



**Laval Junior Academy
Governing Board Minutes
Tuesday, January 13, 2026**

Present: Betty Aliftiras, Ani Desjardins, Jeffry Drake, William Evans, Peter Ferentinos, George Foutrakis, Jenny Marlaine Gauvin, Maria Katiforis, Timothy Lyons, Anthony Ortona, Laura Orzea, Maxim Pozdirca, Michael Rice, and Irene Tsoflikis
Marianne Kassabian - Community Representative

Principal: Eric Ruggi

Vice-Principal: Gloria Cuccarolo
Leslie Aggrey-Fynn

Secretary: Effie Kontakos

Regrets: Shaun McMahon and Vince Silvaggio

Guests: Peter Papageorgiou

0. Welcome / Verification of Quorum / Acknowledgement of the Land: The meeting was called to order by Peter Ferentinos at 6:34 pm. Quorum was verified and met. Amit Arora will be replacing an absent parent. The acknowledgement of the land was read in Mohawk by Michael Rice and in English by William Evans.

"I would like to honour the existence of the First Peoples by acknowledging that the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board is on the traditional land 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 Haudenosaunee Confederacy, which also includes the Seneca, Cayuga, Tuscarora, Onondaga, and Oneida Peoples. In the spirit of truth, reconciliation, and partnership, we honour our relationship with the Indigenous Community and respect the history, culture, and language of Canada's original peoples."

1.0 Adoption of Agenda: There were amendments made.

LJA-GB130126-01: Timothy Lyons motioned for the Laval Junior Academy Governing Board to adopt the agenda, with the amendments, George Foutrakis seconded, unanimous. Motion carried

2.0 Adoption of Minutes of December 2, 2025: The Minutes had been emailed to the members and distributed at the meeting. Two typos were corrected.

LJA-GB130126-02: William Evans motioned for the LJA Governing Board to adopt the LJA Governing Board Minutes of December 2, 2025, Jeffry Drake seconded, 14 in favour and 1 abstention. Motion carried

3.0 Business Arising

3.1 Student behavior on STL buses: Eric Ruggi contacted STL to inform them of LJA's Governing Board meeting in January. He did not get a response, and he will follow up for an update for the next governing board meeting. The purpose for the update is for LJA to be notified of the decisions made or protocols made by STL after their reflection on how to better communicate how complaints can be received by STL. Parents should do their part and report concerning events to STL. The bus drivers report incidents to their supervisors when there are disruptions or issues. It is important to note that the bus driver's role is to drive the bus, and their focus needs to be that. It comes down to reporting. In addition, when situations arise and they are reported to the administrators, they are dealt with.



4.0 Reports:

4.1 Principal:

- Dec. 2 – Governing Board meeting
- Dec. 3 – Student assemblies
- Dec. 5 – Volleyball Concentration field trip to College Montmorency
- Dec. 10 – School Level Special Needs Committee meeting
- Dec. 11 – Distribution of LJA coins, End of Study Skills Workshops (Part 2)
- Dec. 12 – End of Agape Food Drive, Volleyball Concentration field trip, Dress Down Day for Agape (\$675), Home & School candy cane distribution
- Dec. 18 – LJA Movie Day
- Dec. 19 – Last day of classes before Holiday Break, Approval received for Arts Project (mural, \$11,496.00)
- Dec. 22 – Approval received for multicultural art project in the cafeteria (\$18,242.00)
- Jan. 5 – Ped Day, LJA hosts board-wide professional development for caretakers, Registration begins
- Jan. 6 – First day for students
- Jan. 8 – High school principals meeting with Pedagogical Services Department
- Jan. 9 – Announcement that Mrs. Cuccarolo will be assigned as the Interim Principal of Hillcrest Academy and that Mr. Mason will be the interim vice-principal at LJA
- Jan. 12 – Teacher Council meeting, Home & School meeting
- Jan. 13 – Management meeting, Governing Board meeting
- Dec. 5 – Volleyball Concentration field trip to College Montmorency
- Dec. 11 – Distribution of LJA coins, End of Study Skills Workshops (Part 2)

Upcoming

- Jan. 20 – Secondary 2 Science Concentration field trip to Planetarium
- Jan. 30 – Be U Dress Down Day (Home & School)
- Feb. 2 – Teacher Council meeting
- Feb. 2-4 – Midyear Exams
- Feb. 2-6 – Staff Appreciation Week
- Feb. 3 – Governing Board meeting
- Feb. 5 – Last day of Term 2
- Feb. 6 – Ped Day
- Feb. 16 – Ped Day
- Feb. 18 – Term 2 report cards available on Mozaik
- Feb. 26 – Parent-Teacher interviews (online)

Gloria Cuccarolo said goodbye to all the governing board members as she has taken a position as Interim Principal at another school. She thanked the members for their support. All activities and projects that she was involved with will continue. Members congratulated her and wish her continued success.

4.2 Chairperson: Report given by Peter Ferentinos.

- Nothing to report.

4.3 Parents' Committee: Report given by Anthony Ortona.

- The PC meeting was held on January 8th.
- The Budget Building Consultation Survey was discussed.
- The distance from home to school may affect transportation costs for schools.
- Mountainview is having a Comedy Night on January 31st.
- The next Council meeting is on January 28th, and the next PC meeting is scheduled for February 12th.



4.4 Home and School Association: Report given by George Foutrakis.

- The Home & School had a Christmas dinner and meeting at Cassa Greque on December 16th.
- Chapman's Ice Cream fundraiser is resuming on January 15th.
- H&S is working on Staff Appreciation Week for February.
- Also, H&S is in the process of planning and organizing a Zumba event and an Easter Bake sale.

5.0 New Business

5.1 SWL Budget Building Consultation: The Budget Building Survey was discussed and completed. The consultation period is from November 28 to February 20, 2026. The consultation documents were sent to the members prior to the meeting. The responses submitted are noted in these GB Minutes.

LJA-GB130126-03: George Foutrakis motioned for the Laval Junior Academy Governing Board to approve the responses to the Budget Building Consultation for 2026-2027, Michael Rice seconded, unanimous. Motion carried

Responses:

- The Laval Junior Academy Governing Board is not satisfied with the allocation of resources.
- Question 5 – Ranking of level of importance (1) Enrolment (2) Special Needs Students (EHDA) (3) At Risk Students (4) Square meter of school (5) Socio Economic Index (Indice de milieu socio-économique (IMSE)) (6) Regional needs (Urban / Rural) (7) Geographical distance
- Question 6 – Resources allocated to Laval Junior Academy should include a budget for building improvements, maintenance, and security.
- Orientation 1: Support and increase the success of diverse learners and at-risk STUDENTS academically, socially, and emotionally -
 - (1) Professional services (2) Digital resources and techno-pedagogical tools
 - (3) Increase trainings related to social / emotional / academic developments
- Orientation 2: Attract, retain and support quality employees -
 - (1) Mentoring and Coaching (2) Professional development and growth (Ex: stress management, special needs, professional learning communities (PLCs), etc.)
 - (3) Targeted training workshops for employees (Ex: skill-based workshops, etc.)
- Orientation 3: Ensure all students possess strong BILINGUAL competency and proficient French skills by the time they graduate, enabling them to thrive in Québec:
 - (1) Didactic materials (2) Techno-pedagogical tools and equipment
 - (3) Digital resources (ex: software, applications, etc.)
- Other topics to prioritize
 - Allocate resources for sexuality education.
 - Allocate resources for promoting health and mental well-being for students and staff.

5.2 2025-2026 Budget Update Consultation: Eric Ruggi presented an update for the Budget of 2025-2026. It was reviewed in detail. The documentation was distributed to the members.

6.0 Field Trips

6.1 Secondary 2 Music students to visit LSA Music Program (Jan. 22, 2026): The Secondary 2 Music students will be visiting Laval Senior Academy on January 22, 2026. The objective is to establish continuity in the Music program between Laval Junior Academy and Laval Senior Academy. In addition, students will discover other instruments. Departure from school at 8:30 am and will return at 11am. Supervision ratio is 1:18 – 2 staff and 36 students. No cost for trip or transportation – walking from LJA to LSA.



LJA-GB130126-04: Michael Rice motioned for the LJA Governing Board to approve the Laval Senior Academy Music Program field trip for the Secondary 2 Music students on January 22, 2026, as presented, Jenny Marlaine Gauvin seconded, unanimous. Motion carried

7.0 Fundraisers: None.

8.0 Rentals: No rentals.

9.0 Question Period for the Public: A parent asked if there was any damage as a result of the construction that is being done beside our school. Eric Ruggi replied that there has been no damage, but he will follow up. Eric Ruggi was complimented on his budget.

10.0 Varia: Laura Orzea proposed a Hero Program for Laval Junior Academy. Students can be paired up – a student who has needs (difficulty socializing, ADHD, Autism) can have a lunch together and / or participate in an activity with a student that has good communication and social skills to create a buddy system. It would increase the understanding of students with specific or special needs, and it would reduce prejudices (of students in general). The student with special needs would ideally have a safe space, feel heard, improve their skills, create a sense of belonging / community and perhaps feel they have a hero. The student mentoring would feel gratified and have a sense of belonging / community. Laura has communicated with Daniel Johnson, and he will brainstorm with his Leadership students to determine how they can support this. Measures money can be used for this initiative.

There will be construction in the spring or summer, on the south side of the school, to redo the roads and sewers that have collapsed. Missing or broken signage will also be replaced.

11.0 Confirmation of Date/Time of the Next GB Meeting: The next LJA Governing Board meeting is scheduled for February 3, 2026, at 6:30 pm.

12.0 Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

LJA-GB130126-05: Timothy Lyons motioned for the LJA Governing Board to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm, Laura Orzea seconded, unanimous. Motion carried

Peter Ferentinos
Chairperson

Eric Ruggi
Principal - Laval Junior Academy

Effie Kontakos

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Secretary