



Leonardo da Vinci Academy
Governing Board Meeting
Monday, October 16, 2023

Members in attendance

Nadia Sammarco, Laetitia Kachmar, Stellana Romeo, Francesca Muro, Rosamaria Carlomusto, Renata Nespeca, Maria Pensato, Antonella D'Angelo, Sabrina Gavita, Anna-Maria Parente, Tina Spiridigliozzi, Felicia Biondi, Filomena Barbieri, Vanessa Giancioppi, Karen Polletta, Fatima Marandola, Marco Di Manno, Jennifer Brisebois, Rosemary Greco (alternate), Franco Marateo

Members not in attendance

Angie Tarantini

1) Welcome and opening remarks

Stellana Romeo welcomed the members and the meeting began at 6:33pm.

2) Additions to the agenda

No changes to the agenda.

3) Adoption of the agenda

Motion to adopt the agenda by Anna-Maria Parente, seconded by Francesca Muro. All in favor.

Motion approved.

4) Approval of minutes of the September 25, 2023 meeting

Motion to approve the minutes with corrections by Francesca Muro, seconded by Jennifer Brisebois. All in favor.

Motion approved.

5) Approval of minutes of the September 25, 2023 general assembly

Motion to approve the minutes by Felicia Biondi, seconded by Renata Nespeca. All in favor.

Motion approved.

6) Business issues:

a) Approval of the PELO program offered at lunchtime for grades 1-6

It is a tradition to offer the lunch PELO Program at LDVA. The program will run for 20 weeks from November 6, 2023 to April 8, 2024

Motion to approve the PELO Program by Maria Pensato, seconded by Anna-Maria Parente. All in favor.

Motion approved.

b) Extracurricular Activity: Hockey Program

A discussion took place amongst the members regarding this extracurricular activity as it was experienced during the 2022-2023 school year.

Motion to offer the Next Level Hockey Program as an extracurricular activity for the 2023-2024 school year by Anna-Maria Parente, seconded by Felicia Biondi. Unanimously denied.

Motion denied.

c) Educational Project

Ms. Sammarco explained that the ministry is now asking for greater involvement and input from the stakeholders. The various elements of the document were reviewed and some of the changes were highlighted. Representatives from all stakeholder groups will have to participate in this committee. Once the committee is formed, questions will be developed for the various stakeholders to answer. The community at large must be surveyed by the end of November and the report presented in January 2024. Students will also complete a survey and the LDVA Student Council will also have a voice in this process. The promotion of the parent survey is very important and must be carefully thought out in order to encourage parent participation and feedback with the sole purpose of improving the quality of service to the students.

d) Approval of trips:

Grade 6 Winter Trip: February 8-9, 2024

Motion to approve the Grade 6 overnight winter trip by Renata Nespeca, seconded by Francesca Muro. All in favor.

Motion approved.

Grade 6 Ottawa Trip: June 13, 2024

Motion to approve the Ottawa trip by Anna-Maria Parente, seconded by Sabrina Gavita. All in favor.

Motion approved.

Grade 5 Quebec City Trip: May 16, 2024

Motion to approve the Quebec City trip by Filomena Barbieri, seconded by Franco Marateo. All in favor.

Motion approved.

e) Open House

Preparations are well underway. Social media publicity will be posted soon. The time for Open House has been extended from 6:00-8:30 p.m. It would be appreciated if parents on the Governing Board would consider volunteering to help answer the questions of potential new parents. Those interested in doing so should email Ms. Sammarco.

7) Reports:

a) Principal's Report

- Ms. Sammarco thanked the LDVA community for coming through as it always does in raising \$7790 for the Terry Fox Foundation.
- The chocolate fundraiser is underway. Parents are encouraged to participate because all funds raised benefit the LDVA students.
- Smile Day took place on October 6, 2023 in collaboration with Cookielicious. The student council proposed activities that they felt the LDVA children would enjoy, such as a scavenger hunt, positive post-it notes, etc... All to celebrate the universal language of saying hello.
- A Firefighter presentation, including a fire engine in the school yard, will be made to cycle 2 and 3 students to promote fire safety and prevention.
- Thanks to the Speech and Language Pathologist, Catherine Zoumboulakis, LDVA is in partnership with the Speech and Language Department at McGill to do a hearing screening for kindergarten and grade 1 students.

b) Vice Principal's Report

Ms. Kachmar shared that she has been selected to participate in the EMSAC Committee composed of Administrators from the elementary and high schools throughout the EMSB network with the purpose of collaborating and sharing ideas and/or initiatives with students, teachers, and administrators.

c) Commissioner's Report

- For the first time, the EMSB Student of the Month was an AEVS student from the St. Pius X Culinary Career Centre.
- The National Ombudsman act supersedes the EMSB complaints procedure which means the EMSB act was abolished.
- Mr. Joe Ortona, Chairman of EMSB, was elected through proclamation to be president of the QESBA.
- The budget allocation for the schools was approved.
- The Council made it mandatory for Holocaust education to take place in its schools.
- The new electoral maps were approved and made public.
- A resolution was adopted to make the month of June EMSB Italian month.
- Mr. Mercuri was elected as substitute delegate to the CGTSM.
- Mr. Mercuri has founded a Lion's Club in order to meet various needs within the community and for EMSB schools.

d) Teacher's Report

Grade 6 students are taking part in the Lion's Club Peace Poster Contest, which is an opportunity to express themselves through images. The theme is Dare to Dream. There are 400 000 students who participate worldwide.

e) Regional Delegate Report

Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Treasurer were elected. The subcommittee members were also elected.

f) Daycare Report

Helping Hands, Helping Smiles Committee has selected Shield of Athena, a women and children's shelter located in RDP to be the recipient of donations made throughout the holiday season. The children will be making cards and decorations for the shelter and donations of slightly new or used toys, clothing, toiletries, medications and baby items will be asked of parents. The community is very appreciative of this initiative.

Motion to approve this initiative by Anna-Maria Parente, seconded by Antonella D'Angelo. All in favor.

Motion approved.

g) Home and School Report

- First meeting took place and many new members were present.
- The chocolate fundraiser is well underway. Over 300 boxes of chocolates were distributed so far, and many donations received.
- TCBY collection was very successful.
- Halloween planning is underway. Parent volunteers were requested for the set up and the day of festivities. Many fun and exciting activities have been planned and included some of the recommendations made by the Student Council.
- Volunteers are still being accepted.

8) Question Period

No public.

9) Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:04 p.m. by Anna-Maria Parente, seconded by Felica Biondi. All in favor.

Motion approved.

Chairperson
Signature:

Stellana Romeo

Principal
Signature:

Nadia Sammarco