Sexual Education, Drugs, Mental Health, STIs, Contraception, Screening, and more. They were also available to answer any questions that students may have. The presentation was informative and valuable for our students, providing them with essential knowledge and fostering a supportive environment for discussion.

April 16 - Shakespeare Play Thurs. April 16th starting at 8:15 am. Main Auditorium (gr. 3 to 6 elementary)

April 17 - Royal Vale High School Theatre Club proudly presents Romeo & Juliet. Step into the world of star-crossed lovers, feuding families, and timeless passion as our talented students bring Shakespeare's classic tragedy to life. Filled with drama, emotion, and unforgettable moments. This production is a true reflection of the dedication, creativity, and hard work of our students—both on stage and behind the scenes. Thank you to A. Edwardson for her dedication to the production.

April 22 - Let's Talk Science Challenge elem grade 5 & 6 (10 students)



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April 22 - Zone 01 Robotics (Grade 5 & 6) (24 students)

April 23 – Jump Rope for Heart (over 11.000 very successful special guest: Montreal Canadiens Gilbert Delorme)

April 24 - Science/Math Olympiad - Royal Vale High School held its Science/Math/Academic Olympics. All high school students participated in a full day of engaging science, math, STEM, and academic challenges.

April 27 – Ped. Day Welcome to our new K4 and K5 morning session

April 27 to May 1 High school trips to NY, Washington and Boston huge success great participation.

April 28 - Dental Sealant application session in the library for grade 2 and sec. 2 students

April 30th – Musical Presentation for the high students left behind from the trips: Nikos Xanthoulis is a composer, ancient lyre specialist, and academic whose work bridges music and archaeology. He serves as Artistic Consultant at the Greek National Opera and teaches Harmony, Counterpoint, and Composition at the Conservatory of Athens. A Corresponding Member of the Archaeological Institute of America since 2010 and an Assistant Researcher with the Academy of Athens, he has also lectured and performed internationally, including engagements at major American universities such as Stanford University, Berklee College of Music, University of Hawai'i, and Purdue University. May 4th Grade 4 visit the Biodome.

8.2 EMSBPC Report

No report provided at this time.

8.3 EMSB Commissioner's Report - S. Nelson (EMSB Commissioner)

Commissioner Nelson sends her regrets. No report provided at this time.

9. Varia

9.1 Graduation Dates & Exams

High School Graduation – June 2, 2026.

Elementary Graduation – June 4, 2026.

High School Prom – June 18, 2026.

Exam Schedule to be circulated. Exams to occur as of June 9/10th 2026.

9.2 Student Digital Wellbeing

Issue initially raised by V. Monticciolo. In his absence, A. Batsis brought the matter forward.

Administration advised that school provides workshops for students, a code for tech usage, ban of cell phones in classes and hallways between classes. The School regularly invites external resources to speak to students and there is a Community Spiritual Advisor on site. Education is provided in school re: boundaries and anti-cyber bullying for High School Students. There was a recommendation to include resources for Elementary Students. A proposal was to have High School Students speak to Elementary Students, particularly in Grade 5/6 regarding Apps (Snapchat, etc.) in play and potential negative experiences to be aware of.

9.3 Late Night On-Line Activity



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Issue initially raised by V. Monticciolo. In his absence, A. Batsis brought the matter forward. Carry over from 9.2 above except that Administration pointed out that they cannot control or impose rules outside of school tech usage. School can and does encourage healthy habits and appropriate usage for social media interactions. There was a proposal to host Parent education workshops. It was noted that there are many offered online through the EMSB, but participation is low.

9.4 High School Field Trips

Parent raised issues re: costs of trips and stigma for those students who remain. There is no programming for those who do not participate. Proposals were made for local exploration day or overnight trips Montreal, Ottawa, Quebec City for local cultural and educational experiences including indigenous experiences (Wendake in Quebec City) to minimize cost impact. Proposals were made for advance notice and opportunities to fundraise. A mention was made regarding the need for teachers to embrace and lead such initiatives. Administration acknowledged that, at a minimum, there should be some programming for those students that do not participate in the week-long field trips.

9.5 Calendar 2026-2027

D. Michakis (Principal) walked through start and end dates, proposed PED days and possible field trip dates for 2026/2027.

Motion to approve the 2026-2027 Calendar by A. Di Domizio, seconded by A. Edwardson. Motion carried.

9.6 Microwave Usage by Students at Lunch Hour in Cafeteria

The change to microwave usage was raised by H. Magonet re: students not able to heat up their lunches, requested oversight by lunch monitors. D. Michakis explained that there have already been 2 fires which resulted in evacuation of the school, despite lunch monitor oversight. The lines are so long that students do not have time to heat meals and eat. Administration proposed thermoses for safety, ease of access to hot food and efficiency for timing.

10. Second Question Period (Chair)

No questions were submitted.

11. Adjournment & Closing Remarks (Chair)

Next meeting, last of the year, will take place on Monday, June 15th, 2026 at 7PM and will be in-person.



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On motion by A. Di Domizio, seconded by N. Malhamé, adjournment was unanimously approved.
Meeting adjourned at 9:01pm.

Andrea Batsis 06-15-26 *Despina Michakis* 06-15-26

Andrea Batsis
Chair, Royal Vale Governing Board 2025-2026

Despina Michakis
Principal, Royal Vale School

