



## Royal Vale School Governing Board

Minutes of the meeting of November 13, 2023

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Minutes of the Governing Board meeting held on November 13, 2023 at 7 pm, 5851 Somerled, Montreal, Quebec, H3X 2A5.

**Present:** A. Batsis, E. Savage, N. Malhamé, S. Nabi, S. Halaris, L. Phaneuf, E. Girolamo, W. Ordon, H. Magonet, G. Ship, A. Pardo, S. Cherenfant, R. Schulz-Peissel, D. Lambiris, D. Szanajda, A. Balandona, S. Wen, E. Pervin, J. Bernas.

**Also present:** O. Delaney (Principal), C. Lagakos (Vice-Principal), S. Spetsieris (Vice-Principal), J. Lalla (EMSB Commissioner).

**Absent:** N/A

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by O. Delaney at 7:03pm.

### 2. Introduction and Welcome

### 3. Adoption of the Agenda

On motion by H. Magonet, seconded by V. Hatchwell, the agenda was unanimously approved.

### 4. Adoption and signing of the minutes of June 13, 2023

On a motion by A. Pardo and seconded by R. Schulz-Peissel, the minutes of June 13, 2023, were approved, with 6 abstentions.

### 5. Adoption and signing of the minutes of September 14, 2023

On a motion by H. Magonet and seconded R. Schulz-Peissel, the minutes of June 13, 2023, were unanimously approved with corrections to include alternates.

### 6. Business arising – N/A

### 7. Business arising – N/A

### 8. Information and Reports (Student and Home & School)

#### 8.1 Student Life Report

- Back to School went well.
- Open House included approximately 80 students including elementary.



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- Haunted House was a success and candy was packaged and distributed to students.
- Decorations were hung for Diwali
- Several students volunteered at the Elementary Halloween Party.
- Poppies were handed out for Remembrance Day.
- For Christmas, candygrams will be sold, looking into something other than lollipops.
- There will be an NDG food drive fundraiser – more info to come.
- Decorations for Christmas and Hanukkah will be hung.
- Looking into planning a Multicultural Day – Dat TBD

### 8.2 RVS Elementary Home and School Report

The school year was off to a great start. The Activity Committee organized 3 successful events in September and October, the back-to-school party, the corn roast and the Halloween party. Upcoming is the Pre-K and K family party.

In the fall there was a successful used uniform sale. We are thankful for parents who donated their used uniforms to the initiative.

The Math and Science committee has organized volunteers for the caribou math contest. The committee is discussing with teachers a return to the paper airplane competition that last year was a successful daytime workshop for cycle 2. They are also brainstorming other Math/Science/Health science ideas for future initiatives for elementary students.

Staff Appreciation week planning has started and there will be some ideas circulating for fundraising for those initiatives, which will be presented to the GB in future meetings.

We are thankful that all committees have a chair to run the committee and many committees have Co-chairs. Our hospitality committee is working on initiatives to recruit more members to the committees and encourage parents to be involved in these initiatives.

The Enrichment Program, French Language activities, music lessons and after school program are all up and running. Our Program director is working with The Highschool ECA program to have High school volunteers help out after their classes end. This program is a great way to bridge elementary and high school. The high school students are there for support and are not left solely in charge of elementary students on their own.

We implemented the Amilia registration Platform for all program registrations and with anything new we have to adapt to the change. In general it serves well for a calendar view for parents to see the activities their child is signed up for directly on the website and on the back end it assists the RVEHSA with the administrative work. Since it is not a custom designed platform we are adjusting to some of the platform specific constraints and discovering the best ways to optimize the platform for our use.

For the term one Enrichment Program and French Language Activities we introduced some new programs and they are going well. A challenge for our program is having access to spaces to run the activities. We are thankful that homeroom teachers are collaborating with our program to use their daytime space during our programs and we thank Mr Spetsieris and the Physical Education department for finding spots for our programs to run in the gym.



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The next H&S meeting will be held virtually Nov 16th 7:30pm. The link is listed on the school website and [www.RVEHSA.ca](http://www.RVEHSA.ca)

My regrets for not being able to attend this meeting tonight, I hope next meeting I will be available to attend!

Wishing you a productive and enjoyable first GB meeting of the year!

Marni Rubin  
RVEHSA President  
2022-2024

### 9. First Question Period

G. Ship asked if there were any issues at school regarding the Israel-Palestine conflict. Administration explained that there has been no issue thus far. Should an issue occur, it will be dealt with immediately and on a case-by-case basis.

### 10. Discussion Items

#### 10.1 Election of Governing Board Chair (*Principal*)

On motion by G. Ship to elect A. Batsis as Governing Board Chair, seconded by V. Hatchwell, unanimously approved.

\*The chairing of the meeting is transferred to A. Batsis, the newly elected Chair.

#### 10.2 Internal Rules of Operation and Code of Conduct (*Chair*)

On motion by S. Cherenfant, seconded by S. Halaris, the Internal Rules of Operation and Code of Conduct unanimously approved.

#### 10.3 Election of Secretary (*Chair*)

On motion by A. Pardo (self-nomination) to elect A. Pardo as Secretary, seconded by G. Ship, unanimously approved.

#### 10.4 Election of Vice-Chair (*Chair*)

On motion by V. Hatchwell to elect G. Ship as Vice-Chair, seconded by A. Batsis, unanimously approved.

#### 10.5 Election of Treasurer (*Chair*)

On motion by G. Ship (self-nomination) to elect G. Ship as Treasurer, seconded by A. Batsis, unanimously approved.

#### 10.6 Community Representative (*Chair*) – Tabled





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### **10.7 Election of RVEHSA representative (*Chair*)**

On motion by A. Batsis (self-nomination) to elect A. Batsis as RVEHSA representative, seconded by G. Ship, unanimously approved.

### **10.8 Approval of High School trips (*Principal*)**

- **New York Trip for Grade 11**

April 16-19; Cost is \$879; information to be sent to parents

On motion by V. Hatchwell, seconded by S. Halaris, the New York Grade 11 trip was unanimously approved.

- **Boston Trip for Grade 8 & 9**

April 16-19; Cost is \$955; approximately 60 students registered.

On motion by V. Hatchwell, seconded by L. Phaneuf, the Boston Grade 8-9 trip was unanimously approved.

- **Washington & Philadelphia Trip for Grade 10**

April 15-19; Cost is \$1085; approximately 40 students registered

On motion by V. Hatchwell, seconded by E. Savage, the Washington-Philadelphia Grade 10 trip was unanimously approved.

- **Graduation Trip at Camp Windgate for Grade 6**

June 13-14; Cost is under \$200 (meals & tax included)

On motion by R. Schulz-Peissel, seconded by S. Nabi, the Grade 6 Graduation trip was unanimously approved.

### **10.9 Approval of Funscrip (*Chair*) – Tabled**

### **10.10 Approval of GB Annual Report (*Chair*)**

On motion by A. Pardo, seconded by S. Cherenfant, the GB Annual Report was unanimously approved.

### **10.11 Approval of GB Financial Report (*Chair*)**

On motion by V. Hatchwell, seconded by R. Schulz-Peissel, the GB Financial Report was unanimously approved.



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### 10.12 Public sector strike days (*Principal*)

On motion to move the November 23<sup>rd</sup> PED day to Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, with no daycare service offered on November 20<sup>th</sup>, by E. Savage, seconded by D. Lambiris, the change of date for the PED day was unanimously approved.

## 11. Information & Reports

### 11.1 Administration's reports (*C. Lagakos & S. Spetsieris*)

#### **High School VP Report November 13, 2023**

- Aug 28 – Welcome to High School Orientation event – Dynamix
- Aug. 30 and 31st - Picture Day for all of HS
- Sept. 1 – First official full Day of HS
- Sept. 7 – Open House very successful event many families visited our school
- Sept. 9 – Entrance Exam took place (big thank you to our teachers, staff and student life under the close supervision of Ms. Halaris that volunteered their time help with this event.
- Sept. 14 – Curriculum Night and AGA
- Sept. 19 – Corn roast for the whole school
- Sept. 21 – Fire Drill # 1 very successful (no issues)
- Sept. 22 – OPUS Card picture day – Terry Fox Run 8401\$ huge success
- Sept. 29 – Orange Shirt Day students and staff showing solidarity for the cause of Truth and Reconciliation by wearing orange
- Oct. 3 – Photo ID retakes
- Oct. 4 - Secondary 5 CEGEP Seminar  
Personal Graduation Planner  
High School Graduation Requirements  
Five Steps to Making the Right Choice  
Open House Info  
Where Can These Programs Lead To?
- Oct. 4 – Concentration outings

Sports Concentration	Acrosport Barani
Music Concentration	Vanier Music tour and rehearsal
Dance Concentration	Danse studio 123
Drama Concentration	LA MAISON THÉÂTRE
Technology Concentration	CENTRE DES SCIENCES DE MONTREAL
- Oct. 5 – GMAA Cross Country Run
- Oct. 5 to 16 - Organizational and Study Skills workshop session Sec. 1
- Oct. 17 - RVS Study Skills and Organization Workshop for sec. 1parents
- Oct. 12 – Publication of Progress reports
- Oct. 26 – EMSB Career Fair sec. 5
- Oct. 31 – Halloween Activities Free Dress day - Halaris and students' life and her team great job
- Nov. 3 – End of term 1
- Nov. 8 – Remembrance Day – Guest Veteran via Interactive Virtual Assembly (5-11) was



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SLt Mamadou Faye from HMCS Donnacona the Royal Canadian Navy reserve division located in Montreal - offering students a deep insight into the sacrifices made by Canadians that have significantly shaped our world today.

- ECAs (Extracurricular Activities) are back in full swing, and we are delighted to share that Ms. Tanya is at the helm, coordinating a diverse range of engaging programs. From after-school activities like fencing and the homework program to cutting-edge coding classes, our ECA offerings are more comprehensive than ever. Get ready for an enriching and dynamic experience beyond the traditional classroom setting!
- This year, Mr. Rekeem has returned to lead the coordination of our intramural extracurricular sports program, and we're thrilled to announce an exciting fall line-up. The sports roster includes soccer, volleyball, and basketball, boasting the highest number of participating teams we've seen in all previous years. Get ready for a season filled with spirited competition and sportsmanship!

### **Elementary VP Report**

- Pre-K started this year and is a success. 2 classes
- There are beginning of the year assemblies held for all levels where the expectations and school ideals were explained.
- We have PELO classes in Hebrew, Spanish and Italian.
- School is offering free ECAs: Grade 5 and 6 Robotics after school, Caribou math, Beaver Computing, Robotics competitions with Mr. Morais at lunch, and Video Game Design.
- RVS hosted nearly 300 elementary soccer players from the area for the Mini-Soccer Play Day. Our high school students were coaches, referees and organizers.
- Teachers attended QPAT on Oct 12/13.
- Pre-school and Cycle 1 classes will participate in a virtual Diwali presentation this week.
- Thank you to the RVEHSA Events Committee for organizing the Corn Roast, Halloween Party and Kindergarten Party so far this year.
- School Sports - Fall: Boys and Girls soccer teams both made the playoffs. Cross-Country Run over 30 kids participated, Casey G won gold. Winter: Boys hockey, Boys and Girls Basketball seasons started.

### **11.2 EMSBPC report**

The first meeting consisted of elections and getting to know other members.  
The second meeting consisted of a discussion on Bill 96, with focus on how it affects EMSB.

### **11.3 Commissioner's report**

#### **October Council Meeting**

Adopt a new motion to make Holocaust education compulsory in elementary and high school.

#### **November Council Meeting**

Adopt a motion to make genocide education compulsory in elementary and high school.





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### 12. Varia

#### 12.1 Governing Board meeting dates

Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024

#### 12.2 EMSB Chair Meet & Greet

A meeting was held with EMSB GB Chairs and delegates to meet Mr. Ortona. Discussion about the miscellaneous bills was had.

### 13. Second Question Period

A. Pardo asked about “code silver – active shooter” training. Administration responded that all teachers have had the yearly training.

A. Pardo asked when parents will be receiving the midterm exam dates for high school. Administration will send information when finalized.

### 14. Adjournment & Closing

Meeting was adjourned at 8:59 pm. Motioned by V. Hatchwell, seconded by R. Schulz-Peissel, and unanimously approved.

Andrea Batsis  
Chair, Royal Vale Governing Board 2023-2024

Otis Delaney  
Principal, Royal Vale School