



## Royal Vale School Governing Board

Minutes of the meeting of June 10, 2024

Minutes of the Governing Board meeting held June 10, 2024 at 7pm, 5851 Somerled, Montreal, Quebec, H3X 2A5.

**Present:** A. Batsis, S. Cherenfant, E. Girolamo, S. Halaris, V. Hatchwell, D. Lambiris, H. Magonet, N. Malhamé, S. Nabi, E. Pervin, L. Phaneuf, G. Ship, D. Szanajda, E. Savage, S. Wen, R. Schulz-Peissel

**Also present:** O. Delaney (Principal), C. Lagakos (Vice-Principal), S. Spetsieris (Vice-Principal), Marni Rubin (RVEHSA)

**Absent:** A. Balandona, J. Bernas, A. Di Domizio, J. Lalla (EMSB Commissioner), W. Ordon, A. Pardo, S. Sweeney

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by A. Batsis at 7:10 pm. S. Wen was secretary for this meeting, replacing A. Pardo.

### 2. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted by and unanimously approved with the following additions:

- 7.2 Comedy Fundraiser for Home & School
- 7.3 Uniforms
- 7.4 Euro Trip

### 3. Adoption and signing of the minutes of March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024

On a motion by S. Cherenfant, seconded by H. Magonet, the minutes of March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024, were unanimously adopted.

### 4. Business arising from the minutes of the meeting of May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024

#### 4.1 Governing Board award (*Chair*)

A Citizenship award will be awarded to a grade 6 and Sec. 5 student who embodies kindness, respect and commitment to the school and the community. These awards will be selected by the staff. The awards will each include a \$250 cheque and a plaque engraved with the recipient's name, to be presented at the respective graduation ceremonies. A note of thanks to Ms. Halaris for her assistance with this.

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

#### 5.1 Student Life report (*Student reps*)

- \$1000 raise for The Cure Foundation
- May 31: pride flag and bracelets were distributed.
- Decorated the gym and the hallway to the gym for graduation.



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### 5.2 RVEHSA report (*President M. Rubin*)

- At the last H&S meeting: elections took place, and a few new chairs are incoming. Outgoing chairs to ensure transition.
- After School Program (ASP): Going well for the ~220 students currently enrolled.
- Next year: busy planning on adding more activities (ASL, bally-hockey, team building... etc.), investing in sports equipment and games.
- Garden: parent volunteers are coordinating for 2 afternoon per week shifts to care for the garden over the summer.
- Birthday books and boardgames: distributed.
- Food drive: went well.
- Year-end Gift Card to staff: contributions were collected through Amelia.
- School supplies list: to go live around June 20<sup>th</sup>, new supplier, looking to include high school students (C. Lagakos clarifies that there is no high school supplies list like in elementary).
- Math & Science Week: a new concept for next year, will be reaching out to the science teachers.
- A. Batsis asked why EP always finishes before the end of the year. M. Rubin will look into that. Also looking into an earlier start in September

## 6. First Question Period

None

## 7. Discussion items (votes required)

### 7.1 Budget for the school year 2024-2025 (*Principal*)

- Elementary Budget:
  - Fund 3 – school fees, lunch supervision, majority goes to salary.
  - Fund 5 – operational (per capita) – does not roll over.
  - Fund 5 – caretaking
  - MAO – equipment, material, capital (furniture) given per capita. Pre-K's get a separate budget, they need smaller cubbies (lower hooks, cubbies instead of lockers so that kids' fingers don't get caught in the doors).
  - On a motion by S. Halaris, seconded by V. Hatchwell, the elementary budget was unanimously approved.
- High School Budget:
  - A. Batsis asked if we could ask the board for more caretaking staff due to the size of the school and the amount of use. O. Delaney and C. Lagakos explained that this is request year after year, but the EMSB says there is not enough staff. Salaries for the caretakers do not come out of the school caretaking budget line.



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- S. Wen asked why the caretaking budget is the same amount in the elementary budget as in the high school budget, when in fact, it is that amount that is split. The administration explained that this budget is allocated based on size of school.
- On a motion by S. Cherenfant, seconded by V. Hatchwell, the high school budget was unanimously approved.

### 7.2 Comedy Fundraiser for Home & School

New date of the fundraiser is set for September 27, 2024. Hopefully the auditorium will be ready by then. If not ready, will postpone again. Normally, it would be next year's Governing Board that would approve this new fundraiser date, but since it would take place before next year's Governing Board is set, the current Governing Board is asked to approve this fundraiser date. On a motion by E. Pervin, seconded by D. Szanajda, the Comedy Fundraiser on September 27, 2024, was unanimously approved.

### 7.3 Uniforms

At the last staff council meeting, an extensive discussion on the length of skirts took place. The staff council resolved to phase out skirts from the high school whereby in 2024-2025, skirts will still be a permitted uniform item but in 2025-2026, skirts will not be allowed to be worn. On a motion by S. Cherenfant, seconded by V. Hatchwell, with 5 voted in favour, 6 voted against, and 3 abstentions, the motion to phase out the skirt for high school as of next year (2024-2025) and mandatory to wear pants in 2025-2026 was not approved.

### 7.4 Euro Trip

S. Cherenfant presented that before 2012, RVS high school students had the opportunity to go to Europe. Numbers of participants started dwindling and the school switched to grade trips nearby. The school proposes to bring back the "Euro Trip" for the school year 2025-2026. Italy, Greece, and maybe Paris are being considered for grades 10 and 11, with dates overlapping the March Break. The student to chaperone ratio would be 8 to 1, plus a tour guide. The cost would be approximately \$4,500 for 12-14 days (all-inclusive except lunch). Royal West Academy, and Lauren Hill Academy both offer Europe trips to their students. C. Lagakos confirmed that there is interest from RVS parents. The Euro Trip would not replace the grade trips. On a motion by N. Malhamé, seconded by E. Savage, the Euro Trip for 2025-2026 was unanimously approved.



## 8. Information and Reports

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

#### High School VP Report:

- May 14 – Denim Day \$2 donation for The Cure Foundation, total \$1000 collected.
- May 16 – Art & Dance show in the gymnasium, successful event, challenging switch from auditorium to the gym.
- May 30 – Sports Banquet was held and is expected to become a tradition.
- Juveniles Girls made the semi-finals.
- June 4 – High school graduation. O. Delaney thanked the VP's for organizing the elementary and the high school graduations, S. Halaris for decorating the venue, E. Savage and S. Laroche for support. Both ceremonies went off without a hitch.

#### Elementary VP Report

- Halo Race on May 8 – 4 medals winners, all participated.
- Science trips this month: Science Tech Challenge at McGill, Montreal Science Center, Let's Talk Challenge, Zone 01 Robotics (local and national)
- Swim to Survive in Grade 3 in May/June
- Welcome to K and Pre-K on May 17
- Grade 6 Trip to Centre Pleinair Fatima on May 21
- Eureka Festival on Ile Notre Dame on May 24
- Grade 4 Narnia Dioramas on May 30
- Grade 6 Video Arcade Showcase on June 3
- Ezri, Lara, Sara and Elin won top prize at the Zone 01 Robotics competition at the National Contest
- Kindergarten Graduation on May 30
- High School Graduation on June 4
- Elementary Graduation Ceremony on June 6, followed by Grad Dance
- Grade 6 had the day off on Friday.
- Grade 2 and 4 Elementary Dance Show on June 10-11
- Pre-K Firefighters visit and family picnic on June 14
- Grade 6 Grad Trip to Camp Wingate on June 17-18
- Hampstead Pool swim days in June

### 8.2 EMSBPC Report (*D. Szanajda, H. Magonet*)

There was no quorum at the last EMSBPC meeting, therefore no report was presented.

### 8.3 Commissioner's Report (*J. Lalla*)



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No report was presented.

### 9. Varia

#### 9.1 PELO program (*Chair*)

Parents requested for more attention to the quality of the PELO programming. The feedback from parents were that there was a lack of oversight on the (progressive) curriculum and what was being taught. There were no workbooks, just photocopies. The Spanish teacher being out on sick leave added an additional layer of challenge this year. S. Cherenfant suggested for the PELO teachers to present at curriculum night. The feedback was noted by Administration.

### 10. Second Question period (*Chair*)

None

### 11. Adjournment & Closing Remarks (*Chair*)

On a motion by V. Hatchwell, seconded by E. Savage and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35PM.

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A. Batsis  
Chair, Royal Vale Governing Board  
2023-2024

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M. Zampini  
Principal, Royal Vale School