



Royal Vale School Governing Board

Minutes of the meeting of May 13, 2024

Minutes of the Governing Board meeting held May 13, 2024 at 7pm, 851 Somerled, Montreal, Quebec, H3X 2A5.

Present: A. Balandona, A. Batsis, J. Bernas. S. Cherenfant, A. Di Domizio, E. Girolamo, S. Halaris, V. Hatchwell, D. Lambiris, H. Magonet, N. Malhamé, S. Nabi, E. Pervin, L. Phaneuf, R. Schulz-Peissel, G. Ship, D. Szanajda, E. Savage, S. Sweeney, S. Wen [REDACTED]

Also present: O. Delaney (Principal) J. Lalla (EMSB Commissioner), Marni Rubin (RVEHSA)

Absent: C. Lagakos (Vice-Principal), W. Ordon, A. Pardo, S. Spetsieris (Vice-Principal)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by A. Batsis at 7:06 pm. S. Wen was secretary for this meeting, replacing A. Pardo.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted by V. Hatchwell, seconded by S. Nabi and unanimously approved.

3. Adoption and signing of the minutes of March 19th, 2024

On a motion by R. Schulz-Peissel and seconded by S. Halaris, the minutes of March 19th, 2024 were unanimously adopted.

4. Business Arising from meeting of March 19th, 2024

4.1 Letter to DG re: bathrooms

Assistant DG responded to the letter sent by the Governing Board to EMSB:

- Tender in take place in the fall for bathroom renovations for several schools, including RVS.
- Plumbing issues to be addressed in the summer
- Renovations will be carried out in stages

4.2 Community representative (Sharon Sweeney) – Introduction and welcome

- Sharon Sweeney is a community organizer in NDG, of Porchfest, and of Notre Prom de Grâce

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

4.1 Student Life Report

- Front office showcase with spring décor
- April 5th - High school dance
- Hosted Montreal Advisory meeting at RVS
- April 24-25th - Leadership camp



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- Upcoming:
 - May 14th - Pink Shirt & Denim Day raising funds for The Cure Foundation
 - Decorating for graduation and greeting guests
 - June - Pride bracelet and flags to support diversity in the school community (awaiting council meeting decision)
 - End June - Flowers for staff to be given out at the next council meeting

4.2 RVS Elementary Home and School Report

- Elections for next year – full roster of positions filled
- Gift card collection will begin soon for end of year, to be done through Amelia
- May 17th - Kindergarten event
- May 28th – next and last Home & School Meeting
- June – End of year party for elementary and high school
- School Start Kits (school supplies for elementary) will be made available to elementary students with 10% going back to RVEHSA. It could potentially be available for high school students also.
- Uniform sale was a success
- The Comedy Show had to be canceled due to the auditorium not being available; rescheduled for the fall

6. First Question Period

No questions

7. Discussion Items (votes required)

7.1 Educational Project – Resolution approval

The Educational Project was approved during the March meeting. However, the resolution also needs to be approved. [REDACTED]. On motion by S. Cherenfant, seconded by A. Di Domizio, the resolution was unanimously approved.

7.2 Approval of 2022-2023 RVEHSA financial statement

The RVEHSA financial statement was presented during the March meeting. On motion by R. Schulz-Peissel, seconded by H. Magonet, the RVEHSA financial statement was unanimously approved.

7.3 School Start Kits fundraiser

There were a lot of complaints about the old supplier of school kits based out of Calgary - wrong items were being shipped. Research was done to find a local supplier and found Magasin Scolaire, that will have a local pick-up option. Although the school kit is intended for elementary students, this could also be offered to high school students. On motion by N. Malhamé, seconded by S. Halaris, the School Start Kits fundraiser was unanimously approved.

7.4 RVS Governing Board financial balance

The Governing Board has a financial balance of approximately \$1000. Different suggestions were made as to how this balance could be used:



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- RVEHSA Student Support Fund for the elementary Enrichment Program and After School Program
- Graduation award - one award for elementary school, and one award to high school (citizenship award or the like)

On motion by V. Hatchwell, seconded by E. Pervin, a subcommittee composing of S. Halaris, R. Schulz-Peissel, S. Sweeney and A. Batsis was approved unanimously to select the students to be given an award at graduation.

7.5 School fees 2024-2025

Proposed school fees were presented with nominal changes due to increased costs.

○ Pre-Kindergarten - \$200	○ Secondary 1 - \$320
○ Kindergarten - \$200	○ Secondary 2 - \$320
○ Grade 1 - \$160	○ Secondary 3 - \$300
○ Grade 2 - \$160	○ Secondary 4 - \$320
○ Grade 3 - \$170	○ Secondary 5 - \$300
○ Grade 4 - \$170	
○ Grade 5 - \$160	
○ Grade 6 - \$170	

On motion by V. Hatchwell, seconded by H. Magonet, the proposed elementary school fees were unanimously approved.

On motion by S. Cherenfant, seconded by E. Savage, the proposed high school fees were unanimously approved.

7.6 Lunch fees 2024-2025

Proposed lunch supervision of \$280 was presented (compared to \$270 last year).

On motion by R. Schulz-Peissel, seconded by S. Halaris, the proposed lunch supervision fee was unanimously approved.

8. Information

8.1 Administration's reports

- March - Staff appreciation week, very much appreciated
- April - Hosted Robocup
- March 18 - First nations presentation
- April 15-19 - Field trips to Washington, Boston, NYC
- Leadership Camp
- May 7 - Holocaust presentation to Sec 5
- May 16 - Dance show
- May - Jump Rope for Heart raised close to \$11,000 for the Heart & Stroke Foundation
- May 30 - Sports banquet, and Kindergarten graduation
- June 4 - High school graduation
- June 6 - Elementary school graduation



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- June 20 – Prom
- Graduations will take place in the gym
- S. Cherenfant suggested getting a plaque to commemorate the Jump Rope for Heart achievements

8.2 EMSBPC report

Consolidation & Creation of new school for neurodivergent students in the Nesbitt building

Updated conversation concerning the creation of St-Raphael. Targeting the opening of eleven (11) new classes for a total of about three hundred and thirty (330) students with differing social-emotional needs.

Parents of concerned students will be accompanied to ensure services are continued seamlessly. A town hall will be held for parents advising the types of services available for participating students. The Special Needs' services department will work in collaboration with parents to determine the best fit students and school environments.

Bussing will be made available from all sectors of the territory.

Notes from last meeting: The English Montreal School Board (EMSB) is exploring the need to consolidate a number of its resources in one location and create a center of expertise to better serve our students with social and emotional behavioral challenges.

The EMSB recognizes the importance of integrating students with diverse needs into the regular classroom. Many of these students are identified according to the Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec (MEQ) exceptional codes, while others who may not meet the criteria of exceptional codes still require adapted services.

In the last five years, the EMSB has opened numerous self-contained classes to service students with specialized needs.

Classes include:

- S.E.E.D.S.
- WINGS
- Early Stimulation
- ROOTS
- Welcoming classes.

Due to the limited number of self-contained classrooms and the lack of space students with complex needs require specialized services that the self-contained classes in regular schools cannot offer. Over the years students with complex needs have had a major impact on the growing number of students at risk of "rupture de fonctionnement".

One school has been integrated into the Nesbitt school building, centralizing students with social and emotional challenges. The school is now at capacity, and the EMSB is now faced with the challenge of finding a bigger location in order to allow them to continue to continue delivering the program due to the increased number of referrals in the system.



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Renovations have begun in Fall 2023, to separate the Nesbitt building into two schools to accommodate the neurotypical and neurodivergent populations.

Rationale and Guiding Principles

- Rationalize and consolidate a number of resources.
- Ensure the best teaching and learning environment.
- Create a Center of Expertise for students with social and emotional behavioral challenges in a new school.
- Ensure the long-term vitality of the EMSB Community by providing high-level services to students with neurotypical and neurodivergent needs.
- Maximize use of the Nesbitt School building, located at 6108 8e Avenue in Montreal.

8.3 Commissioner's report

- Bill 21 – (religious symbols and face covering) passed in 2019 and in effect for the past 5 years. The EMSB appealed and won, followed by Quebec government's appeal that won. In the March 26th EMSB council meeting, it was voted that EMSB would proceed to appeal to the Supreme Court (1.5M spent so far with another 1M expected for the appeal). The notwithstanding clause is only valid for 5 years but it has been renewed.
- Bill 96 – The EMSB challenged the Bill and is awaiting legal judgement. The OQLF informed the EMSB that they are not using enough French. The judgement on that is when communicating to another English body, English can be used.
- [REDACTED]
- Nov 3, 2024 - elections for school commissioners. J. Lalla intends to run again.

9. Varia

9.1 Attendance

A. Batsis emphasized the importance of attendance to the governing board meetings. Possible discussions for next year to include some virtual meetings.

9.2 Communication policy

O. Delaney indicated that a 48-hour turnaround time should be the standard to reply to parents' emails/calls to staff and administration. Parents have asked that this expectation be shared with administration and staff.

9.3 Road closures

Parts of CSL Road and Somerled Road will be closed for constructions. A reminder email is requested to remind students to arrive at school on time despite the road closures.

10 Questions

10.1 Français Plus



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G. Ship asked about the addition of the Français Plus program whereby Cycle 1 French would be implanted to cycle 2 as well. Français Plus program does not currently exist in the EMSB. However, the EMSB is expected to vote on the implementation of Français Plus at Willington. J. Lalla stated that under normal circumstances, it is the school that chooses the program of study (i.e., Core English, Bilingual, Immersion). Some schools have successfully made the change after consultation with parents. Today, it would be very difficult to switch to Français Plus due to the lack of personnel.

10.2 Grade 6 Fundraisers

Was approval given by the GB? Are the funds going into the school account? What are the funds going toward? O. Delaney would inquire with S. Spetsieris.

G Adjournment & Closing Remarks

On a motion by S. Wen, seconded by A. and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held on Monday, June 10, 2024 in-person, at the school.


A. Batsis

Chair, Royal Vale Governing Board
2023-2024


O. Delaney

Principal, Royal Vale School