



**Laval Junior Academy  
Governing Board Minutes  
Wednesday, April 12, 2023**

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**Present:** Betty Aliftiras, Nicole Anastasopoulos, Johanne Dion, William Evans, George Dimacacos, Valerio Gazzola, Jenny Marlaine Gauvin, Jenny Georgiopoulos, Jonathan Gray, Michael Rice, Kathy Stavriadis, Domenica Tortorici, Costa Tsirbas, and Franco Daniele

**Principal:** Eric Ruggi      **Vice-Principal:** Charles Chagnon and Gloria Cuccarolo      **Secretary:** Effie Kontakos

**Regrets:** Jennifer Charbonneau, Lauren De Carolis, Fadi Mounayar, Helen Morrison, and Student Council

**Guests:** Laura Wittebol

**0. Opening of the meeting / Quorum:** The meeting was called to order by Jenny Georgiopoulos at 7:10 pm. Quorum was met. The acknowledgement of the land was read in English by George Dimacacos and in Mohawk by Michael Rice.

“The Sir Wilfred Laurier School Board is on land which is traditional territory of the Kanien’keha:ka or Mohawk Nation. The Mohawk Nation is also known as the ‘Eastern Door Keepers’ and are a member of the Haudensaunee Confederacy, which also includes the Seneca, Cayuga, Tuscarora, Onondaga, and Oneida Peoples. All those who gather here are counted as esteemed stakeholders in our community and most importantly friends.”

**1.0 Adoption of Agenda:** No amendments were made.

*LJA-GB120423-01: Kathy Stavriadis motioned for the LJA Governing Board to approve the agenda, Johanne Dion seconded, unanimous. Motion carried*

**2.0 Adoption of Minutes of March 14, 2023:** The Minutes were distributed to all members. There were no amendments made.

*LJA-GB120423-02: Domenica Tortorici motioned for the LJA Governing Board to approve the Minutes of March 14, 2023, Costa Tsirbas seconded, 13 in favour and 1 abstention. Motion carried*

**3.0 Composition of the Governing Board – Resignation of a Parent Member:** A parent, Fadi Mounayar, resigned from the governing board. His resignation letter was read to the board members and accepted. The LJA Governing Board thanks Fadi Mounayar for his service. His position on the governing board will be replaced for the balance of the school year and not for the balance of his term. Franco Daniele was nominated to be a parent member on the LJA Governing Board for the remainder of the school year and he accepted the nomination.

*LJA-GB120423-03: Johanne Dion motioned for the LJA Governing Board to accept the resignation of Fadi Mounayar and approve the nomination and election of Franco Daniele as a parent representative for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year, Kathy Stavriadis seconded, unanimous. Motion carried*

**4.0 Question Period for the Public:** Laura Wittebol stated that the Laval Senior Academy hosted the Montreal Regional Science Fair in March. Her question to the governing board was to respectfully inquire as to why no LJA students participated and why no Science classes attended the fair. Adding that there was no LJA presence. Response: The invitation to the science fair was received quite late. It was difficult to organize and attend at such a short notice. Eric Ruggi added that participation in a regional science fair requires that the school have extensive science of its own in order to participate. In the last seven years, there hasn't been that culture of having a big science fair. This question will be discussed within the department. It was also suggested that the parent community



be notified in the future so that they may be aware of the event. Parents may be interested in attending with friends and family on their own even if their child is not participating in the science fair.

## **5.0 Business Arising:**

### **5.1 E-votes since the last GB Meeting**

**5.1.1 ELA Field Trip April 24-25, 2023:** The e-vote on March 20, 2023 was for the LJA Governing Board to approve a request for a Secondary 1 students Overnight field trip. They would be going to Base de Plein Air Bon Depart. Students would leave at 8:30 am on April 24 and return at 4 pm on April 25. Transportation by school bus. Supervision by teachers and staff. The cost is approximately \$200 per student. The trip was cancelled due to not enough students participating. Needed at least 40 students to participate.

*LJA-GB200323-EV01: Betty Aliftiras motioned for the LJA Governing Board to approve the request for a Secondary 1 Overnight field trip from April 24, 2023, to April 25, 2023, proposed by the principal, as presented, Jenny Georgiopoulos seconded, 13 in favour, 0 against, and 3 abstentions. Motion carried*

**5.1.2 Change of Date of April Meeting:** The e-vote on March 31, 2023, was for the LJA Governing Board to approve the change of date for the April Governing Board meeting. The meeting was rescheduled for April 12, 2023.

*LJA-GB310323-EV02: Jenny Georgiopoulos motioned for the Laval Junior Academy Governing Board to approve the change of date for the next GB meeting to April 12, 2023, Domenica Tortorici seconded, 12 in favour, 0 against, and 4 abstentions. Motion carried*

## **6.0 Reports:**

### **6.1 Principal:**

- Mar. 15 – Management meeting, Conseil d'administration Sports Laval, Report cards available on Mozaik
- Mar. 16 – Labour Relations Committee meeting, Sec. 2 Science Concentration filed trip to Planetarium & Biodome, Teacher Council meeting
- Mar. 20 – 31 – Articulation meetings with each of the 11 Laval elementary schools
- Mar. 20 – Cyber Awareness Workshops begin for Secondary 2 classes, Home & School meeting, start of after school tutoring program for at-risk students and sessions extended until May
- Mar. 22 – 23 – Holocaust Museum field trips
- Mar. 23 – Parent-Teacher Night (online)
- Mar. 24 – Ped day (Workshop Accommodations & Modifications in Learning Situations, LJA hosts March Madness basketball tournament for elementary schools)
- Mar. 27 – 31 – Spirit Week
- Mar. 28 – Cookies & Coins Term 2
- Mar. 30 – LJA hosts SWLSB Equity Summit for Student Leadership Certificate Program
- Mar. 31 – Shakespeare Theatre Company at LJA for each grade – Romeo and Juliet
- Apr. 3 – Friendly basketball game between LJA Vipers and Laval Police at lunch
- Apr. 5 – Staffing meeting for 2023-2024 with Human Resources
- Apr. 5-6 – School closure due to ice storm / power failures
- Apr. 11 – Teacher staff meeting, Division 2 Sports-Études parents meeting
- Apr. 12 – Governing Board Meeting, Cell Phone video presentation (assembly) shown to governing board

### **Other important notes**

- Apr. 13 – Student assemblies regarding new cell phone rules
- Apr. 18 – Soccer Concentration students going to CF Montreal game (evening)
- Apr. 14-21 – Grace period for cell phones in Block C
- Apr. 20-21 – Pink in the City Fundraiser



- Apr. 24 – Cell Phone ban in Block C begins
- Apr. 27 – Be U Dress Down Day (Home & School)
- Apr. 28 – Regular school day now - lost PED day
- May 2 – Staff meeting
- May 12 – Regular school day now - lost PED day as a result of closure
- May 26 – PED day, LJA hosts Elementary Volleyball Tournament
- Last day of classes June 8, 2023
- June 9 – La Ronde day
- Final exam week from June 12- 16, 2023, Make up days June 19 & 21, 2023
- Special education classes end June 16, 2023
- Summer renovations begin mid-May 2023

**6.2 Chairperson:** Nothing to report.

**6.3 Parents' Committee:** Report given by Jenny Georgiopoulos.

- Nothing to report since the Parents' Committee is tomorrow on April 13.

**6.4 Home and School Association:** Report given by Kathy Stavriadis.

- TCBY is doing great
- Cubies waffles day went well. Some difficulties resulting from supplier's shortage of staff so Home & School volunteers helped out.
- Pizza Kit fundraiser may be a little difficult to organize.
- Would like to have another Cubies waffle day, waffles to be sold for \$5

*LJA-GB120423-04: Betty Aliftiras motioned for the Laval Junior Academy Governing Board to approve the Cubies Waffle Fundraiser, Franco Daniele seconded, unanimous. Motion carried*

**6.5 Student Council:** No report.

## **7.0 New Business:**

**7.1 Approval of School Calendar 2023-2024:** The School Calendar was emailed to all members for review prior to the meeting. It was reviewed and discussed. Highlights discussed: Parent Teacher Nights, end of terms, Floating PED days, dates when report cards would be available to parents, and special days such as Orientation Days for Secondary 1 and Secondary 2. In addition, the date for the General Assembly of Parents was selected – September 25, 2023.

*LJA-GB120423-05: Domenica Tortorici motioned for the LJA Governing Board to approve the School Calendar for 2023-2024 for Laval Junior Academy, as presented, and with the addition of the General Assembly of Parents on September 25, 2023, Kathy Stavriadis seconded, unanimous. Motion carried*

**7.2 Approval of Student Supply Lists 2023-2024 / Confirmation of compliance to School Board Fee Policy:** Tabled. Will consult with the departments.

**7.3 Approval of User Fees and Fees for Concentration Programs 2023-2024 / Confirmation of compliance to School Board Fee Policy:** The Concentration Program Fees for Visual Arts, Basketball, Ice Hockey, Sec. 1 Leadership, Sec. 2 Leadership, Sec. 1 Science, Sec. 2 Science, and Soccer, chargeable supplies, and the user fees (consumables) were distributed to all the members. They were presented and reviewed. These fees are in compliance with the School Board Policy on School Fees Charged to Parents. The Policy on School Fees specifies schools must charge exact amount to parents on items such as agendas and t-shirts – no profit should be made.



*LJA-GB120423-06: Michael Rice motioned for the Laval Junior Academy Governing Board to approve the Concentration Fees for 2023-2024 for Visual Arts, Basketball, Ice Hockey, Secondary 1 Leadership, Secondary 2 Leadership, Secondary 1 Science, Secondary 2 Science, and Soccer as presented, and that are in compliance with the SWLSB Policy on School Fees Charged to Parents, Johanne Dion seconded, unanimous.*

*Motion carried*

*LJA-GB120423-07: Michael Rice motioned for the Laval Junior Academy Governing Board to approve the chargeable supplies for 2023-2024 (charge back) as presented, and that are in compliance with the SWLSB Policy on School Fees Charged to Parents, Johanne Dion seconded, unanimous.*

*Motion carried*

*LJA-GB120423-08: Michael Rice motioned for the Laval Junior Academy Governing Board to approve the Consumable Fees of \$60 for 2023-2024 as presented, and that are in compliance with the SWLSB Policy on School Fees Charged to Parents, Johanne Dion seconded, unanimous.*

*Motion carried*

**7.4 Approval of Workbooks 2023-2024 / Confirmation of compliance to School Board Fee Policy:** Tabled.

**7.5 Adoption of 2023-2024 School Budget:** Tabled.

**7.6 Approval of Student Code of Conduct 2023-2024:** Tabled.

**7.7 Criteria for the Selection of a Principal (in camera):** The documentation for the Criteria for the Selection of a Principal was emailed to all the members for review. The members reviewed the 2022-2023 Criteria for the Selection of a Principal in camera (without administration present). The discussion led to maintaining the status quo for the document. On a related subject, the members discussed the letter written to the SWLSB last year emphasizing LJA's Governing Board's concern using the qualifying term, Interim Principal for Eric Ruggi. The members discussed resubmitting a letter to request assigning Eric Ruggi as the Principal of the school to represent stability, reliability, and a sense of certainty to the community despite the position not being permanent. It was agreed that the letter would be written by Jenny Georgiopoulos, who would then share it with the members, before submitting it to the SWL board.

*LJA-GB120423-11: George Dimacacos motioned for the Laval Junior Academy Governing Board to approve the Criteria for the Selection of a Principal for 2023-2024 as proposed, maintaining the status quo, Costa Tsirbas seconded, unanimous.*

*Motion carried*

*LJA-GB120423-12: Jonathan Gray motioned for the Laval Junior Academy Governing Board to approve submitting a letter to the SWLSB to address the concern of referring to our principal as Interim Principal, after the members are emailed the completed letter written by Jenny Georgiopoulos, Kathy Stavriadis seconded, unanimous.*

*Motion carried*

**7.8 SWLSB Consultation Program of Studies for Secondary School Policy:** Tabled.

**7.9 Field Trips and ECAs:**

**7.9.1 Beauty & The Beast at LSA – April 25, 2023 (SEC. 1):** LJA students are invited to the dress rehearsal of Beauty & the Beast on April 25, 2023. At 8:45 am, once attendance is taken, Sec. 1 students will walk to LSA. The Sec. 1 students will miss period 1 & 2. Teachers will accompany the students. No cost. Parents will be given a choice if they want their child to go. Parents will receive a reverse waiver – if they do not want their child to go, they will complete and submit the form to the school.



*LJA-GB120423-09: Michael Rice motioned for the Laval Junior Academy Governing Board to approve the Beauty & the Beast field trip to Laval Senior Academy on April 25, 2023, Costa Tsirbas seconded, unanimous.*

*Motion carried*

**7.10 Fundraisers:** None.

**7.11 Rentals:**

**7.11.1 Entente with Ville de Laval 2023-2028:** The exchange of services agreement is expiring on August 31, 2023. The exchange of services is beneficial to both parties. All revenue from this goes back to the school. There will be a resolution for this in the May Governing Board meeting.

**Motion to extend the meeting:**

At 8:55 pm, a motion was needed to extend the meeting an additional 15 minutes to 9:15pm.

*LJA-GB120423-10: Michael Rice motioned to extend the meeting an additional 15 minutes, Johanne Dion seconded, unanimous.*

*Motion carried*

**8.0 Confirmation of Date/Time of the Next GB Meeting:** The next LJA GB meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at 7pm.

**9.0 Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 pm.

*LJA-GB120423-13: Michael Rice motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:04pm, Franco Daniele seconded, unanimous.*

*Motion carried*

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Jenny Georgiopoulos  
Chairperson

*Effie Kontakos*  
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Secretary