



## ROYAL WEST ACADEMY GOVERNING BOARD

### MINUTES OF MEETING March 12, 2024, 7:00PM RWA Library

#### Members Present

David Stolow (Parent)	Jessica Houde-Woytiuk (Parent)	Alison Crump (Parent)	Jade Lawson (Parent)	Vanessa Harrar (Parent)
Alison Aylward (Parent)	Renée Figlarz (Parent)	Eric Lamoureux (Parent Substitute) – voting	Leigh Partington (Teacher)	Ginette Purdy (Teacher)
Jason Chen (Teacher)	Jeff Bateman (Teacher)	Marie-Claire O'Neil  (Teacher Alternate) - voting	Eve Bercuvitz (Student)	Eva Theodosopoulos (Student)
Elysia Bryan-Banes (Community Representative)	Mahesh Sharma (Community Representative)	Joseph Lalla (Commissioner)		

#### Regrets/Absences

Krikor Bijian (Parent Substitute)	Tanya d'Alessandro (Parent)	Jessica Fogel (Teacher)	Nancy DuPaul (Teacher Alternate)	Sheila Macleod (Teacher)
Michal Wineberg (Non-teaching Professional)	Tonica Spencer (Non-teaching Staff)	Chad Dumond (Non-teaching Professional)		

#### Also Present

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

One guest (J. Duy, Head of the PPO) joined the meeting.

<b>1.</b>		<b>Welcome and Land Acknowledgement</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. Houde-Woytiuk Vote: Carried unanimously
<b>3.</b>		<b>Adoption of the minutes of the meeting of February 13, 2024</b>
<b>3.1</b>	Approval	Motion to approve the Minutes of the meeting of February 13, 2024. Moved by A. Aylward; Seconded by E. Lamoureux 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>	Approval	<b>GB Allocation 2023-2024</b>  T. Pita explains that, in previous years, the GB has voted in previous to allocate the GB fund in the budget for graduation bursaries. This year, there is \$267 in the GB fund. Last year, the funds were used to give two \$100 GB awards of merit at graduation.  Motion to approve that the GB fund allocation for 2024-2025 be used at the discretion of the Administration for graduation awards. Moved by E. Lamoureux; Seconded by V. Harrar Vote: Carried unanimously  Motion to move \$33 from Fund 3 to the GB fund to allow for an even \$300 to be used in the discretion of the Administration for graduation awards. Moved by E. lamoureux; Seconded by A. Aylward Vote: Carried unanimously

5.2	Approval	<p><b>Bike Trip</b></p> <p>S. Manstavich presents the details of the May 18-20, 2024 P'tit train du Nord bike trip. It will be available to students in Grades 8-11 and costs \$140 per student.</p> <p>Motion to approve the Bike Trip, May 18-20, 2024.  Moved by E. Theodosopoulos; Seconded by J. Chen  Vote: Carried unanimously</p>
5.3	Approval	<p><b>Educational Project 2023-2027</b></p> <p>C. Lumsden presents this item. A template for the Educational Project is provided by the EMSB and the school can enter information in some sections: school profile, success rates with data from Charlemagne, and RWA-specific objectives. The latter must align with the EMSB's success plan.</p> <p>The main themes that came out of the consultation on the Educational Project were physical spaces (e.g., heating regulation, WIFI), and student anxiety. The first cannot be addressed through the Educational Project, whereas the second theme – student anxiety – was taken into account in terms of setting, or not setting, average grade targets in the student success metrics section of the Educational Project.</p> <p>In terms of academic objectives, RWA's success rates and average grades are already higher than the targets set by the EMSB. That said, the plan indicates that "Given that mitigating for stress and anxiety is a primary focus of our Educational Project, RWA will not set an objective to increase average grades" for some of the objectives.</p> <p>C. Lumsden explains that the school climate section of the Educational Project is informed by the OurSchoolSurvey, an annual Board survey administered to students.</p> <p>C. Lumsden highlights the many initiatives and activities to support student success. There was some discussion about Camp Lift, which is a community youth organization that was formed after the pandemic and that offers excellent services to the school.</p> <p>C. Lumsden summarizes the Educational Project: the objective is to maintain the already very high success rates and continue with the many initiatives to support student success, in particular, with respect to the school climate section (bullying, anxiety, substance use). There was a question about whether the school monitors the effectiveness of MindPOP. T. Pita replies that there have been</p>

		<p>surveys to monitor this. It was easier to get quick feedback before the cell phone ban was implemented.</p> <p>Motion to approve the Educational Project 2023-2027 as per the resolution sent by email by D. Stolow (which he read at the meeting)          Moved by J. Chen; Seconded by A. Crump          Vote: Carried by majority (14-1-0).</p>
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<b>6.</b>		<b>Reports</b>
<b>6.1</b>	Information	<p><b>Principal</b>          Report sent by email prior to the meeting.          T. Pita shared his compliments on the recent school musical.</p>
<b>6.2</b>	Information	<p><b>Student Life Association</b>          E. Bercuvitz reports that the current project is the Variety Show. Auditions have taken place, and the show will be on April 12. SLA is also planning a culture week. Next week is the Dance Show.</p>
<b>6.3</b>	Information	<p><b>Parent Delegate to EMSBPC</b>          Next meeting is this Thursday.</p>
<b>6.4</b>	Information	<p><b>Commissioner</b>          J. Lalla reports on recent movement with respect to Bill 21 and the issue of face coverings in hiring. The EMSB took this Bill to court based on Section 23 of the Canadian Charter. They were successful. Based on this, the EMSB was ready to start hiring. Recently, the government decided to appeal and the Court of Appeal overturned the decision. The next step would be to go to the Supreme Court.</p> <p>He clarifies, in response to a question, that people currently working are grandfathered and their jobs protected in current positions they occupy.</p>
<b>6.5</b>	Information	<p><b>Home &amp; School</b>          S. Manstavich reports on the successful Staff Appreciation week in February. He notes that the school Co-op has grown over the past 2 years. A vending machine was purchased with support from a provincial government grant that was awarded last year, and this is popular with students.</p> <p>T. Pita shares that a grant was also received for the Dance Show.</p>
<b>6.6</b>	Information	<p><b>Foundation</b>          S. Manstavich announces the final delivery of furniture for the Active Learning Classroom (Room 301) is complete and the students are appreciating the new room design. Room 313 is the next classroom being fundraised for as part of the active learning classroom project.</p>

<b>6.7</b>	Information	<b>PPO</b> E. Lamoureux reports that the PPO would like to organize a meeting with RWA's Administration and parents to discuss the Educational Project.
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<b>7.</b>	<b>Correspondence</b>	Nothing received.
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<b>8.</b>	<b>Varia</b>	No varia.
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<b>9.</b>	<b>Question Period for the Public</b>	J. Duy (Chair of PPO) asks about a gap in the data on one of the tables in the Educational Project. C. Lumsden responds that this was not yet available from the EMSB. A second question is asked about where the Canadian norm for anxiety that is referred to in the Educational Plan comes from? C. Lumsden responds that this data was provided by the EMSB. A third question is asked about anxiety rates in the previous and current Educational Projects. It was lower and RWA rates were closer to the EMSB rates in the previous Educational Project. T. Pita responds that the school needs to set realistic targets and that levels of anxiety are a concern for everyone.
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<b>10.</b>	<b>Date of Next Meeting:</b>	Monday, April 15, 2024
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<b>11.</b>	<b>Adjournment</b>	Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 p.m. Moved by E. Lamoureux; Seconded by A. Aylward Vote: Carried unanimously
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Respectfully submitted:

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Tony Pita, Principal

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David Stolow, Chairperson