



Leonardo da Vinci Academy
Governing Board Meeting
Wednesday, January 24, 2024

Members in attendance

Nadia Sammarco, Laetitia Kachmar, Francesca Muro, Rosamaria Carlomusto, Maria Pensato, Sabrina Gavita, Vanessa Giancioppi, Anna-Maria Parente, Tina Spiridigliozi, Felicia Biondi, Filomena Barbieri, Karen Polletta, Fatima Marandola, Jennifer Brisebois, Rosemary Greco (alternate), Franco Marateo, Pietro Mercuri, Renata Nespeca

Members not in attendance

Stellana Romeo, Angie Tarantini, Marco Di Manno, Antonella D'Angelo

1) Welcome and opening remarks

Ms. Sammarco explained that S. Romeo had a death in the family and as such could not be present for the meeting. F. Biondi volunteered to chair the meeting in her absence.

F. Biondi expressed sympathies on behalf of the members to S. Romeo and her family at this difficult time.

Meeting began at 6:38 pm.

2) Additions to the agenda

No changes to the agenda.

3) Adoption of the agenda

Motion to adopt the agenda by Ms. Parente, seconded by Mme Carlomusto. All in favor.

Motion approved.

4) Approval of minutes of the November 6, 2023 meeting

Motion to approve the minutes with correction by M. Pensato, seconded by F. Muro. All in favor.

Motion approved.

5) Business issues:

a) Confirmation of December 18, 2023 email vote re: Daycare Handbook

Motion to approve the Daycare Handbook by email vote which took place on December 18, 2023.

b) Approval of 2023-2024 budget

Ms. Sammarco reviewed the 2023-2024 budget document in its entirety and made clarifications where necessary.

Resolution for the adoption of the school budget attached.

Motion to approve the 2023-2024 budget by M. Parente, seconded by F. Muro . All in favor.

Motion approved.

c) Educational Project Feedback and Discussion

Ms. Sammarco explained that the Educational Project continues to be a work in progress and went on to review the findings from the OurSchool survey conducted in technology class with students in grade 4, 5 and 6.

d) Principal Selection Criteria

Ms. Sammarco left the meeting and the members discussed the Principal Selection Criteria.

Motion to approve the Principal Selection Criteria as presented by R. Nespeca, seconded by M. Pensato. All in favor.

Motion approved.

e) Approval of LDVA Fashion Show: Hope and Love for Tomorrow Benefitting the Montreal Neurological Institute on March 28, 2024

Ms. Sammarco explained that students in grade 3-6 would participate in the Fashion show. The choir will perform and are in the process of rehearsing with Mr. V. Alumni have been invited to attend and the response has been tremendous. Sponsors are donating clothes and a raffle will be organized as well, all with the hopes of making a sizable donation to the Neurological Institute.

Motion to approve the LDVA Fashion Show by R. Nespeca, seconded by V. Giancioppi. All in favor.

Motion approved.

f) Approval of Footzone as dress code provider for the 2024-25 school year

Motion to approve by M. Pensato, seconded by F. Barbieri. All in favor.

Motion approved.

g) Approval to pay tuques for Anti-Bullying Week from Fund 3

Motion to approve the cost of tuques for all students and staff during Anti-Bullying Week from Fund 3. Cost of \$4400.

Motion to approve by M. Gavita, seconded by R. Nespeca. All in favor.

Motion approved.

6) Reports:

a) Principal's Report

- The bus strike continues. As per email sent by the EMSB, parents will receive a refund of \$7 per day of the bus strike. Congratulations to the LDVA parents who have found ways to get their children to school despite the strike. Thankfully this issue has not had an impact on attendance.
- January 19th – Wear your favorite hoodie and donate \$2 to Home and School.
- Monday, January 29th, Lockdown Drill. Meeting took place with the staff to review updates to the procedures. Students have been prepared for the practice drill and letter sent to parents.
- Socio-Community Officers will come on February 2, 2024 to speak with students in grade 5 and 6 about cyber-bullying.
- Teachers received a \$300 allocation from the ministry to buy books for their classrooms.
- Benchmark reading levels. Grade 1 reading levels will be distributed in February instead of January.
- 94% success rate with re-registration on the Mozaik portal.
- Registration week begins next week. Many siblings will be registering which means there will be very limited space for students outside of the territory. Links were sent via email to book registration appointments; Open House visitors were also included.
- Administration and the Home and School Association are working together to prepare surprises for Staff Appreciation taking place the week of February 12, 2024.
- LDVA Fashion show preparations are underway. Auditions will be taking place soon.
- Students from Lester B. Pearson High School will be presenting during our antibullying week.

b) Vice Principal's Report

- Ms. Kachmar added that a new program is being implemented to help the children play nicely while outside in the school yard: Recess Champions. Grade 5 and 6 are learning leadership skills that they will then use to coach the younger children.

c) Commissioner's Report

- Amilio Santini from Royal Vale school was nominated as Student of the Month.
- Removal of the Vice Chair of the Council of Commissioners. Mr. James Kromida was nominated to replace the outgoing Vice Chair.
- The 2024-2025 Calendar was approved.
- Space from LBPHS was allocated to AEVS.
- Budgetary rollovers of surpluses and deficits were approved.
- The council resolved that the Ministry make it mandatory to cover the topic of genocide education in the youth sector.
- Chloe Xiao was nominated for Student of the Month, January. She is in grade 1 and comforts other children who struggle with anxiety. She is also reading at a grade 5 level.
- The 2022-2023 Annual Report was presented. EMSB is doing very well and showing the highest results in Quebec.
- Returning Officer for the 2024 elections was appointed.

- The council resolved to roll over the daycare surpluses and deficits incurred during the pandemic.
- Budget Building Process was sent out for consultation to all Governing Boards.
- An update regarding bus strike will come soon.

d) Teacher's Report

- A. Parente explained that the student entrepreneurship project is underway. This year the merchandise will include a gym bag and clothing with a positive message picked by grade 6 students. Order forms will go out and the new collection will be showcased at the Fashion Show. All funds will be donated to the Sun Youth Organization. Clothing will be accepted as part of LDVA dress code.

e) Regional Delegate Report

- A presentation on the subject of AI was made.
- Discussion about the Certificate of Eligibility. Parents are encouraged to get the hard copy certificate if they are eligible, in order to not lose the privilege of access to English education in CEGEP.
- The Education Plan was discussed.
- A marketing presentation was made by Michael Cohen.

f) Daycare Report

- March 1, 2024 In house activity Theme: Nutrition
\$12 daycare fee+ \$10 activity fee = \$22 total fee
- April 26, 2024 Sportslife
\$12 daycare fee + \$21 activity fee = \$33 total fee
- May 17, 2024 In house activity Theme: Spring Fun
\$12 daycare fee + \$10 activity fee = \$22 total fee
- May 31, 2024 Fiesta MegaAnimation
\$12 daycare fee + \$22 activity fee = \$34 total fee

Motion to approve the ped day activities listed above by A. Parente, seconded by M. Pensato. All in favor.

Motion approved.

g) Home and School Report

- Ms. Sammarco provided a report in A. D'Angelo's absence
- Italian pizza fundraiser coming up. More information to follow.
- Preparations are taking place for the pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and grade 6 moving on ceremonies
- Fun Day will take place on June 14, 2024. Inflatables and food will be included in the event.

7) Question Period

No public.

8) Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:38 p.m. by V. Giancioppi, seconded by Gavita. All in favor.

Motion approved.

Acting
Chairperson
Signature:

Felicia Biondi

Principal
Signature:

Nadia Sammarco