



# Leonardo da Vinci Academy

## Governing Board Meeting

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

### **Members present:**

Nadia Sammarco, Laetitia Kachmar, Angie Tarantini, Sabrina Gavita, Francesca Muro, France Paquin, Angela Bucci, Anna-Maria Parente, Renata Nespeca, Emilia Sabelli, Rita De Angelis, Anthony Scalia, Tina Spiridigliozzi, Gianni Fusco, Maria Pensato, Dominic Gaetano, , Franco Marateo, Antonella D'Angelo, Pietro Mercuri

### **Members not in attendance:**

Marco Di Manno and Stellana Romeo

#### 1) **Welcome and opening remarks**

Ms. Sammarco welcomed everyone, and Dominic Gaetano started the meeting at 6:35 pm.

#### 2) **Additions to the agenda**

The following items we added to the agenda: Christmas Concert and Le Doral

#### 3) **Adoption of the agenda**

The meeting's agenda was approved.

*Motioned by Gianni Fusco, seconded by Rita De Angelis. Motion accepted.*

#### 4) **Approval of minutes of the Tuesday, October 19, 2021 Meeting**

Approval of minutes

*Motioned by Tina Spiridigliozzi, seconded by Gianni Fusco. Motion accepted*

Abstentions: Maria Pensato who was not in attendance at the last meeting.

#### 5) **Business issues:**

##### **A. Follow Up from Virtual Open House**

Parents from different regions logged in and were impressed.

The administration and staff did a great job!

Previous year it was too long and after 22 minutes, parents would log off.

Critical information was given at the beginning therefore the interviews with the students were removed.

The staff really shined, lots of energy, and it did not feel fake or rehearsed.

Parents may have logged on and then logged back due to interruptions at home, which would not happen if the open house was in-person.



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The open house can be viewed on the school's media pages (YouTube or Facebook).

There will be a more intimate meeting for parents who would like to register their child and want more information on January 13, 2022.

### **B. Meet the LDVA Admin team and LDVA Parent Jan 13**

This was announced during the Open House for parents who want another more intimate session to be able to ask admin questions and/or LDVA parents questions.

### **C. Update Ruler Project**

The project was established because students displayed a greater level of stress and anxiety. We are a pilot school for this project within the EMSB. This enables the student to communicate and verbalize his/her feelings. It had been well received and is being used by both students and staff members.

Part 2 is creating a charter in which every class is participating. Once each class has completed their class charter done, it will be reviewed, and a school charter will be created and launched during our anti-bullying week.

### **D. Educational Project**

The educational project is reviewed annually. Evaluation is normally based on standardized tested which was not done the last two years due to COVID. Hence, we needed to change the way we review our educational project.

As a staff council, a representative from each grade reviewed the document from the school board and analyzed what is or is not working and was needed to be revised. The staff council met over several days to review and finalize the document presented by Ms. Sammarco.

Some key points from her presentation:

Throughout they year, the staff meets weekly to discuss continuous student improvement. There is a great collaboration amongst the staff.

Teachers create a strong relation with students throughout class activities such as the Girl's Club.

LDVA was asked by other schools to present the ruler project because it is a pioneer in validating student feelings and emotions.

Students that are having difficulty or are on an IEP are frequently reviewed to ensure that the plan of action is correct and if anything needs to be changes and/or adjusted. This is to ensure that the child receives the help he/she needs and prepare for what is needed for the next year.





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Students are benchmarked for reading, comprehension and decoding in both English and French. This helps to bridge the learning gap for the student.

Overall, the main issues noted is that students lack independence and need much reassurance. There is an increase in worry and anxiety. All these contribute to making learning more difficult for some students. Hence, why we implemented the RULER Program.

Each cycle is given tools and resources (in class and online) to help students learn better (Net Math, Reflex Math, online games, current 4 Kids, les Debrouillards etc.).

Globally, there are resource blocks for both English and French as well as 1:1 support in some cases. The daily switch ensures that Math is daily and follow up is constant and consistent. If a child needs help, early intervention is key and multi-disciplinary team meetings are done to ensure that the child receives the help he/she needs.

Approval of the Annual Education Project report

*Motioned by Ms. Anna-Maria Parente, seconded by Antonella D'Angelo. Motion accepted.*

### **E. Daycare Ped Days to be approved**

January 24, 2022 – Winter Wonderland activity, cost to the parent is \$16 include the \$9 daycare fee.

February 14, 2022 – Baking Activity, cost to the parent is \$16 include the \$9 daycare fee.

February 25, 2022 – Mad Science, cost to the parent is \$27 include the \$9 daycare fee

Approval of Ped Days

*Motioned by Emilia Sabelli, seconded by Anthony Scalia. Motion accepted.*

### **F. Report Cards**

Report cards will be posted on Mozaik except for Pre-K. A reminder will be sent to parents in January to remind them of how to log-in with step-by-step instructions. If the parent has any issues logging in he/she can contact Ms. Kachmar directly for assistance.



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**G. Renewal of our dress code provider Foot Zone for the 2022-23 school year**

Registration for new and returning students begins in January.

Based on past years, Foot Zone has provided quality products and courteous service. They are also local, and parents can order throughout the year, which is very convenient.

Approval of Foot Zone as dress code provider for 2022-23 school year.

*Motioned by Antonella D'Angelo, seconded by Gianni Fusco. Motion accepted*

**H. Christmas Concert**

Parents are concerned that with the rising Covid cases and wonder will it still be a good idea to have a Christmas Concert. Cases at LDVA are under control and the spread is limited. We work closely with Publique Santé and we are being cautious and vigilant. Parent concerns have been taken into consideration and all safety protocols and guidelines will be followed.

For the caroling, all potential factors were thought of and this why it will be done by grade. This event was done with the intention to make a lasting memory for the children.

The entrance will be via Joliot Curie and the exit will be via the park gate – will need to ensure that it is safe (snow removal and salting if needed)

**I. Le Doral Catering**

Concerns about portion sizes for older children may not be enough. Le Doral follows the Canadian Food Guidelines and must respect the recommended portion sizes for children 4-12 years old.

They are now offering vegetarian and vegan options.

Parents can see pictures of the meals on Le Doral's Instagram account – would be nice to have it on the web site so parents can show their child.

If there is an issue with a meal, Le Doral is always contacted by the daycare.

Educators/Lunch monitors will send feedback to parents as well as to Le Doral if they notice a problem with a meal.





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### 6) **Reports:**

#### a) **Principal's Report**

On December 2, 2021, the Santa Bus came to visit the children. It was nice to see the children's reaction – including the older ones. It was a great experience for both the children and the staff.

Dec 20, 2021, the school will be a Covid vaccination center. Secretaries are reviewing all the responses. It will take place in the daycare room and there will be snacks and juices for the children for the 15-minute wait. A child who is 12 years old or who has not turned 5 years old cannot receive the vaccine.

As announced by the government, each student will receive a box with five rapid tests that will be sent home before the holiday shutdown. If the test is positive, the child must go get a PCR test to confirm diagnosis.

Breakfast with Santa is December 21, 2021 and each child will receive an individual meal provided by PMG.

Rocco from Maxi (RDP) donated 1000 English Christmas cards which we will use so that students can send a personal message to their family.

During the November 1, 2021 ped day, teachers were given a "lock-down" refresher course. There will be a drill in February for all students, more details will be sent to parents in February.

Anti-Bullying week will be January 24, 2022. The theme is "Love is who we are". There will be guest speakers: Rocco Placentino and some of his former teammates as well as comedian Steve Nash. There will be workshops and we will unveil our official LDVA charter.

LDVA's Got Talent auditions will take place the week of January 10, 2022 and students have until December 17, 2021 to submit the form. The show will be on to avoid any censoring issues with Facebook.

Lastly, Ms. Sammarco wished all members a happy and safe holiday. Looking forward to a happier 2022!

#### b) **Vice Principal's Report**

Vaccinations for Grade 4 students will take place on January 27, 2022

Bookings and interviews for the first parent – teacher conference went well the only glitch was the EMSB network went down for a half-hour.

#### c) **Commissioner's Report**

Mr. Mercuri stated that at the next commissioner's meeting to be held on December 15, 2021, there will be a tribute to the student who was killed in the Mile End district.

During the last meeting on November 10, 2021, we recognized EMSB students for making and selling jewelry for charity.



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Adult education program generates funds for the EMSB.

The financial statement was approved with a 13-million-dollar deficit, which included pay equity which will be refunded by the government. COVID related costs were \$6.5 million dollars where virtual school was a major cost. Covid related expenses, each child receives 2 masks per day as well as replacements.

New vocational program – professional pastry.

Lester B. Pearson will receive 1.3 million dollars of government support to renew the field.

Mr. Mercuri would like to wish everyone a healthy and safe holiday season.

### d) Teacher's Report

Ms. Parente spoke on behalf of the teachers.

Began lunchtime activities such as grade six girls' fitness club. The students are responsible for planning activities to encourage and contribute to the activity. There is also floor hockey for the boys.

Grade 4 students began writing letters to pen pals with students in British Columbia. Our students are waiting for their response, but those students have been affected by the floods.

Grade 6 students made cards to send to senior homes. Today these students performed virtually via zoom to a senior citizen home during their holiday party.

Grade 5 students were asked to write letters to staff (Nurses and Doctors) of the CHUM and Maisonneuve hospital.

Grade 6 students wrote letters to soldiers for Remembrance Day.

On behalf of all teachers, Ms. Parente wished the members a very happy and safe holidays.

### e) Regional Delegate Report

There will be a parent conference to be held in the New Year with mental health workshops. Volunteers are needed for recruiting sponsors, creating/managing website etc. The conference will be a combination of in-person and virtual depending on the situation.

Six members sent an unauthorized letter to the EMSB regarding the stabbing that happened in the Mile End. This caused a major issue as well as repercussions. It is currently being dealt with to rectify the relationship between the parents committee and the school board.

### f) Daycare Report

This year the daycare organized the spirit of giving for animal shelters. The daycare filled 10 large boxes with generous donations from LDVA parents and students. Students were excited to help and put the boxes with the items for the shelter together. A big thank you to the community for its generosity.





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On behalf of the daycare staff, Ms Muro would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and health and restful new year.

### **g) Home and School Report:**

Antonella D'Angelo represented Home and School committee.

Halloween was a big success! The students enjoyed all the activities especially the haunted house which was very scary.

Home and School gave \$2000 to the Robotics team to purchase new robots that the students can code and program.

Home and School will pay for the rental of the tent and sound system for our holiday caroling event.

The chocolate drive raised \$14,000 in sales, another great success.

Some of the remaining socks not sold from the sock drive will be donated to St. Brendan's church. The rest will be kept for another sock sale in the spring.

On behalf of Home and School, Ms. D'Angelo wished the members happy holidays.

### **7) Question Period**

No questions

### **8) Adjournment**

*Meeting was adjourned on a motion by Francesca Muro and seconded by Antonella D'Angelo.*

*Motion approved, meeting adjourned.*

Chairperson's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Dominic Gaetano**

Principal's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Nadia Sammarco**