



Royal Vale School Governing Board

Minutes of the meeting of January 27, 2025

Minutes of the Governing Board meeting held on January 27, 2025 via Teams.

Present: A. Batsis, J. Bernas (secretary), H. Magonet, A. Pardo, S. Becker, A. Evans (alt.), P. Stermer, C. Mandoiu, A. Di Domizio, V. Hatchwell, S. Halaris, D. Badrul, S. Halaris, K. Pellatt-Caron, D. Lambiris, K. Douerrachad, P. Ruscito, J. Mustillo (alt.).

Also present: M. Zampini (Principal), C. Lagakos (Vice-Principal), I. Spilak (Vice-Principal), S. Nelson (EMSB Commissioner), M. Rubin (RVEHSA)

Absent: D. Szanajda, E. Komvopoulou

1. Call to Order

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

2. Adoption of the Agenda

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

3. Adoption & signing of minutes of November 26, 2024

On motion by H. Magonet, seconded by S. Halaris, the agenda was unanimously approved.

4. Business arising from the minutes of the meeting of October 21, 2024

4.1. Uniform discussion

A. Batsis will plan a sub-committee for this in the coming months.

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

5.1. Student Life report (Student reps)

-D. Badrul reported that the door decorating contest had a lot of engagement. Winners got a free dress day for the grade.

-Candygrams earned \$1200, turned into Walmart gift cards for those that could benefit.

-Chinese New Year celebrations occurred throughout the school.

-Feb 10 = carnival day – skating, skiing.

-Students will be decorating for Valentine's Day. Everyone will have a free dress with a Valentine's day theme, and love grams and candy grams to be delivered on Feb. 14th.

-Possible school dance in the works with a \$5 entrance fee.

- A leadership event will soon be taking place.

5.2 RVEHSA report (RVEHSA President)



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- The next PED day program will take place on the 28th.
- ASP program is also going well, changes in calendar were good with an established routine.
- Team started planning program and schedule for Term 3 which will start beginning of April, with new programs to come for both Enrichment and after school.
- Cookie dough fundraiser for Staff Appreciation raised approximately \$2000 in dough sales plus \$2100 from donations.
- Dance for Alex was a nice event with a small fundraiser for the Myra foundation that raised \$120.
- Science Week planning has started and is planned for mid-May.
- We've replenished the parental support fund with a donation from a business. The fund has helped 6 families so far.
- Next H&S meeting will take place on Feb 17th at the school. High School parents will be invited.

6. First Question Period

- A. Batsis shared a question from a parent re: Grade 6 grad ceremony and party. It was confirmed that the party always takes on the same night as the ceremony in the gym. The High School ceremony and Prom will be confirmed by beginning of next week (First week of February).
- K. Pellatt-Caron asked why is there no fundraising for the high school trips. What can be done to support the students? M. Zampini replied that there are many trips and it would be challenging to fundraise for all of them, but if parents reach out the school can try to subsidize as much as possible. Please speak to the administration for more information.

7. Discussion items (votes required)

7.1. Elementary Educational Project (*Principal*)

Plan and budget were shared in advance.

- Page 1 – from 2023 to 2027/2028 we are tracking our progress
- 2023 was the baseline. That year was an exceptional year. The first 5 percentages will be hard to beat and the bar is already quite high. The goal is to maintain 90% success rate.
- This was approved last year.
- This year has more focus on the strategy (see page 2). We have added a lot of tutoring (3rd party): math, English (esp international students), Wilson program (reading), French
- Pre-K initiatives, there is funding from the ministry for activities between parents and students with activities in school. Already had 1-2 activities, goal is to have a total of 9-10 activities/ year.

Elementary: On motion by K. Pellatt-Caron, seconded by V. Hatchwell, the Elementary Educational Project was unanimously approved.

7.2 High School Educational Project (*Principal*)



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Plan and budget were shared in advance.

- We have the baseline year is 2023 (same as presented last year), with the targets for 2027-2028
- The goal is to reduce the number of students that are experiencing bullying
- Extra curricular activities around science/ tech is something we want to add to
- Strategies: an item analysis with the EMSB consultants and look at the exam success, question by question. This has shown success in the past. We will continue French and Math tutoring. English, we have anchoring or papers – teacher get together and align on what the baseline is and determine where we may be lacking or what needs more emphasis. Professional development – continue for the teachers – done at least 1-2 times a year.

High School: On motion by S. Halaris, seconded by S. Becker, the Elementary Educational Project was unanimously approved.

7.3 Elementary School Budget

- Decentralized = the base amount. It is less per student than HS because there are no textbooks in elementary
- Caretaking – covered in HS budgets
- MAO – admin office furniture, etc – not directly for students.
- TIC = elementary tech budget
- School fees – bulk is workbooks, printed materials
- Lunch supervision – goes entirely to lunch monitors
- Joining forces – can be used for many things, but as last resort tends to be used for tutoring or materials
- FSL – tutoring
- Practicum school portion – an amount we get back for student teacher support
- Pre-k volet parents – from the gov't to organize parent-student-teacher activities
- Aide alimentaire – cafeteria budget
- Benchmarking – for evaluating the kids and studying the improvement in reading comprehension
- In school we move – Phys ed equipment or bring in a sports animator (ideally outdoors)
- Support to parents – workshops for parents (ex – the transition to high school)
- Homework assistance – used to pay tutor salaries
- Wellness – sig. smaller than in high school
- Reading in schools – entirely library books, nothing else
- Books in the homeroom – new, for the classroom library
- Teacher supervision release – to support teachers and release them for other activities when needed. It is hard to spend because it is hard to find people to hire
- Culture à l'école – to bring in outside orgs to expose kids to other cultures
- Sorties milieu culturel – approved ministry field trips
- Ecole accessible – do anything to enrich the lives of the student. Ex a specific art activity. It is a broad fund. Usually spent on initiatives the do not quite fit anywhere else
- Aide addi – tutoring
- Liberation des enseignants – Substitute teachers release them for other activities when needed.



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- PELO – the amount allocated to pelo after school

Elementary: On motion by A. Di Domizio, seconded by K. Douerrachad, the Elementary budget was unanimously approved.

7.4 High School Budget (*Principal*)

- decentralized – from government. The base amount for all of the operations of the school. Bottom is the way the school intends (projected) to spend the money.
- Caretaking – building (one amount for both school) - cleaning supplies and minor repairs
- MAO – amount is for office furniture, filing cabinets. Anything not directly used by students
- TIC – laptops and repair for students – you will find them on the mobile computer carts. (software is covered by the gov't and not the school's responsibility)
- MAO sports, equipment and schoolyard – a grant to put a sound system in the upper gym. A big win for the school
- School fees – collected from parents, special internal events (ex. Basketball team wins) – large part is workbooks and photocopies. Waiting on govt allocation, ~\$250/ student.
- Joining forces – pay for tutoring or gym maintenance
- Support for FSL – tutors for French
- Aide alimentaire – subsidize the lunch meals (leftovers is given back to the students as free meals or ice cream at the end of the year)
- Parascolaire – a relatively new budget – to promote after school activities. Entirely spent on coaches, transportation, registration of teams. Will be easily spent with the amount of activities offered at RVS
- Reading and schools – exclusively for library books
- Field trips – to pre-approved ministry destinations
- Aide – additional – to support special needs
- Liberation des enseignants – to support teachers and release them for other activities when needed.

High School: On motion by K. Pellatt-Caron, seconded by P. Stermer, the High School budget was unanimously approved.

7.5 PELO funding

The PELO budget is never enough to cover costs of running the program every year. The school typically applies for extra funding. The cutback this year has been more than anticipated. Last year, we received a base amount of ~\$17,000 + application for extra grants for PELO +\$63,000. This year, there was no extra funding, therefore the \$17k is left for base amount. The school charged for first and second term. PELO will have to be stopped as of April (through to June). The end of the program for this year will align with the opportunity for parents to sign up for enrichment instead. The possibility for parents to fund the gap would be quite (\$400) high and with the assumption of keeping 15 kids per class, there is a risk that there will not be enough interest. This cost is much more than any other enrichment class.

K. Pellat-Caron asked if this means that next year there will be no PELO?



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J. Mustillo asked what the communication to the parents is and if there is a possibility of saving it.

There was a request to survey the parents for interest. Planning needs to start for next year and to look for a different way to offer it next year for the full year Sept – June assuming there may be no extra funding.

On motion by H. Magonet, seconded by K. Pellatt-Caron, the motion to form a sub-committee for PELO discussion and analysis was unanimously approved. The sub-committee will be composed of J. Mustillo, H. Magonet, K. Pellatt-Caron, and A. Batsis along with the administration.

8. Information and Reports

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

Provided by C. Lakagos, I. Spilak:

Activities - Skating event was a success

Elementary school – constructive communication

Holiday concert

Dance with Alex w/ Myra Foundation

Skating sessions are starting in elementary school (5 lessons total, learn and improve the skating)

Ottawa – Elementary girls BB won the tournament

Epic monitor training how to manage challenges with the elementary students

LCC girls basketball won the tournament

Caribou math competition took place

High school-STM workshop for neurodiverse students with 3-month free pass for the participants.

HS is in mid-year exam period.

HS grad photo coming up.

8.2 EMSBPC Report

S. Becker reported that the last meeting focused on 2 issues – 1) debate on GB chairs EMSB email addresses 2) internal by-laws where some representatives have two or more votes (they represent more than one school) 3) budget building process, tentative calendar for next year. There was no representation at that meeting from EMSB administration.

8.3 EMSB Commissioner's Report (*Ms. Sharon-May Nelson*)

- Ms. Nelson is getting to know the schools, decisions and committees
- Acknowledges the budget meetings, and cuts made in December (additional changes may come; M. Zampini to have meeting next week to learn more), and that budgets are tight especially PELO and other areas.
- More information to come as soon as it is available.
- A note that when a school operates at a loss, it is carried forward to next year



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9. Varia

N/A.

10. Second Question Period (Chair)

Parent A. Aviel would like clarity on the cuts to the PELO program. M. Zampini answered that the extra funding was not given to our school, but the base amount is still there. A. Aviel mentioned that Merton may be a model that can provide solutions for PELO.

11. Adjournment & Closing Remarks (Chair)

Schedule for next in-person meetings at the school:

1) Tuesday, March 11.

2) Tuesday, April 22nd.

On motion by V. Hatchwell, seconded by C. Mandoiu, adjournment was unanimously approved.
Meeting adjourned at 9:07pm.

Andrea Batsis
Chair, Royal Vale Governing Board 2024-2025

Mauro Zampini
Principal, Royal Vale School