



Royal Vale School Governing Board

Minutes of the meeting of March 11, 2025

Minutes of the Governing Board meeting held on March 11, 2025 at Royal Vale School.

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

Also present: M. Zampini (Principal), C. Lagakos (Vice-Principal), I. Spilak (Vice-Principal)

Absent: D. Szanajda, S. Nelson (EMSB Commissioner), M. Rubin (RVEHSA), P. Ruscito, J. Bernas, A. Pardo

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by A. Batsis at 7:00pm.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

On motion by V. Hatchwell, seconded by S. Halaris, the agenda was unanimously approved with the change of date for the Food drive and Fundraiser date.

3. Adoption & signing of minutes of March 11, 2025

On motion by A. Di Domizio, seconded by S. Becker, the agenda was unanimously approved.

4. Business arising from the minutes of the meeting of March 11, 2025

4.1. PELO

- The sub-committee met virtually. Mr. Zampini informed the group of the budget cuts to the Pelo program by the government and its immediate impact for the remaining year and going forward.
- Sub-committee suggested a survey be sent to current parents to glean their interest in paying for the program for the balance of the current year. Results of the survey showed that approximately 5-6 students would agree to paying for the balance of the year, which is too low. As such, parents were informed that the Pelo program will end by March 28th.
- The sub-committee will continue to look for solutions and will meet again in April.
- Mr. Zampini will be meeting with the Principal at Merton to look at how their program is run.

4.2. Uniform discussion

- The school uniform was discussed. The issue at the forefront was to try to find a solution for the high school skirt option.



Royal Vale School Governing Board

Minutes of the meeting of March 11, 2025

A motion to create a sub-committee was made by A. Batsis and seconded by K. Douerrachad. Volunteers for the sub-committee include: A. Batsis, S. Halaris, D. Badrul, D. Lambiris, and C. Mandoiu.

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

5.1. Student Life report (Student reps)

Recap of events since last meeting:

- “Love grams” (a version of candy-grams) was a great success. Students enjoyed receiving a surprise message and treat.
- Dress Down Day for Valentine’s Day was successful.
- Dance had to be cancelled due to lack of interest. Students were surveyed informally and said that a restructuring of the event would be more appealing (including game tables, dance, food, and karaoke). There will be another attempt in April.
- Photo backdrops were created and placed in the Draper lobby for St. Patrick’s Day. Students enjoyed taking selfies and photos with friends.
- Leadership Camp (April 23-25, 2025): 2 organizers, 2 animators and 7 delegates. There will be intense training and meetings. D. Badrul is one of the organizers.

New Matters Arising:

- Student Life’s addition to anti-Bullying day – putting pink post-it notes with positive messages on each student’s locker. Both elementary and HS students wrote messages and placed them on all lockers in the school.
- St. Patrick’s Day – wear the most green possible (tops with uniform bottoms)!

Hats, scarves and other accessories will be permitted. Formal letter will be sent this week. Prizes will be given to the greenest and most creative dressed students.

Fundraiser/Food Drive: In collaboration with administration, “Be Someone’s Rainbow” food drive and fundraiser. Students are encouraged to bring canned food or non-perishable item or a coin donation for our community.

Decorating of staff room and main office showcase are being planned.

Stickers will be given to all students.

- A bulletin board will be decorated to acknowledge and inform students about Ramadan.

5.2. RVEHSA report (RVEHSA President)

RVEHSA President M. Rubin sent her regrets for this evening and will submit a report at the next board meeting.

6. First Question Period



Royal Vale School Governing Board

Minutes of the meeting of March 11, 2025

No questions submitted.

7. Discussion items (votes required)

7.1. Budget Building Process (*Chair*)

A list of approved upcoming renovations was provided by Mr. Zampini. These projects will begin this summer and include:

- Heating
- Water infiltration around the school
- Eight bathrooms to be renovated
- Lockers

Discussion on other budget items ensued. A. Batsis will send a finalized document to the GB for an e-vote, to prioritize:

- Extra resource staff
- Mental health professional for elementary and high school support (including an addiction specialist)
- Caretaker
- Bathroom and auditorium renovations
- After-school tutoring & Homework support

7.2 Cell Phone Policy (*Chair*)

- Discussion around cell phone use on school grounds ensued.
- There is a current ban on cell phones on campus. Phones can be brought in but must be kept in the students' locker.
- Additional remarks suggested the policy should be reviewed to ensure clarity for both students and staff (including substitute teachers).
- There was a motion made to allow HS students to use their cell phones during recess and lunch hour to try and keep them on or near school grounds. This would not include use between classes and phones must be kept in their lockers at all other times.

On motion by A. Di Domizio, seconded by S. Halaris, the updated policy on cell phone usage on school grounds was unanimously approved.



Royal Vale School Governing Board

Minutes of the meeting of March 11, 2025

8. Information and Reports

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

Report provided by I. Spilak.

ELEMENTARY

Jan. 30th – Grade 5 held their 2nd skating date

-Planetarium visit took place in the lower gym. Students had an opportunity to explore the universe.

Feb. 6th – Grade 5 held their 3rd skating date

-Grade 6's had the Chinese New Year workshops building origamis

Feb 12th – Grade 6 students held their 1st of 4 classroom sessions in the "transition to high school workshop" that proved to be quite popular.

Feb 14th – was Valentine's Day with plenty of red to be seen.

Feb. 21st – Cycle 3 elementary students enjoyed a day of skiing and tubing at Mont-Avila.

Feb. 26th – most of the school wore pink and promoted anti-bullying messages in the classrooms.

Feb. 27th – Invitational Parent-teacher interviews went well with a staff potluck that provided an impressive variety of foods.

Feb 28th – The start of spring break

HIGH SCHOOL

Jan 31 - Grad photos

Jan 24-30 - Midyear Exams (smooth process)

Feb 10 - Carnival Day: Tubing, Skiing, Skating (very successful)

Feb 12 - Black History Month Presentation: Simeon Pompey, professor at Dawson College (excellent presentation)

Feb 21- High School Play: Alice

Feb 26 - Waterloo Math Competition

Feb 27 - Parent Teacher Interviews (Smooth)

March 10 - MADD Presentation for secondary 5:

Key topics covered:

- Peer pressure
- Dangers of binge drinking
- Impairment caused by marijuana
- Mixing marijuana and alcohol
- Accepting rides from impaired drivers
- Planning ahead and making responsible choices
- The life-changing consequences of one wrong decision

8.2 EMSBPC Report

S. Becker reported there were three main items discussed that included:

-Presentation by Agence Ometz

-Budget debate

-Votes on the Literacy Awards and Achievements



Royal Vale School Governing Board

Minutes of the meeting of March 11, 2025

8.3 EMSB Commissioner's Report

EMSB Commissioner sent her regrets. No report was submitted at this time.

9. Varia

- 9.1. There will be a movie night for the grade 6 graduation (\$2-entry).
Family members and guests are encouraged to attend.

10. Second Question Period (Chair)

No questions were submitted.

11. Adjournment & Closing Remarks (Chair)

Next meeting will take place on Tuesday April 22, 2025 at 7PM and will be in-person.

On motion by A. Di Domizio, seconded by V. Hatchwell, adjournment was unanimously approved.
Meeting adjourned at 7:58pm.

Andrea Batsis
Chair, Royal Vale Governing Board 2024-2025

Mauro Zampini
Principal, Royal Vale School