



**JOHN RENNIE HIGH SCHOOL
GOVERNING BOARD**

Minutes of Meeting 2023-2024 #1

26 October 2023, 6:30 p.m.

Meeting held in person in the school library

Parent Reps: D. Bensimon, C. Boyarchuk, I. Friedman, P. Giakoumatos, N. Lawand, C. Santaguida, E. Schultz, C. Veillette

Staff Reps: T. Bingham, M. Fuga, R. Lobaton, K. Pellegrino, A. Sayfy, S. Sievers, S. Vann, G. Youness

Administration: J. Kurta, J. Pinto

Student Reps: J. Haim, V. Malaxianakis

Community Rep: Absent

Commissioner: A. Saunders

Public: Cecilia Ugarte and daughter

Secretary: Absent

Regrets: S. Ashraf, E-M Durand

1. Call to Order/Verification of Quorum/Territorial Acknowledgement

- J. Kurta called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.
- Territorial land acknowledgement was recited by D. Bensimon.

2. Round-table introductions

- a. Since there were many new members of the GB, all participants introduced themselves to the assembly.

3. Approval of the agenda

23-24-1: The agenda was approved unanimously, via a motion from C. Veillette & seconded by D. Bensimon.

4. New Business

- a. **Selection of a GB chair:** D. Bensimon was nominated to reprise his role as GB chair. He thanked the assembly for the nomination, which he accepted. No other nominations or expressions of interest in the position were received. D. Bensimon took over chairing duties from J. Kurta for the remainder of the meeting.
- b. **Selection of a vice-chair:** N. Lawand expressed interest in acting as vice-chair, and was acclaimed to the position by the assembly. No other expressions of interest in the position were received.
- c. **Secretary:** G. Youness offered to act as secretary for the GB. She was acclaimed to the position, with no other expressions of interest received.
- d. **Parents' Committee (PC) representatives:** the meeting was informed that at the Annual General Assembly (AGA) on 21 September 2023, it was decided that C. Boyarchuk would be the regular PC representative, and I. Friedman would be the alternate.
- e. **Nominees for the community representative:** it was suggested that this position might be filled by Cynthia Siderous, who has replaced Massimo Venturino, last year's Community Representative. M. Fuga will discuss this with her and inform the next meeting if she accepts.
- f. **Dates of GB meetings for the 2023-2024 school year:** holding meetings on the 3rd Thursday of each month was suggested, but given some conflicts with other meetings (e.g., those of the PC), the following dates were chosen (all meetings planned to be in person in the school library, starting at 6:30 p.m.):
 - i. Thursday, 26 October 2023
 - ii. Thursday, 23 November 2023
 - iii. Wednesday, 20 December 2023
 - iv. Wednesday, 24 January 2024
 - v. Thursday, 22 February 2024
 - vi. Wednesday, 27 March 2024
 - vii. Thursday, 25 April 2024
 - viii. Thursday, 23 May 2024
 - ix. Wednesday, 12 June 2024

- g. **Sport-Étude Protocole d'entente with Voile Québec and Club de Voile Deux-Montagnes:** this agreement was approved unanimously, following a motion by S. Sievers, seconded by C. Santaguida (23-24-2).
- h. **Sport Concentration agreement with Ecole Supérieure de Danse du Québec:** this agreement was approved unanimously, following a motion by R. Lobaton, seconded by A. Sayfy (23-24-3).

5. Approval of the minutes from the last meeting

23-24-4: The minutes from the meeting held on 14 September 2023 were approved, via a motion from C. Boyarchuk & seconded by M. Fuga. A number of abstentions were noted, having been absent at the said meeting.

6. Question Period

- A question regarding grad trips was received from the public that was present. It was explained that a number of trips combine grade 10 and 11 students, since they tend to be offered every other year. This year, a grad ski trip is being planned, as well as a trip to New York City for grades 10-11. In past years, trips overseas were held, but such trips have become quite expensive. They also require planning a couple of years in advance. Until recently, students were prohibited from travelling to places other than the U.S. and some European countries. Humanitarian trips also took place, but these have not resumed following the COVID-19 pandemic.

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

- Standards and Procedures Document: this item was tabled until the next meeting.

8. Consultations

- D. Bensimon informed the meeting that consultations had been launched on the following topics:
 - Policy on School Daycare and Lunch Program and School and Continuing Education Fees Policy
 - By-Law 9 - Complaint Process
 - Commitment to Success Plan
 - Enrolment Criteria Policy

- All of these consultations required responses prior to 17 November 2023. It was pointed out that the Enrolment Criteria Policy did not account for international students. Some students' status can change from international placements to regular students if the parents obtain a work or study permit, giving them temporary English eligibility. This can, in turn, affect their priority of enrolment. It was suggested to add a clause that pertains to international students in the policy.
- No other comments regarding these consultations were received. D. Bensimon informed the meeting that he would respond to all 4 consultations before the said deadline.

9. Fundraisers

- The following fundraisers were presented to the meeting:
 - 2023-2024 school year: Home and School fundraisers, such as Freezies, popcorn, pizza, Tru Earth, FlipGive, chocolate, comedy night
 - 2023-2024 school year: Pizza lunches in support of JRHS initiatives
 - October 2023: Leadership fundraisers: Donations, canned goods.
 - 26, 27 October 2023: Sec III, IV and V Balance Day bake sale
 - 23, 30 November 2023: CFER candy and craft sale for senior's gift purchases
 - 27 November - 15 December 2023: Leadership food drive for On Rock - Non-perishable food items and donations
 - 18 May 2024: Green Team fundraiser - Community Craft Fair, run at school, vendors pay \$60/table
- The above were approved unanimously following a motion by P. Giakoumatos, seconded by C. Boyarchuk (23-24-5).

10. Field Trips

- The following field trips were presented to the meeting:
 - **2023-2024 school year:** Life skill students' knowledge and independence. Students learn to take public transit. Cost of \$43.50/student and a 1:4 adult/student ratio.
 - **23 October 2023:** CFER students learn to take public transit. No cost to students, and 1:6 adult/student ratio.

- **26, 27 and 31 October 2023:** Sec. III students travel to Vieux-Montréal by bus, at a cost of \$27/student and a 1:15 adult/student ratio.
- **27 October 2023:** CFER students travel to Vieux-Montréal by school bus at no cost and a 1:5 adult/student ratio.
- **30 October 2023:** Refuge Magoo dog shelter where Balance Day students will volunteer. Students will carpool, there is no cost, a 1:4 adult/student ratio.
- **31 October 2023:** Dress-down Day for Halloween.
- **3 November 2023:** Sec V sports-études trip to Mont Royal to learning history and biodiversity of Montréal. Students will travel by bus at no cost and a 1:15 adult/student ratio.
- **3 November 2023:** Life skill student trip to Ecomuseum. Students will travel by public transit (bus). Cost of \$19/student and a 1:4 adult/student ratio.
- **8 November 2023:** Remembrance Day Ceremony trip to Sunshine Academy to play concert. No cost to students, who will travel by car at a 1:10 adult/student ratio.
- **15 November 2023:** CFER students to Montréal Science Centre to promote interest in science. Students travel by school bus at no cost and a 1:5 adult/student ratio.
- **15 December 2023:** CFER students to Montréal Museum of Fine Arts to develop skills to think critically about art. Students travel by school bus at no cost and a 1:5 adult/student ratio.
- **10 February 2024:** Sec I & II students to Pourvoirie Auberge La Barrière to introduce students to outdoor activities. Students travel by school bus at no cost and a 1:10 adult/student ratio.
- **23-25 February 2024:** Grad Ski Trip to Mont Sainte-Anne. The cost of \$550/student covers dinner, visit, 2 nights accommodation and 3 days of skiing. Travel is by coach bus and there will be a 1:10 adult/student ratio.
- **29 February - 1 March 2024:** Sec III, IV and V trip to Centennial Regional High School for basketball tournament. This promotes physical activity and community involvement. The total cost of \$800 will be split amongst 25 students. Travel will be by bus and there will be an approximate 1:8 adult/student ratio.

- **17-20 April 2024:** Sec IV and V trip to New York. The cost will be \$875/student and travel will be by coach bus. The cost covers transportation, hotel and breakfasts. There will be a 1:10 adult/student ratio.
- **25-26 May 2024:** Outing to Parc National de la Yamaska for secondary I-V students. There is no cost, travel will be by school bus and there will be a 1:5 adult/student ratio.
- The above were approved with all but one in favour following a motion by R. Lobaton, seconded by M. Fuga (23-24-6).

11. Reports

- a. **Principal:** The [report](#) was uploaded to the shared drive for the meeting.
- b. **Staff:** The [report](#) was uploaded to the shared drive for the meeting.
- c. **Students:** The new student representatives had been chosen a couple of days prior to the meeting. They had no specific items to report on.
- d. **Representative for the LBPSB Parents' Committee:** the [report](#) was uploaded to the shared drive for the meeting.
- e. **Commissioner:** No report was presented, but the commissioner reminded the meeting that the next meeting of the Council of Commissioners would take place on 30 October 2023. The meetings are open to the public, either in person or on-line.

12. Correspondence

- a. D. Bensimon informed the meeting that a [summary](#) of the Council of Commissioners Meeting on 27 September 2023 was available on the shared drive.
- b. The meeting was informed that the September 2023 edition of the Pearson News was available at <https://pearsonnews.ca/>.
- c. **Grad hoodies:** There was a request from secondary V students to be allowed to wear these special hoodies when they are received towards the end of the school year. This is seen as a privilege for graduates and one that many Sec. V students are passionate about. It was mentioned that, in keeping with the dress code of the school, hoods could not be worn in school, and that offenders to this rule would lose the privilege of wearing these hoodies. A motion (23-24-7) to allow grad hoodies to be worn by Sec. V students was approved unanimously, after being moved by C. Veillette and seconded by R. Lobaton.

13. Varia

- There was some discussion as to whether or not the GB meetings should be in person or virtual. While there was an appreciation of meeting in person, it was recognized that in cases of inclement weather, or a particularly short meeting, the virtual option would be beneficial. It was suggested that all meetings be planned as being in-person for now, but that some could be converted to virtual, as needed.

14. Date & Location of Next Meeting

- The next governing board meeting will be held on Thursday, 23 November 2023, starting at 6:30 p.m. in the school library.

15. Adjournment

- **23-24-8:** A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by N. Lawand at 8:30 p.m. & was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Dov Bensimon, Chair, John Rennie Governing Board

Approved _____
J. Kurta, Principal

Approved _____
D. Bensimon, Governing Board Chair