



# Leonardo da Vinci Academy

Governing Board Meeting

Monday, September 25, 2023

## **Members in attendance**

Nadia Sammarco, Laetitia Kachmar, Stellana Romeo, Angie Tarantini, 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)

## **Members not in attendance:**

Franco Marateo, Pietro Mercuri

## **Welcome and opening remarks**

In absence of a chairperson, Ms. Sammarco welcomed the members and started the meeting at 6:45 p.m. Round table introductions.

## **Additions to the agenda**

No additions to the agenda.

## **Adoption of the agenda**

Motion to adopt the agenda by Vanessa Giancioppi, seconded by Anna-Maria Parente. All in favor. Motion approved.

## **Approval of minutes of the June 14, 2023, meeting**

Motion to adopt the minutes by Stellana Romeo, seconded by Antonella D'Angelo. All in favor. Motion approved.

## **Business issues**

### **a) Code of Conduct of Governing Board**

Ms. Sammarco read and explained the Code of Conduct.

Motion to adopt the Code of Conduct by Fatima Marandola, seconded by Tina Spiridigliozzi. All in favor.

Motion approved.

### **b) Assignment of roles: Chair, Alternate Chair, Secretary and Treasurer**

- Marco Di Manno nominated Stellana Romeo to be Chairperson of the Governing Board, seconded by Francesca Muro. Stellana Romeo accepted.
- Stellana Romeo nominated Marco Di Manno to be alternate Chairperson of the Governing Board, seconded by Rosamaria Carlomusto. Marco Di Manno accepted.
- Tina Spiridigliozzi volunteered to be Secretary, seconded by Vanessa Giancioppi.



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- Antonella D'Angelo volunteered to be Treasurer, seconded by Anna-Maria Parente.

#### **c) Scheduling of Meeting dates for the 2023-2024 school year.**

- October 16, 2023
- November 6, 2023
- December 18, 2023
- January 15, 2024
- February 19, 2024
- April 8, 2024
- May 13, 2024
- June 10, 2024

Moved by Filomena Barbieri, seconded by Marco Di Manno. All in favor.

Motion approved.

#### **d) Approval of virtual meetings to have a hybrid model for meetings**

Ms. Sammarco explained that the EMSB has informed us that we are permitted to have a hybrid model with in-person and virtual meetings on TEAMS for the 2023-2024 school year.

Karen Polletta moved that the Leonardo DaVinci Academy Governing Board may have virtual or in-person meetings, seconded by Vanessa Giancioppi. All in favor.

Motion approved.

#### **e) Approval of online voting**

Ms. Sammarco explained that there are times when a decision must be made quickly in between meetings. At times like this it is helpful to have the option of online voting.

Motion to approve online voting by Antonella D'Angelo, seconded by Francesca Muro. All in favor.

Motion approved.

#### **f) Open House**

Ms. Sammarco informed the Governing Board that the EMSB has granted permission to hold the event in person. This allows future families to experience firsthand the feel they get when they walk through the halls of LDVA. Hopefully this will impact their decision to join the community. The LDVA Open House will take place on November 14, 2023. Some feedback and suggestions made by the members:



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- A preference for an in-person event because the school really shines, and the vibe sells itself.
- The student tours received great feedback; however, the length of the tours was too long. Suggested the possibility of splitting the tours and starting in different locations to keep the flow moving along.
- It was appreciated that a slideshow and snacks were offered to the children who waited for their parents to speak to admin.
- Parents appreciated hearing the opinions of other parents whose children were already attending LDVA.
- It was suggested that alumni help guide the tours or help answer questions. It was suggested to stagger the tours by 15 minutes.
- It was suggested to station students and staff in select locations rather than give tours.

## **g) Approval of Scholastic Reading Club**

Ms. Sammarco explained that the Scholastic Reading Club is a great opportunity for parents to purchase books for their children while offering classroom rewards for the teachers to purchase books for their classrooms.

Motion to approve the Scholastic Reading Club by Marco Di Manno, seconded by Vanessa Giancioppi. All in favour.

Motion approved.

## **h) Approval of Home and School for the 2023-2024 school year**

Motion to maintain the Home and School Association for the 2023-2024 school year by Antonella D'Angelo, seconded by Fatima Marandola. All in favour.

Motion approved.

## **i) Approval \$2.50 representation fee per student fund 3**

Ms. Sammarco requested an amount of \$2.50 per student from fund 3 to be used as a representation fee. These funds would be used to benefit the children either in the form of an activity or item.

Motion to approve by Anna-Maria Parente, seconded by Renata Nespeca. All in favor.

Motion approved.

## **j) Daycare Ped Days to be approved.**

- September 22, 2023 Play Based Learning
- October 13, 2023 Mega Animation
- November 23, 2023 Recrofun (field trip)
- November 24, 2023 Pajamas and movie day
- December 8, 2023 Mega Animation



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Ms. Francesca informed the governing board that the September 22 ped day was not approved in advance as we had not had our first meeting. This is an exception and not the norm.

Motion to approve the daycare activities by Anna-Maria Parente, seconded by Filomena Marandola. All in favor. Motion approved.

### 6) Reports:

#### a) Principal's Report: Nadia Sammarco

- Beyond Fun animated the welcome back activity and it was an excellent collaboration with the staff and parent volunteers.
- After many years of wait due to the pandemic, a corn roast was organized and greatly enjoyed by everyone. The event was paid for by the school using the President's Choice grant money.
- An unexpected fire drill took place during dismissal time. The school evacuated in order and in excellent time. There will be more drills soon at various times during the day.
- A Lockdown Drill will take place in January 2024. The staff has been trained and the school has been prepared for emergency situations. For example, the school doors have been identified with letters making it easier for staff and emergency responders to identify points of exit or entry. Parents will be informed in advance of the drill to help prepare students.
- Grace is a new member of the LDVA community. She is a highly trained dog capable of working in the school. Her presence provides children and staff with comfort during anxious moments.
- The Buddy Program between grade 6 and kindergarten students will continue this year. Grade 6 is a small cohort and kindergarten is a large cohort so some grade 6 students will have more than one buddy.
- LDVA has applied for and received an EMSB grant for the music program in the amount of \$2000.
- The EMSB is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Stay tuned for upcoming celebratory events and publicity.
- The after-school activities have begun. LDVA is currently offering kickboxing, soccer and is waiting on confirmation for hockey.
- The Terry Fox Marathon of Hope is scheduled to take place on Thursday, September 28. The goal is to raise \$5000. The children enjoy the run and this activity brings the school together for a great cause.
- Friday, September 29 is attestation day. All the funding the school receives comes from the attendance on this day. If students must be absent, parents will have to come to the school to complete paperwork to attest to the fact that their child is in attendance and enrolled in the school. This day is also orange shirt day in



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recognition of Every Child Matters. All children from Pre-K-6 will be making a symbolic quilt out of paper showcasing their uniqueness.

- School pictures are scheduled for October 3, 2023. Sibling pictures taking place on October 4, 2023
- Smile Day is taking place on October 6, 2023. Many surprises planned for the children.

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

- LDVA now has a Student Council. Students had to make a pitch and turns will be taken throughout the year. The first meeting takes place on September 29, 2023.

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

- No report.

### **d) Teacher's Report**

- Grade 6 teachers are starting a Filles Actives group at lunchtime to encourage the girls to be active. Meetings are upcoming. A Fitness Club will also be organized by Mme. Gavita to encourage students to keep in shape.
- Grade 6 Entrepreneurship Project will take place again this school year. Some ideas and suggestions for projects have been made. More information to come.
- Grade 6 will be meeting their buddies and their first activity together will be the Terry Fox Run.
- The Teacher's Convention is coming up in October. Teachers thank the Home and School Association for supporting this event.

### **e) Regional Delegate Report**

- No Report

### **f) Daycare Report**

- The Ministry raised the daycare fees from \$8.95 to \$9.25. The \$12.00 fee for pedagogical days remains the same.
- The fee for sporadic daycare users has increased from \$12.24 to \$14.20.

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

- The chocolate bar fundraiser will be launched at the beginning of October. This is the biggest fundraiser of the year and yields the most funds for the school.
- Halloween plans are underway and will be discussed at next meeting.



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## Question Period

**Scholastic Club:** Parent in attendance asked if promotional material can be sent via email rather than paper to save on paper and additional costs. Ms. Sammarco explained that all paperwork is sent to the school by Scholastics and at no cost to the school.

**Pedagogical Days:** Parent in attendance asked if there are extra educators on pedagogical days? Francesca Muro explained that the full daycare staff is used in two shifts (morning or afternoon shift). She also explained that mostly regular daycare students participate in the pedagogical day activities. Parents are encouraged to call the daycare if ever they have questions or would like more information about ped days.

## Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m. Motioned by Anna-Maria Parente, seconded by Filomena Marandola. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Chairperson

Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stellana Romeo

Principal

Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nadia Sammarco