



## ROYAL WEST ACADEMY GOVERNING BOARD

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**February 13, 2024, 7:00PM**  
**RWA Library**

### Members Present

David Stolow (Parent)	Jessica Houde-Woytiuk (Parent)	Alison Crump (Parent)	Jade Lawson (Parent)	Vanessa Harrar (Parent)
Tanya d'Alessandro (Parent)	Alison Aylward (Parent)	Eric Lamoureux (Parent Substitute) – Voting member	Jeff Bateman (Teacher)	Sheila Macleod (Teacher)
Ginette Purdy (Teacher)	Marie-Claire O'Neil (Teacher Alternate)	Nancy DuPaul (Teacher Alternate)	Tonica Spencer (Non-teaching Staff)	Chad Dumond (Non-teaching Professional)
Eve Bercuvitz (Student)	Elysia Bryan-Banes (Community Representative)	Mahesh Sharma (Community Representative)		

### Regrets/Absences

Joseph Lalla (Commissioner)	Jason Chen (Teacher)	Renée Figlarz (Parent)	Eva Theodosopoulos (Student)	Leigh Partington (Teacher)
Krikor Bijian (Parent Substitute)	Michal Wineberg (Non-teaching Professional)	Jessica Fogel (Teacher)		

### Also Present

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

2 guests (RWA parents) attended the meeting.

<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome</b>
	Meeting called to order by D. Stolow at 7: 00 p.m.  S. Manstavich reads Land Acknowledgement statement.

<b>2.</b>	<b>Reading and Approval of the Agenda</b>
	Motion to approve the Agenda. Moved by E. Lamoureux; Seconded by J. Bateman Vote: Carried unanimously

<b>3.</b>	<b>Adoption of the minutes of the meeting of January 10, 2024</b>
<b>3.1</b>	Approval
	Motion to approve the minutes of January 10, 2024. Moved by S. Macleod; Seconded by T. D’Alessandro Vote: Carried unanimously

<b>4.</b>	<b>Business arising from the minutes</b>
	No business arising from the minutes.

<b>5.</b>	<b>New business</b>
<b>5.1</b>	Adopt
	<p><b>Budget Building process Consultation</b></p> <p>T. Pita explains the budget building process, which begins in January and ends in June and that the GB is asked to suggest budget priorities. T. Pita looked at last year’s priorities that were approved by the GB and consulted Staff Council on the 10 priorities that are being presented at this meeting (Appendix B in the submitted documents). T. Pita provides the context for each of the 10 priorities included in Appendix B. Appendix B also includes guiding principles and criteria related to the priorities.</p> <p>There was some discussion about the amount of detail to include in some priorities and a clarification question about budget rollovers.</p> <p>There was a suggestion to change the order of two of the guiding principles, which everyone agreed with, and which will be reflected in the Budget Building Process.</p> <p>Motion to approve the Budget Building Process 2024-2025. Moved by E. Lamoureux; Seconded by J. Houde-Woytiuk Vote: Carried unanimously</p>

5.2	Approval	<p><b>Math Flow Chart 2024-2025</b></p> <p>T. Pita presents the Math Flow Chart 2024-2025. There are two changes that give more choices to students and parents. First, Sec. 3 students in the accelerated stream (426 SN), now have an option to move into the cultural stream. Students are encouraged to take the path that is the best for them. Second, students in the accelerated stream who have less than 80% in 426 SN have an option to re-take 426 SN, which includes a Ministry exam, and improve their grade, which is submitted for CEGEP applications.</p> <p>There was a question about whether there was any consideration of adding the AP (Advanced Placement) Program so students could write AP exams. A consultation in a previous year with students indicated that they were not interested in that option.</p> <p>Motion to approve the Math Flow Chart 2024-2025.  Moved by E. Bercuvitz; Seconded by J. Bateman  Vote: Carried unanimously</p>
5.3	Information	<p><b>2023-2024 Budget Update</b></p> <p>T. Pita shares that everything is on track with the budget.</p>
5.4	Information	<p><b>Results of Special Vote of Marine Biology Trip</b></p> <p>D. Stolow sent an email for a special vote on January 22, 2024 regarding the Marine Biology trip from April 30, 2024 to May 4, 2024 with Voyages P. Henchy Travel. The motion was carried as follows:</p> <p>Motion to approve the Marine Biology Trip.  Moved G. Purdy; Seconded A. Crump  Vote: Carried by majority (14-0-4)</p>

<b>6.</b>		<b>Reports</b>
6.1	Information	<p><b>Principal</b></p> <p>Report sent by email prior to the meeting.  T. Pita adds a comment about an EMSB communication that was sent to all parents today (Feb. 13) regarding ped days and indicates that he will send shortly an email to clarify the RWA ped day change.</p>
6.2	Information	<p><b>Student Life Association</b></p> <p>Winter Carnival was very successful. SLA is working with volunteers for the upcoming Invention Convention and Science Fair, which take place this week. They will be looking at other events after the March break.</p>
6.3	Information	<p><b>Parent Delegate to EMSBPC</b></p> <p>Reports for January and February meetings were presented. A copy of the written reports will be sent after the meeting.</p>

6.4	Information	<b>Commissioner</b> No report.
6.5	Information	<b>Home &amp; School</b> S. Manstavich reports that it is staff appreciation week. Today, there was dessert for staff, tomorrow boxed lunches, followed by another gesture of appreciation on Thursday.
6.6	Information	<b>Foundation</b> S. Manstavich shares that room 301 will have all its furniture delivered this Friday and set up for class next Monday. Fundraising will now focus on room 313.
6.7	Information	<b>PPO</b> Report sent by email prior to the meeting.

<b>7.</b>	<b>Correspondence</b>
	<p>D. Stolor summarizes the emails he has received:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A parent asked what happens to students' school accounts (e.g., Google Classroom) when students leave RWA? T. Pita responds that student data is hosted by the Board and is destroyed when students leave.</li> <li>2. D. Stolor received acknowledgement of receipt by the EMSB of the Principal's Selection Criteria letter sent after GB approval.</li> <li>3. A parent emailed expressing concern about students' use of cell phones in class. T. Pita responds that when this issue was raised at a GB meeting earlier this year, he followed up immediately with an email to faculty and staff and this was discussed at Staff Council. The VPs regularly confiscate cell phones from students. It is not in the Code of Conduct currently, however, Ms. Lumsden adds that the issue is bigger than cell phones – e.g., air buds and smart watches. There will be an opportunity in the next couple of months to review the cell phone policy with the review of the Code of Conduct.</li> </ol>

<b>8.</b>	<b>Varia</b>
8.1	<p>Nothing in varia.</p> <p>A. Aylward asks about the Code of Conduct regulation regarding plagiarism, particularly the case of students copying other students' work. T. Pita clarifies that students who allow others to copy their work are held responsible for the plagiarism as well.</p> <p>There was a brief discussion about ChatGPT and how it is changing pedagogy with more in-class work. An extra day was added to the calendar in March at the request of the English department for a</p>

	Sec .1-5 English activity to fulfill the writing component of the competency. This is reflected on the school calendar.
<b>9.</b>	<b>Question Period for the Public</b>
	No questions.
<b>10.</b>	<b>Date of Next Meeting:</b> Tuesday, March 12, 2024
<b>11.</b>	<b>Adjournment</b>
	Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m. Moved by J. Bateman; Seconded by V. Harrar Vote: Carried unanimously

Respectfully submitted:

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Tony Pita, Principal

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David Stolow, Chairperson