



MINUTES OF MEETING
FEBRUARY 23, 2023, 7:00PM
RWA Library

Members Present

David Stolow (Parent)	Earl Rubin (Parent)	Alison Crump (Parent)	Tanya d'Alessandro (Parent)	Stella Wen (Parent Substitute)
Filomena Corrado (Parent Substitute)	Jeff Bateman (Teacher)	Ginette Purdy (Teacher Alternate)	Antoine Tetreault (Teacher Alternate)	Stephanie Germain (Non-teaching Professional)
Sadia Di Pietro (Non-teaching Staff)	Marilena Sahlas-Roy (Student)	Saige Shrier (Student)	Dr. Mahesh Sharma (Community Representative)	Elysia Bryan-Banes (Community Representative)
Joseph Lalla (Commissioner)				

Regrets/Absences

Jason Chen (Teacher)	Jacqueline Stein-Elman (Parent)	Jessica Houde-Woytiuk (Parent)	Jaime Roskies (Parent)	Renée Figlarz (Parent)
Suzanne Amro (Teacher)	Charles Northey (Teacher)	Leigh Partington (Teacher)	Sheila Macleod (Teacher)	Patrick Stewart-Reid (Teacher Alternate)
Michal Wineberg (Professional Non-teaching Staff)	Chad Dumond (Professional Non-teaching Staff)			

Also Present

Tony Pita (Principal)	Steven Manstavich (Vice-Principal)	Catherine Lumsden (Vice-Principal)
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Guests

Three guests were present:
 Jesse Chaim, President of the RWA Foundation
 Judith Obadia, Vice-President of the RWA Foundation
 Michel LeMoine de Martigny, Chair of the PPO

1.	Welcome
	Meeting called to order by D. Stolow at 7:02 p.m.

2.	Reading and Approval of the Agenda
	Motion to adopt the Agenda. Moved by E. Rubin; Seconded by F. Corrado Vote: Carried unanimously

3.	Adoption of the Minutes
3.1	approval
	Meeting of January 16, 2023 Motion to approve the minutes of January 16, 2023. Moved by T. D' Alessandro; Seconded by E. Rubin Vote: Carried unanimously

4.	Business arising from the minutes
4.1	
	Results of special vote re: Grade 9 April 24-28, 2023 trip to Washington D. Stolow indicated that the special vote conducted by email to approve the trip to Washington from April 24-28, 2023 in accordance with the terms of the three trip proposals (all dated January 27, 2023) prepared by Omnitour, carried.

5.	New business
5.1	approval
	Amendment to the Grille Matières 2023-2024 – Addition of <i>Français langue d'enseignement</i> course in Sec 1 and Sec 2 Mr. Pita presents the updated Grille Matières for 2023-2024, which includes a change to the French courses for Sec. 1 and Sec. 2. Briefly, <i>français langue maternelle</i> will no longer be offered, and instead <i>français langue enrichi</i> and <i>français langue d'enseignement</i> (FLE) will be offered. FLE is taught in the French school boards and is the highest level of French. Following meetings with the EMSB French consultant, it was determined by the teaching staff and the administration that integrating FLE in Sec. 1 and Sec. 2 would provide students with more time to prepare for the French exit exam. Mr. Pita noted that RWA had a 100% success rate in June 2022 for the <i>français langue d'enseignement</i> (FLE) course. The amendment would mean all students in Sec. 1 in 2023-2024 would start in FLE and in Sec. 2, final Sec. 1 grades would be used to stream students into either <i>français langue enrichi</i> or continuing in <i>français langue d'enseignement</i> (FLE). RWA gives French 8 times in a cycle, which is more than other schools in the EMSB, which give French 6 times per cycle.

		<p>E. Rubin asks about the transition from English primary schools whose French is not as strong and how they will do in FLE in Sec. 1. Mr. Pita explains that the additional French periods gives them additional support. Also, the Ministry tutoring funds for tutoring so there are funds allocated to support students with no extra expense for parents. RWA has a French tutor two days a week and one teacher has part of their workload allocated for support students with French.</p> <p>Motion to approve the amendment to the Grille Matières 2023-2024 to add the <i>Français langue d'enseignement</i> course for all students in Sec. 1, and for Sec. 2, final grades from Sec. 1 will be used to determine streaming.</p> <p>Moved by F. Corrado; Seconded by T. D'Alessandro Vote: Carried unanimously</p>
5.2	approval	<p>Amendment to 2022-2023 school calendar – Change of Tentative Ped Day from April 17 to April 28, 2023</p> <p>The amendment is in response to the new dates for the Washington Trip that is now approved (April 24-28, 2023) to reduce number of days of instruction missed. This move would still be a tentative day, which could be removed in the case of a snow day.</p> <p>Motion to approve the amendment to the 2022-2023 school calendar to change the tentative Ped Day from April 17 to April 28, 2023.</p> <p>Moved by S. Wen; Seconded by T. D'Alessandro Vote: Carried unanimously</p>
5.3	approval	<p>Budget Building Process Consultation (2022-2023 included for reference)</p> <p>Mr. Pita and D. Stolow discussed the priorities and guiding principles from 2021-2022 and the changes to be made. Mr. Pita highlighted that a top priority is to increase services and support for students, such as more guidance counsellors and a resource teacher. Mr. Pita also mentioned upgrades to IT infrastructure and WIFI. There was also discussion about the cost of running the Music program and that increasing the budget for this program should be among the priorities.</p> <p>Subject to the changes discussed for Item 1 (Priorities) and Item 2 (Guiding Principles), D. Stolow calls for a motion to approve the Budget Building Process Consultation.</p> <p>Moved by E. Rubin; Seconded by S. Wen Vote: Carried unanimously</p>
5.4	approval	<p>RWA Foundation – authorization for GB Chair to sign solicitation package re: Active Learning Classroom Project</p> <p>Jesse Chaim and Judith Obadia, respectively President and Vice-President of the RWA Foundation, sent a copy of their proposal to D. Stolow regarding the Active Learning Classroom project.</p>

		<p>Mr. Chaim provides an overview of the Active Learning Classroom project. The Foundation is now at the phase of starting to reach out to private foundations and is requesting authorization from the GB Chair for D. Stolow to co-sign the proposal letter.</p> <p>Motion to authorize the GB Chair to sign the solicitation package for the Active Learning Classroom Project. Moved by T. D’Alessandro; Seconded by M. Sahlas-Roy Vote: Carried unanimously</p>
5.5	Information	<p>Follow up on Jan. 17 2023 email from S. Chalkoun</p> <p>D. Stolow refers to the email exchange from January 2023 between S. Chalkoun and T. Pita, which was sent to the GB in advance of the meeting. The GB had understood at the January 2023 meeting that S. Chalkoun’s email had been resolved given her response to T. Pita’s answer. D. Stolow refers to T. Pita’s email, which noted that the GB does not have the power to implement what S. Chalkoun is asking. D. Stolow notes that he is not aware of anything in the Education Act that gives the GB the jurisdiction/authority over the matters S. Chalkoun raised in her email. D. Stolow invites any questions or comments. The GB’s position is that it does not have jurisdiction/authority over the matters raised by S. Chalkoun in her email.</p>

6.		Reports
6.1	information	<p>Principal Report sent by email prior to the meeting.</p>
6.2	information	<p>Teachers/Staff J. Bateman shares that a bouldering wall was installed yesterday, which was purchased with a grant that he submitted. There is a lot of enthusiasm for this amongst students.</p>
6.3	information	<p>Student Life Association M. Sahlas-Roy reports that SLA has just finished with Valentine’s Day events. They are planning a flea market day, which will feature students’ local brands. She reports that Winter Carnival was a success, with over 700 students participating (a record for RWA). SLA is looking forward to planning the first school dance since 2019.</p>
6.4	information	<p>Parent Delegate to EMSBPC No report.</p>
6.5	information	<p>Commissioner Report sent by email prior to the meeting.</p>
6.6	Information	<p>Home & School S. Manstavich reports that the school store is in the process of being rebranded. They will be selling second-hand uniforms. A grant for the rebranding was submitted in the fall and approved. With the funds, a washer and dryer, and vending machine (with pens, calculators, deodorant, etc.) is being discussed. Students will have the opportunity to work in the store.</p>

6.7	Information	Foundation Report sent by email prior to the meeting.
6.8	Information	PPO M. LeMoine de Martigny reports that the PPO has been discussing two projects: 1) a Town Hall with parents and the RWA Administration. This has not been organized yet. 2) A parent survey. This project is becoming larger than they thought it would be and the PPO does not foresee completing it this year. They are, however, exploring another survey (Stanford survey of school experiences), which touches on topics the PPO is interested in. M. LeMoine de Martigny asks if the GB would agree to set up a committee to look at the survey. T. Pita responds that he has reached out to Stanford for more information, but hasn't received a response yet, and notes that before going too far, it will be important to clarify where the data from the Stanford survey is stored. There is a law that data cannot be stored outside Quebec.

7.	Correspondence The GB received an email from C. Gravel on Feb. 22, 2023 re: the Safe School Action Plan. D. Stolow asks T. Pita to address the content of the email. T. Pita clarifies that any questions should be brought to the public question period during GB meetings and that the person asking the question should be present for the question period. T. Pita then responded to the various items in the email. A second email was received by C. Gravel just before the GB meeting of Feb. 23, 2023 asking GB to post the Agenda 1-week in advance of the meeting. This hasn't been the interpretation of the GB's Rules of Operation, but a parent could request it in advance, knowing that it is only a draft that is subject to change at the actual meeting and that the GB materials for a given meeting are only posted after the next GB meeting.
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8.	Question Period for the Public No questions.
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9.	Varia None.
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10.	Date of Next Meeting: March 27, 2023
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11.	Adjournment Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m. Moved by F. Corrado; Seconded by S. Wen Vote: Carried unanimously
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Respectfully submitted:

Tony Pita, Principal

David Stolow, Chairperson