



ROYAL WEST ACADEMY  
GOVERNING BOARD

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
NOVEMBER 22, 2021  
(via MS Teams)**

**Members Present**

David Stolow (Parent)	Jacqueline Stein-Elman (Parent)	Jessica Houde-Woytiuk (Parent)	Sandy Chalkoun (Parent)	Alison Crump (Parent)
Tanya Radhakrishna (Parent)	Earl Rubin (Parent)	Jaime Roskies (Parent Substitute)	Marie-Claire O'Neil (Teacher)	Jeff Bateman (Teacher)
Sheila Macleod (Teacher)	Suzanne Amro (Teacher)	Charles Northey (Teacher)	Antoine Tétreault (Teacher Alternate)	Michal Wineberg (Professional Non-teaching Staff)
Dwayne Linton (Support Staff)	Emily MacDonald (Student)	Tani Bercuvitz (Student)		

**Regrets/Absences**

Leigh Partington (Teacher)	David Spinner (Parent)	Kenny Bodanis (Parent Substitute)
Ginette Purdy (Teacher Alternate)	Chad Dumond (Professional Non-teaching staff)	Jenna Mlynaryk (Professional Non-teaching Staff)
Steven Manstavich (Vice-Principal)		

**Also Present**

Angela Vaudry (Principal)	Catherine Lumsden (Vice-Principal)	Mahesh Sharma (Community Representative)
Elysia Bryan-Banes (Community Representative)	Joseph Lalla (Commissioner)	

**Guests**

Abby Shyavitz (RWA parent)	Caroline Dick (RWA parent)
Heather McNabb (RWA parent)	Renee Figlarz (RWA parent)
Michel de Martigny (RWA parent)	Marisa Reda (RWA parent)
Rosalie Zegarelli (RWA parent)	

<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome</b>
	Meeting called to order by D. Stolow at 7:00 p.m.

<b>2.</b>	<b>Reading and approval of the Agenda</b>
	<p>Several items were proposed for addition to the Agenda.</p> <p>S. Chalkoun asks to add ECAs to the Agenda. D. Stolow indicates that approving ECAs is not the mandate of the GB. A. Vaudry explains that GB does not have jurisdiction over ECAs because GB does not have authority over staff or over internal administration of the school.</p> <p>Motion by S. Chalkoun to add the issues of ECAs to the Agenda;          Seconded by J. Houde-Woytiuk          Vote: Motion not carried (2-16-0)</p> <p>Motion by S. Chalkoun to add the issue of uniforms to the Agenda;          Seconded by T. Radhakrishna          Vote: Carried by majority (17-1-0)</p> <p>Motion by S. Chalkoun to add the issue of school surveys to the Agenda; Seconded by E. MacDonald          Vote: Carried unanimously (18-0-0)</p> <p>Motion by E. Rubin to add the issue of masks to the Agenda;          Seconded by S. Macleod          Vote: Carried unanimously (18-0-0)</p> <p>Motion to adopt the Agenda with the addition of uniforms (item 8.1), school surveys (item 8.2), and masks (item 8.3)          Moved by J. Houde-Woytiuk; Seconded by E. Rubin          Vote: Carried unanimously (18-0-0)</p>

<b>3.</b>	<b>Adoption of Minutes of Meeting of October 21, 2021</b>
approval	<p>Motion to approve the Minutes of Meeting of October 12, 2021          Moved by S. Chalkoun; Seconded by J. Stein-Elman          Vote: Carried unanimously (18-0-0)</p>

<b>4.</b>		<b>Business arising from the minutes</b>
<b>4.1</b>	information	<b>Uniform Prices</b> A. Vaudry informs the GB that she is still waiting to hear from the EMSB on this.
<b>4.2</b>	information	<b>Conflict of Interest Form</b> A. Vaudry confirms that all GB members have submitted their Conflict of Interest Forms.
<b>4.3</b>	Information	<b>Rules of Operation</b> D. Stolow informs the GB that following the initial posting on Teams of the GB's proposed internal Rules of Operation, a revised version of these rules was, as discussed during the October 12, 2021 meeting, uploaded in advance of the October 12 <sup>th</sup> meeting, and that going forward, he will email GB members when any Teams documents are updated.  S. Chalkoun discusses modifying the internal rules (section 4.3) to allow 5 members of the GB to call a special meeting. D. Stolow explains that the purpose of a special meeting is to address a timely issue that cannot wait until the next GB meeting and that such meetings would be called by the Principal. Several GB members share perspectives about the current mechanism that is in place to bring forward issues to GB, which is to contact the Chair.  Motion by S. Chalkoun to modify the internal Rules of Operation to allow 5 members of the GB to call a special meeting; Seconded by J. Houde-Woytiuk Vote: Motion not carried (3-15-0)

<b>5.</b>		<b>New Business</b>
<b>5.1</b>	approval	<b>Sexuality Education Program</b> C. Lumsden presents the Sexuality Education Program, which is set by the Ministry, and approved by Staff Council. For approval by the GB is how the curriculum is delivered in terms of how the hours are allocated to different teachers and staff (e.g., ERC teachers, Science teachers, ELA teachers, nurse, social worker).  Motion to approve the Sexuality Education Program Moved by J. Bateman; Seconded by S. Macleod Vote: Carried unanimously (18-0-0)
<b>5.2</b>	approval	<b>Annual Report on Educational Project 2020-2021</b> A. Vaudry explains that the Educational Project is approved for 3 years (2019-2022) and must be reported on each year. The Report is based on results of Ministry exams. As there have been no Ministry exams for past 2 years due to Covid, the Report indicates that there is nothing to report.  Motion to approve the Annual Report on the Education Project 2020-2021 Moved by T. Radhakrishna; Seconded by J. Stein-Elman

		Vote: Carried unanimously (18-0-0)
5.3	approval	<p><b>Adoption of GB's annual operating budget</b></p> <p>A. Vaudry explains that the GB is allotted an annual operating budget of \$250, which can be used in a variety of ways (e.g., refreshments, babysitting, scholarships). There was \$17 carried forward from last year.</p> <p>Motion to adopt \$267 as the GB's annual operating budget  Moved by J. Houde-Woytiuk; Seconded by S. Macleod  Vote: Carried unanimously (18-0-0)</p>
5.4	information	<p><b>Budget Update</b></p> <p>A. Vaudry explains that the new system to collect school fees on Mozaik has caused some delays with school fee payments.</p>

6.		<p><b>Reports</b></p> <p>Written reports re: items 6.1 and 6.7 were provided in advance of the meeting on Teams.</p>
6.1	information	<p><b>Principal</b></p> <p>Report attached</p>
6.2	information	<p><b>Teachers / Staff</b></p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>
6.3	information	<p><b>Student Life Association</b></p> <p>T. Bercuvitz provides an update on SLA events, including John Grant food drive that is coming up. E. MacDonald also provides an update on activities and what is coming up.</p>
6.4	information	<p><b>Parent Delegate to EMSBPC</b></p> <p>J. Houde-Woytiuk attended the EMSBPC meeting. A written report that summarizes what was discussed will be provided and posted on Teams.</p>
6.5	information	<p><b>Commissioner</b></p> <p>J. Lalla provides an update on the EMSBs excellent success rates in the province. J. Lalla shares that seven English school boards pooled funds and are supporting over 100 students who have medical exemptions and are continuing to receive online instruction. J. Lalla mentions that at the Council of Commissioners' level, two members may call for a meeting.</p>
6.6	information	<p><b>Home &amp; School</b></p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>
6.7	information	<p><b>Foundation</b></p> <p>Report attached</p>

7.		<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>None.</p>
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8.	Varia	
8.1	discussion	<p><b>Uniforms</b>  S. Chalkoun expresses various concerns with girls' school uniforms. Discussion ensues on uniforms with various perspectives on uniforms shared from student, parent, and teacher GB members, as well as community representative. D. Stolow clarifies that while the GB ultimately approves the Code of Conduct, which includes a section on uniforms, it does not have the mandate to dictate changes to uniforms. The GB can, however, vote to ask School Council to look at the issue of uniforms.</p> <p>Motion by S. Chalkoun for GB to ask School Council to consider mandatory, weather appropriate uniforms for girls; Motion not seconded  Motion does not proceed</p> <p>Motion by S. Chalkoun for GB to ask School Council to consider allowing girls to wear leggings as Staff Council considers appropriate; Seconded by T. Radhakrishna  Vote: Motion carried by majority (17-1-0)</p> <p><b>Continuation of meeting</b>  D. Stolow asks whether the GB is prepared to continue our meeting past the scheduled end time of the meeting (8:30 p.m.).</p> <p>Motion by T. Radhakrishna to continue the GB meeting; Seconded by J. Bateman  Vote: Carried unanimously (18-0-0)</p>
8.2	discussion	<p><b>Student Survey</b>  S. Chalkoun asks about the Student Survey and whether GB members can see it. A. Vaudry explains that the survey is mandated by the EMSB and will run in December. A compilation of the data is included in the Educational Project. She will look into whether the survey questions can be shared.</p>
8.3	discussion	<p><b>Update on masks</b>  E. Rubin asks about the status of mask wearing in classrooms given that this is no longer a requirement as of November 15, 2021. Several teachers share observations of high rates of masks in their classrooms. E. Rubin applauds the continued wearing of masks in classrooms.</p> <p>E. Rubin asks a follow-up question regarding allowing spectators at RWA sports games. A. Vaudry explains that the current priority is ensuring that ECAs are being offered and offered safely and that school does not have the human resources to properly manage this as spectators potentially include parents from our school and visiting school, guests, and students from other schools.</p>

9.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Question Period for the Public</b></p> <p>Questions from RWA parent, C. Dick, were submitted by email in advance of the meeting regarding the cancellation of the Bards. C. Dick asks questions at the meeting. D. Stolow explains that the GB does not have the mandate with respect to Bards.</p> <p>A. Vaudry clarifies how ECAs, which fall within jurisdiction of teachers, function and that that there are no guarantees year to year what ECAs will be offered. S. Macleod notes that the Drama program is not cancelled, that there are still plays currently in the works, and that the teacher who runs Bards is on a 1-year leave of absence. S. Amro adds that most students take Shakespeare as part of their academic programs.</p> <p>T. Radhakrishna asks if it is possible for the GB to consider hiring people outside of the school to run other programs. A. Vaudry responds that this would fall under Section 90 of the Education Act and would not be considered an ECA within the school. Parents would be required to cover any cost, a venue would need to be secured (as the auditorium will soon be under renovation), and the contract would need to be approved by the EMSB. She indicates that the teacher who usually does the Bards is likely back next year and will hopefully resume Bards.</p> <p>Questions from RWA parent, A. Shyavitz, were submitted by email in advance of the meeting regarding the formation of a PPO and the mechanism for parents to communicate concerns on any matters to the GB. A. Shyavitz asks questions at the meeting. D. Stolow responds that parents can submit concerns, questions, or issues to the Chair of the GB, but notes that the GBs mandate is governed by the Education Act. As per Section 96 of Education Act, the decision about whether to form a PPO is decided at the AGM. The Act does not distinguish between a formal or an informal PPO, or an interim PPO. At the AGA, it was voted not to have a PPO for 2021-2022. D. Stolow explains that the lack of a PPO does not impact parents' ability to raise issues to the GB. The Chair of the GB reviews all emails and concerns and brings forward those that are within the mandate of the GB. D. Stolow indicates that parents can raise concerns with the GB but notes that the administration and teachers are not governed by the GB.</p> <p>E. Rubin shares his perspective from a GB at another high school, which has an active PPO but no Home &amp; School.</p> <p>Discussion continues about communication with school. D. Stolow notes that the question period has lasted 43 minutes and reiterates the commitment to listen to parents on GB matters, the common desire of all members of the GB for RWA to be the best possible school, and to work collaboratively towards that goal.</p>
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	A final question is raised by J. Roskies about midterm exams this year. A. Vaudry responds that there are no midterms this year.
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<b>10.</b>	<b>Date of next meeting</b>
	January 17, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. via MS Teams.

<b>11.</b>	<b>Adjournment</b>
	Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:39 p.m. Moved by T. Radhakrishna; Seconded by J. Houde Vote: Carried unanimously (18-0-0)

Respectfully submitted:



Angela Vaudry, Principal



David Stolow, Chairperson