



# LEONARDO DA VINCI ACADEMY

## Governing Board Meeting Minutes Wednesday, November 6, 2024

### **Members in attendance (alphabetical)**

Kurt Blagden, Jennifer Brisebois, Antonella D'Angelo, Ana-Maria Di Gaetano, Sabrina Recine Di Nezza, Sabrina Gavita, Laetitia Kachmar, Johanne Lancellotta, Maria Loria, Fatima Marandola, Francesca Muro, Renata Nespeca, Anna-Maria Parente, Karen Polletta, Nadia Sammarco, Francesca Santone, Stellana Romeo, Tina Spiridigliozi

### **Members not in attendance (alphabetical):**

Rosemarie Carlomusto, Marco Di Manno, Vanessa Giancioppi

### **1. Welcome and opening remarks**

Stellana Romeo welcomed the members and guests and began the meeting at 6:32 p.m. Congratulations was offered to Commissioner Pietro Mercuri for winning the election.

### **2. Additions to the agenda**

No additions to the agenda.

### **3. Adoption of the agenda**

Motion to adopt the agenda by Sabrina Gavita, seconded by Francesca. Muro. All in favour.

*Motion approved.*

### **4. Approval of the minutes of the Tuesday, September 24, 2024 meeting**

Motion to approve the minutes of the September 24, 2024 meeting with corrections by Fatima Marandola, seconded by Sabrina Gavita. All in favour.

*Motion approved.*

### **Approval of the minutes of the General Assembly on September 24, 2024 meeting**

Motion to approve the minutes of the General Assembly on September 24, 2024 by Jennifer Brisebois, seconded by Francesca Santone. All in favour.

*Motion approved.*



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### 5. Business Issues

#### a. Revision of the 2024-25 LDVA Calendar

Ms. Sammarco explained that all the EMSB schools are missing one Pedagogical Day from their calendar, therefore all schools needed to add a date. The Staff Council is proposing January 24, 2025 as the additional Pedagogical Day.

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

*Motion approved.*

#### b. PT Interviews

Ms. Sammarco explained that Parent Teacher interviews will take place for one full day and evening on November 28, 2024. Parents will use a booking link in order to select their appointment time. Ms. Sammarco emphasized that the meetings will take place in person and not online.

#### c. Open House – November 14

Preparations are underway. Social Media posts are out and there are approximately 110 students who will participate in showcasing the school throughout the evening. Siblings have priority for registration and as such do not need to pre-register.

#### d. Book Fair

Babar books will be present on November 27 and 28, 2024. Students can purchase books on the spot if they are sent to school with money. There is also the option of selecting books for parents to purchase during the parent teacher interview visit.

#### e. Improvisation Workshop – Grade 1, 3 and 4

This year improvisation workshops will be offered to help children express themselves, read each other's social cues, etc.... There has been a lot of positive feedback regarding this initiative.

#### f. Play Venture workshop grade 2

The purpose of this workshop is to teach mindfulness and feeling grounded when experiencing frustration. To date, this program is a great success. Students are learning what works for them and find ways to calm themselves and use their voice, when needed.

#### g. Approval of Neuro Gala 2025: Ignite Sounds of Hope

Ms. Sammarco explained that this tradition of raising funds for the Neuro will continue once again this year. This year a semi-formal Gala, including various musicals and Broadway shows, will take place in the gymnasium. There will be



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approximately 150 students who will participate in the show. Practices and preparations are already set to begin.

Motion to approve this fundraiser by Anna-Maria Parente, seconded by Francesca Muro.

*Motion approved.*

**h. Holiday Concert Matinees – December 12, 2024**

There will be a junior and senior concert in order to manage the crowd in the gymnasium. The time gap between the two concerts will be reduced if it can be done so safely to ensure parents can leave while new arrivals can make their way in.

- i. Approval of collecting gift cards for St. Brendan’s Parish for Spirit of Giving**  
Gift cards have historically been collected for St. Brendan’s Parish during the holidays. Gift cards must be used for food or hygiene supplies. St. Brendan’s also supports several LDVA families in need.

Motion to approve the collection of gift cards during our holiday concerts by Francesca Muro, seconded by Sabrina Gavita. All in favour.

*Motion approved.*

**j. Approval of Field Trips:**

DATE	GRADE	ACTIVITY
January 22 and 23, 2025	Grade 6	Winter Trip
June 5, 2025	Grade 1 and 2	Cosmodome
May 7, 2025	Grade 3-6	Halo Run

Motion to approve the grade 6 Winter Trip by Sabrina Gavita, seconded by Francesca Santone. All in favour.

*Motion approved.*

Motion to approve the grade 1 and 2 Cosmodome field trip by Renata Nespeca, seconded Sabrina Gavita. All in favour.

*Motion approved.*



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Motion to approve the grade 3-6 Halo Run field trip by Anna-Maria Parente, seconded by Sabrina Recine Di Nezza. All in favour.

*Motion approved.*

### 6. Reports

#### a. Principal's Report

- Parent Teacher Interviews will take place on November 28. The report cards will be available to parents on the Mozaik Parent Portal. Grades 2-6 students will also get their reading benchmark levels in English and French. This information allows parents to help their children to develop decoding and comprehension skills at their level.
- Grace, the dog, will no longer be visiting the school because she is being adopted by a family that really needs her services. Students are being prepared for her departure.
- A Student Council has been made up of grade 5 and 6 students. Mr. Vince is included in this initiative. Students have brainstormed their ideas for making the school the best place possible. Included in their ideas are some of the videos that have been used to promote the upcoming Open House.
- In honor of Remembrance Day, grade 3 and 4 students were able to view an exhibition organized by Mr. Vince. A wall of honor is being put together to acknowledge the students' grandparent's and ancestors who experienced the war. This wall of honor will be on display during the Open House.

#### b. Vice Principal's Report

- Halloween festivities were seamless and successful. Ms. Kachmar thanked Home and School and everyone who volunteered to make it happen.

#### c. Commissioner's Report

A new council was elected. Pietro Mercuri discussed the election participation rate which was 28% in RDP. Mr. Mercuri expressed his thanks to all those who voted and promises that he will continue advocating for the children, so they have safe schools that feel like home and are able to reach their highest potential. In addition, the council will continue to deal with the government over the continuous challenges faced by the English community. Finally, he promises to be a steady presence at LDVA and to help any way possible.

#### d. Teacher's report

Fatima Marandola shared that the first of three sessions with Ms. Sharron's Improvisation workshop took place on October 29. Students participated in exercises to express themselves. Teachers and students are looking forward to the upcoming sessions.



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### e. Regional Delegate Report

Jennifer Brisebois shared that the first meeting took place on October 17. The members were elected for 2024-2025. Details can be found on the website. Meetings take place the first Thursday of every month. Jennifer invited the members to bring issues or concerns to her before the meetings so she can represent LDVA.

### f. Daycare Report

Francesca Muro expressed gratitude to the members for voting in favor of closing the daycare earlier on November 14 in order to prepare for the open house.

LDVA Helping Hands, Helping Smiles will collect donations for the SCPA and Berger Blanc. A letter will be going out to the community asking for donations. Students will also be making toys, treats and cards for the various shelters.

Motion to approve LDVA Helping Hands, Helping Smiles by Anna-Maria Parente, seconded by Francesca Santone. All in favour.

*Motion approved.*

### g. Home and School Report

Francesca Santone explained that Halloween festivities went on as planned and were successful. Home and School is now working on the Breakfast with Santa that will be catered by Le Doral. The event will take place on December 19<sup>th</sup>. The greeting card Big Box fundraiser will also be offered before the holidays.

### 7. Question Period

No questions.

### 8. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:17pm by Anna-Maria Parente, Sabrina Recine Di Nezza. All in favour.

*Motion approved.*