

Royal West Academy

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

MINUTES – May 25th, 2015



Minutes of the meeting of the Governing Board of Royal West Academy held on Monday, May 25th, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the library of Royal West Academy, 189 Easton Avenue, Montreal West.

MEMBERS PRESENT		
Jeff Bateman	Daniel Dupuis	Lori Rinaldi
Rachel Copnick	Kirk Kelly (Chair)	Sandy Roy
Nijad Dahdah (R3PC Delegate)	Mikaela Mailly	Patricia Taylor
Michael Delis (Vice-Chair)	Jan Mateus	Marie-Alessia Zuccaro
Andrea Dillon	Michael Mendelson (Treasurer)	
Deidre Dimock	Ryan Ortiz	
ALSO PRESENT		
Tony Pita (Principal)	Chantal Juhasz (Vice Principal)	Nathalie Cheff (Vice Principal)
Chloe Ginsberg (SLA 2015/16)	Karley Mcllwaine (SLA 2015/16)	
REGRETS / ABSENT		
Lindsay Heckersbruch (VP-On leave)	Mahesh Sharma	Terry Smiley
Phillip Rennison	John Simms	Joseph Lalla (Commissioner)

1. Welcome by the Principal and Chair

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. The chair and the principal introduced the newly elected SLA co-chairpersons Chloe Ginsberg and Karley Mcllwaine who will be joining next year's RWA GB as the students' representatives.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Additions to the agenda: Item 4.4 Life Skills and Item 6.5 School Fees.

It was moved by J. Mateus, seconded by A. Dillon to adopt the agenda with the addition of the above mentioned two items.

Vote: 15-0-0 (format: Yes, No, Abstain) Motion carried
(N.Dahdah not present).

3. Adoption of Minutes of April 8th, 2015 GB Meeting

Corrections: Date of meeting should read Wednesday April 8, 2015. In 5.1 Bantam Girls won... Banner for Track and Field and Alison Cooper won in Bantam Girls category

It was moved by A. Dillon, seconded by J. Mateus to adopt the minutes of April 8th, 2015 meeting with the above mentioned corrections.

Vote: 14-0-2 Motion carried

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

4.1 Portal Sub-Committee: update and recommendations.

M. Delis presented the attached (Annex I) portal sub-committee report in a slide show detailing the process which was followed to reach their final recommendations. Both M. Delis and R. Ortiz clarified and answered the questions asked by the GB members.

Following are the final recommendations of the portal sub-committee:

1. Implement a pilot project based on a standardized (free) portal solution (Schoology) that will help build an RWA portal Community of Practice (CoP) on portal best-practices.
2. Continued evaluation of an enterprise-level (fee-based) solution and consideration of various funding options.
3. Formal participation by RWA in the EMSB's planning for the implementation of Microsoft Office 365.
4. Extend the mandate of the RWA Portal Sub-Committee to provide on-going support and guidance for RWA's portal initiative and serve as a link to the Governing Board.

5. Contingent on the outcome of the Schoology pilot, ongoing progress of the RWA community of practice, and guidance of the Portal Sub-Committee, RWA should endorse a single portal solution and encourage all teachers to use the same tool

The principal thanked the sub-committee members for their great efforts.

It was stressed that the pilot project (Schoology) be implemented by the teachers on a voluntary basis and that the staff participating should give regular feedback to the portal sub-committee in order to properly assess the usefulness of the portal and improve any possible future implementation.

For a new portal solution to be adopted at RWA, it was noted that the teachers should feel it is facilitating their work and communication with the students/parents and not simply be an added task that takes away from their teaching time.

It was moved by L Rinaldi, seconded by D. Dupuis to accept the Portal Sub-committee report as presented.

Vote: 13-0-3 Motion carried

It was moved by P. Taylor, seconded by M. Maily to approve the Portal Sub-committee recommendations as included in the report and mentioned above.

Vote: 13-0-3 Motion carried

4.2 Election of new executive at the Student Life Association.

Chloe Ginsberg and Karley McIlwaine are the newly elected SLA presidents for 2015-16 school year. They will be the students' representatives at next year's RWA Governing Board.

4.3 Exam Schedule.

The Principal reported that this year's exam schedule was distributed late due to circumstances beyond the RWA administration's control. Key personnel at the Board were sick and both the Board Administration and Council of Commissioners have to give their approval of these schedules, which this year was granted later than usual.

The GB members stressed that the exam schedules in the future be released early enough for the students to properly prepare themselves.

It is recommended that next year's Governing Board and Regional Delegate follow up on this issue in order to advance approval and distribution of the exam schedules.

4.4 Update from efforts to set up life skills course

The principal advised that the Life Skills course could be introduced next year as an ECA if there is a group of students who wish to take it would find a teacher to be their advisor.

5. Reports

5.1 Principal- T. Pita

Highlights of the report:

- Springtime sports, such as rugby, golf, and tennis, have recently gotten underway.
- The Montreal Regional Science & Technology Fair took place on March 29–31. A number of Royal West Academy students participated with seven different projects. Congratulations to all participating students and the Science Department teachers for their hard work.
- This year's musical, Nothing to Lose!, a Mr. Floen original, went off smashingly on April 14–17. A huge congratulations and thank you to all involved.
- The RWA Foundation hosted a fundraising event in conjunction with the Segal Centre on April 15. The production of Travesties was attended by more than 100 RWA supporters. Thanks to all involved.
- On April 17, five RWA students participated in the annual EMSB Public Speaking Competition. RWA delegates won several medals and awards of distinction. Congratulations to all participants and teachers.
- Royal West Academy was recently graciously recognized for our fundraising efforts during Tyndale Week last December. This year, our school raised over \$8,000 to help the Tyndale St-Georges Community Centre, which provides educational opportunities, from pre-K to adult, for those in less fortunate circumstances.
- Earth week took place at Royal West Academy on April 20–24. A variety of activities took place over the course of the week including a Green Bean feast, morning yoga, and a fast fashion workshop.

- This year's Junior Robotics Competition took place on April 24–25. Students from the Robotics Club participated in several fields and brought home several awards, including the bronze medal in the Beatles category and the gold and bronze medals in the Soccer category. Congratulations to all the staff and students involved.
- The annual Dessert Concert took place on April 24. It was a fantastic affair with an impressive variety of performances including the A Cappella choir, a selection of songs from the Nothing to Lose! musical, a rock group, a scene from A Midsummer Night's Dream by the Bardolators, the RWA Jazz Band, and the RWA Honour Band. Guests were treated to a wide selection of tasty desserts following the show.

5.2 Region 3 Parents' Committee (RPC3)- N. Dahdah

- The EMSB 2016-2017 School Calendar for the youth sector is revised to show the March break starting March 6th, 2017 and ending March 10th, 2017.
- The CPC parents' survey controversy continued to dominate discussions at the RPC3 meetings.

5.3 SLA- R. Copnick and M. Maily

- SLA had its elections for the 2015-2016 school year. The winning team plans to incorporate all the good ideas from the competing teams in the next SLA initiatives.
- SLA will be planning for the September 2015 Welcome Back BBQ.
- It was confirmed by T. Pita that the "dress down day" and "free dress day" mean exactly the same.
- R. Copnick and M. Maily spoke briefly about their plans for CEGEP next school year. They expressed their gratitude for the great experience they had being members of the RWA Governing Board representing the students at large.

5.4 RWA Foundation- K. Kelly

- Campaign to sell the Raffle tickets is ongoing. Over 1000 tickets were sold to date.
- Campaign to sell the new chairs (\$250 each) to the parents is still ongoing.
- The Foundation will help organizing the September 2015 Welcome Back BBQ with the SLA.

5.5 Home & School- N. Cheff

- The staffroom kitchen upgrade was done. Thanks to all the volunteers involved.
- Volunteers did a great job for the Secretary's Day and at the Book Fair.
- H&S had their last meeting of the year on May 19th. The current president and co-president were re-elected for the next school year and a number of the executive positions were filled.
- Uniform Sale (for new and used uniforms) will be in June.
- Preparation for the support of the RWA convocation on June 4th is ongoing.

5.6 Commissioner's Report- J. Lalla

Commissioner J. Lalla was not present.

5.7 Community Representatives-

M. Sharma and J. Simms were not present.

6. New Business

6.1 RWA 2015-2016 Calendar.

T. Pita presented the RWA 2015-2016 Calendar and went through it in details. He explained the following:

- The "PM Ped Day" on Oct 16th, 2015, Jan 18th, 2016 and Mar 18th, 2016 is one-third Ped Day each, totaling a one complete Ped Day.
- The Sept 4th, 2015 Welcome Back BBQ moved to Sept 11th, 2015.
- The Governing Board AGM/Elections date moved from Sept 29th, 2015 to Sept 28th, 2015.
- Montreal Regional Science Fair dates will be added as soon as they are confirmed.
- Mr. Pita added a late start time of 10:26am on Sept 22nd, 2015 and on June 3rd, 2016 (if June 3rd, 2016 is not a Ped day).

It was moved by D. Dimock, seconded by L. Rinaldi to adopt the RWA 2015-2016 Calendar as presented with the above mentioned modifications.

Vote: 16-0-0

Motion carried

6.2 School Trips.

C. Juhasz presented the RWA planned school trips for 2015-2016 school year detailing, for each trip, the destination, dates, school days required, organizer(s), approximate number of students and chaperons participating, student grade level, approximate cost per student, fundraising requirement if any, means of transportation, type of lodging, and the educational goals of the trip.

Each trip was moved and seconded individually as shown in the following table.

All the mentioned trips have been duly motioned, seconded and voted on. All these trips have been approved as presented. **Motion Carried.**

	DESTINATION	DATES	GRADE LEVEL	Moved to approve the trip	Motion Seconded By	VOTE Yes-No-Abstain
1	Day trips in and around Montreal (GMAA and class fieldtrips)	TBD	TBD	M. Mendelson	D. Dupuis	16-0-0
2	Weirs Beach, NH, USA	Aug 28-30, 2015	Volleyball 10-11	D. Dimock	M. Delis	15-0-1
3	Algonquin Park (Canoe Camping)	Sept 25-27, 2015	11	L. Rinaldi	R. Ortiz	16-0-0
4	Cammac–Lac Herrington, QC (Honour Band Retreat)	Oct 23-25, 2015	Honour Band 9-11	D. Dupuis	A. Dillon	16-0-0
5	Jouvence – Orford, QC (Winter Survival Camp)	Feb 1-3, 2016	10	J. Mateus	P. Taylor	15-0-1
6	New York City, NY,	Feb 2-5, 2016	11	M. Mailly	R. Copnick	16-0-0
7	Stoneham, QC	Feb 2-5, 2016	8	S. Roy	P. Taylor	16-0-0
8	Delhi, India	Feb 15 - Mar 2, 2016	9	N. Dahdah	J. Bateman	10-4-2
9	Paris, France & London, England	Feb 23 - Mar 5, 2016	10-11	P. Taylor	M. Delis	13-0-3
10	Washington, DC	Apr 4-8, 2016	9	J. Bateman	R. Ortiz	15-0-1
11	Chicago (Honour Band Trip)	Apr 14-19, 2016	Honour Band 9-11	M. Mendelson	N. Dahdah	13-0-3
12	Huntsman Marine Science Centre (Marine Bio Trip)	Apr 26-30, 2016	10	N. Dahdah	J. Bateman	16-0-0
13	Bike trip from Mont Laurier, QC to RWA	May 21-23, 2016	9-11	L. Rinaldi	J. Mateus	16-0-0
14	Stratford, ON (Bardolators' Trip)	Jun 25-Jul 1, 2016	Bardolators 8-11	J. Bateman	A. Dillon	16-0-0

Important Note:

The Sec I Camp de Bienvenue Trip and the Sec IV Boston Trip both from Sept. 16th to Sept. 18th, 2015 have been approved at the GB meeting of March 11th, 2015.

Trip Policy Review: There was an effort this school year to look at the number of school days the students who go on several school trips would miss, especially if they are in grade 9 and participate in the exchange trip. The concern is that the students who go on the exchange trip, or on multiple trips within a short period, lose valuable class time and they may not be able to adequately catch up. Furthermore, the onus on making sure that these students catch up on the missed material falls squarely on the teachers. Many RWA teachers sacrifice their personal time to prepare these students.

A Review of this aspect of the school trips is needed soon

It was moved by L. Rinaldi, seconded by A. Dillon to have the teacher(s) responsible for the "Trip Policy Review Committee" provide the Governing Board with the trip policy reviews no later than Sept 30th, 2015.

Vote: 16-0-0

Motion carried

