



ROYAL WEST ACADEMY GOVERNING BOARD

MINUTES OF MEETING
January 10, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.
RWA Library

Members Present

David Stolow (Parent)	Jessica Houde-Woytiuk (Parent)	Alison Crump (Parent)	Renée Figlarz (Parent)	Vanessa Harrar (Parent)
Jade Lawson (Parent)	Tanya d'Alessandro (Parent)	Alison Aylward (Parent)	Eric Lamoureux (Parent Substitute)	Jeff Bateman (Teacher)
Leigh Partington (Teacher)	Jason Chen (Teacher)	Ginette Purdy (Teacher)	Sheila Macleod (Teacher)	Jessica Fogel (Teacher)
Michal Wineberg (Non-teaching Professional)	Tonica Spencer (Non-teaching Staff)	Eve Bercuvitz (Student)	Eva Theodosopoulos (Student)	

Regrets/Absences

Joseph Lalla (Commissioner)	Elysia Bryan-Banes (Community Representative)	Mahesh Sharma (Community Representative)	Nancy DuPaul (Teacher Alternate)	Marie-Claire O'Neil (Teacher Alternate)
Chad Dumond (Non-teaching Professional)	Krikor Bijian (Parent Substitute)			

Also Present

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

4 guests (RWA parents) attended the meeting.

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

2.	Reading and Approval of the Agenda
	A request was made to add to the Agenda for discussion the motion included by the PPO in its email report to the GB (which was sent to GB members before the meeting. Moved by J. Houde-Woytiuk; Seconded by E. Lamoureux Vote: Carried unanimously to add this as item 8.1 under Varia A correction was made to item 5.1, Complete budget of 2023-2024, rather than 2024-2025 as inadvertently, initially indicated. Motion to approve the Agenda with the above addition and correction. Moved by A. Alyward; Seconded by V. Harrar Vote: Carried unanimously

3.	Adoption of the minutes
3.1	Approval
	Meeting of November 27, 2023 Motion to approve the minutes of November 27, 2023. Moved by E. Lamoureux; Seconded by A. Aylward Vote: Carried unanimously

4.	Business arising from the minutes
	No business arising from the minutes.

5.	New business
5.1	Approval
	Complete RWA budget 2023-2024 T. Pita presents the budget for 2023-2024 and provides information about how the PPP (<i>Programmes et projets particuliers</i>) budget for 240 status schools is managed. He requests a reimbursement from the Ministry for the amount that is allocated per student (\$300) to 240 status schools and, as such, RWA does not collect that fee from parents. A suggestion was made to itemize the \$50 graduation fee as optional for students and not mandatory in next year's budget.

		<p>D. Stolow reads the 2023-2024 Budget resolution that was sent by email in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>Motion to approve the Complete RWA budget for 2023-2024 as per the resolution. Moved by J. Chen; Seconded by V. Harrar Vote: Carried unanimously</p>
5.2	Approval	<p>Grille Matières 2024-2025</p> <p>T. Pita presents the <i>Grille Matières</i> and notes some changes from the current year regarding French. The first change is that all students in Sec. 1 2023-2024 were placed in <i>Langue d'enseignement</i> and will be streamed at the end of Sec. 2 following a Ministry exam into either <i>Langue d'enseignement</i> or <i>Langue enrichi</i>. The first year that this streaming will take effect will be in 2024-2025, so Sec. 1 and 2 have only <i>Langue d'enseignement</i>, whereas the other 3 years have both <i>Langue d'enseignement</i> and <i>Langue enrichi</i> to allow for streaming after Sec. 2. The second change is one that was mandated by the Ministry. Sec 1. and Sec. 2 ERC is replaced with "culture et citoyenneté Québécoise." While T. Pita has received a course code and the title in French, no further information has been provided yet from the Ministry. The course will be given in English, but the English title has not been provided yet. As such, the <i>Grille Matières 2024-2025</i> includes the French title.</p> <p>It was noted that ERC was still inadvertently included in the <i>Grille Matières</i> for Sec 2.</p> <p>Motion to approve the <i>Grille Matières</i> for 2024-2025 with the deletion of ERC from Sec 2. Moved by V. Harrar; Seconded by J. Fogel Vote: Carried unanimously</p>
5.3	Approval	<p>Principal Selection Criteria Letter</p> <p>This item was discussed before the adjournment of the meeting outside the presence of the Administration.</p> <p>The GB received in advance of the meeting a copy of the letter sent by the GB Chair to the EMSB in January 2023.</p> <p>D. Stolow explains that submitting a letter from the GB Chair to the EMSB reflecting the qualities in a principal that the GB feels are important, does not guarantee that the letter will determine the EMSB's decisions.</p> <p>There were suggestions to make small edits: to remove reference to COVID-19 and to edit point 6 so it refers more generally to all consultative bodies, rather than naming specific ones.</p>

		<p>Motion to approve the Principal Selection Criteria Letter with the edits noted above.</p> <p>Moved by G. Purdy; Seconded by S. Macleod</p> <p>Vote: Carried unanimously</p>
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6.		Reports
6.1	Information	<p>Principal</p> <p>Report sent by email prior to the meeting.</p>
6.2	Information	<p>Student Life Association</p> <p>Tyndale Week was very successful. Sec. 5 won the half day off. SLA are looking at doing a cultural week and are thinking about another date for a dance, perhaps in March. There is also Winter Carnival being planned.</p>
6.3	Information	<p>Parent Delegate to EMSBPC</p> <p>Report sent by email prior to the meeting.</p>
6.4	Information	<p>Commissioner</p> <p>Mr. Lalla sent Commissioner Newsletter #67 (January 2024) by email on January 4, 2024. The newsletter congratulates RWA's students, staff, and parents following the school ranking in the top 10 among all public and private secondary schools in Québec. His email included two attachments: (1) how to get on the Board electoral list; (2) the importance of applying to a Certificate of Eligibility while students are in high school.</p>
6.5	Information	<p>Home & School</p> <p>S. Manstavich notes that the first meeting of 2024 will be next week. As such, there is nothing to report.</p>
6.6	Information	<p>Foundation</p> <p>S. Manstavich reports that there was a delay with the furniture delivery for the first active learning classroom set up. It should be resolved shortly.</p>
6.7	Information	<p>PPO</p> <p>E. Lamoureux provides a report on behalf of the PPO. The PPO met often over the holidays and focused on how to engage parents in the development and consultation of the Educational Project. He explains why there is a motion included in the PPO's report that was provided in advance of the meeting.</p>

7.		Correspondence
		<p>D. Stolow summarizes the two topics that were addressed in the correspondence he received from RWA parents since the last GB meeting.</p> <p>The first was related to a parent concerned about the use of Snapchat by students who are under 13 in connection with the communication of school information. While this topic does not fall</p>

	<p>within the purview of the GB, D. Stolow discussed it with the Administration, who have and are continuing to look into this. The school is not aware of any teachers or student representatives communicating with students on social media regarding school activities and this should not be the case as it is not consistent with the school's position. S. Manstavich notes that Google Classroom and MS Teams are the two online platforms authorized by the school.</p> <p>The second was in relation to the reading of a Land Acknowledgement statement at the beginning of each GB meeting. This will be implemented. The Land Acknowledgement statement also appears in the daily bulletin and was added to RWA's online homepage. D. Stolow also clarified with the parent that GB materials are posted online after they have been approved and that, in accordance with the GB's Rules of Operation, he sent the parent a copy of the draft Agenda for the January 10, 2024 meeting.</p>
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8.	Varia
8.1	<p>There was a lengthy discussion involving questions and perspectives from numerous persons regarding the motion included in the PPO's report.</p> <p>T. Pita noted that the GB was consulted at the last GB meeting in terms of whether the Administration was on the right track with the consultation on the Educational Project. The consultation process, which includes soliciting feedback from various stakeholder groups, one of which was the parents on the PPO, was supported by the GB. The Educational Project will come back to the GB in the spring.</p> <p>Following the discussion, D. Stolow asks whether a GB member would like to move to vote on the Motion as submitted in the PPO's report.</p> <p>Moved by J. Houde-Woytiuk; The Motion was not seconded Accordingly, the Motion was not submitted to a vote</p> <p>D. Stolow asks for a motion to continue the meeting past 8:30 p.m. Moved by J. Houde-Woytiuk; Seconded by J. Bateman Motion: Carried unanimously</p>

9.	Question Period for the Public
	<p>Two questions were asked during this period.</p> <p>The first was in response to the preceding discussing about parental consultation. The parent (Stewart) indicates that, in his view, parents are being well served by the school.</p>

	<p>The second was a question from a parent (Caroline) about the amount of homework her child had during the winter break. The parent asks if the GB and the Administration can ensure that students have breaks during vacation. While the GB does not have authority to determine what a teacher is permitted to do in relation to homework during the winter break, T. Pita reinforces with teachers the need to give students breaks from homework; he notes that there are several different questions that have to be considered and adds that it is difficult to respond to questions about homework in generalities. Some questions that arise include: When was the assignment issued? How many periods in class were given to do group work? What were the specific instructions from the teacher? Did students ask to have due dates postponed?</p>
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10.	<p>Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 13, 2024</p>
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11.	<p>Adjournment Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m. Moved by T. D'Alessandro; Seconded by T. Spencer Vote: Carried unanimously</p>
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Respectfully submitted:

Tony Pita, Principal

David Stolow, Chairperson