



**Laval Junior Academy
Governing Board Minutes
Tuesday, March 10, 2026**

Present: Betty Aliftiras, Amit Arora, Ani Desjardins, William Evans, Peter Ferentinos, George Foutrakis, Jenny Marlaine Gauvin, Maria Katiforis, Shaun McMahon, Anthony Ortona, Laura Orzea, Maxim Pozdirca and Irene Tsofikis

Principal: Eric Ruggi

Secretary: Effie Kontakos

Regrets: Jeffrey Drake, Marianne Kassabian, Timothy Lyons, Michael Rice, and Leslie Aggrey-Fynn

Guests: Peter Papageorgiou

0. Welcome / Verification of Quorum / Acknowledgement of the Land: The meeting was called to order by Peter Ferentinos at 6:39 pm. Quorum was verified and met. Amit Arora will be replacing an absent parent. The acknowledgement of the land was read 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 two additions.

LJA-GB100326-01: William Evans motioned for the Laval Junior Academy Governing Board to adopt the agenda, with the additions, Maxim Pozdirca seconded, unanimous. Motion carried

2.0 Adoption of Minutes of January 13, 2026: The Minutes had been emailed to the members and distributed at the meeting. No amendments. There was no February LJA Governing Board meeting.

LJA-GB100326-02: Laura Orzea motioned for the LJA Governing Board to adopt the LJA Governing Board Minutes of January 13, 2026, Ani Desjardins seconded, 12 in favour and 1 abstention. Motion carried

3.0 Business Arising

3.1 Student behavior on STL buses: Eric Ruggi followed up with STL and SWLSB, specifically regarding how parents can better report incidents on the STL buses and make it user friendly. The STL looked into the mechanics to see if it can be done differently. At this time, the STL has nothing to offer in altering how to report incidents, it is working well presently. It is essential and important for parents to report incidents occurring on the buses to the STL. Every complaint or report made is assigned to a supervisor (STL) and investigated. The STL supervisor discusses it with the school and resolves the issue at hand. Sometimes parents are unaware of how to report STL incidents (the complaint system) and call the LJA admin to report an incident. In those instances, admin relates the information to the STL. The STL contact information (telephone number) will be posted on the school website to make parents aware of the process of making complaints regarding services and reporting incidents.



Note – daily there are usually six staff members supervising the buses. In addition, when students have been suspended from STL services, staff are present to ensure they do not use their bus or another bus. Regarding student's suspension of STL services, the time of suspension depends on the incident, it varies - may be for 1-3 days, one month, or longer.

4.0 Reports:

4.1 Principal:

- Jan. 13 – Governing Board meeting
- Jan. 20 – Secondary 2 Science Concentration field trip to Planetarium
- Jan. 26 – Secondary 2 Assembly (Promotion Policy)
- 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 (Thank you LJA Home & School !!!)
- Feb. 3 – Governing Board meeting cancelled
- Feb. 5 – Last day of Term 2
- Feb. 6 – Ped Day
- Feb. 11 – LSA Presentation for Secondary 2 students, LSA Basketball Concentration Evaluations
- Feb. 13 – Free Dress Down Day
- Feb. 16 – Ped Day
- Feb. 18 – Term 2 report cards available on Mozaik
- Feb. 19 – Teacher Staff Meeting
- Feb. 20 – LSA Soccer Concentration Evaluations
- Feb. 24 – Science Concentration Secondary 2 field trip to Armand-Frappier, Gumboots activity at lunch
- Feb. 26 – Parent-Teacher interviews (online)
- Feb. 27 – Dress Down Day for Hope & Cope
- Mar. 2-6 – March Break, school closed
- Mar. 10 – Teacher Council Meeting, Governing Board Meeting

Upcoming

- Mar. 16 – Secondary 1 Assembly with author “Black Aces”
- Mar. 16-18 – Dental screening for Secondary 2 students
- Mar. 17 – Practice lockdown
- Mar. 18&19 – French Enriched Placement Evaluations
- Mar. 26 – Sport-Etudes Assembly with Alouettes player
- Apr. 6 – Shakespeare presentation for both grades in the auditorium
- Apr. 14 – Governing Board Meeting

Update on the \$35,000 grant received. Scheduling a date with the Science department to determine what can be done to improve the Science program. It will be for the next school year. The plans have been drafted.

Mr. Mason will be the interim Vice-Principal until the end of this school year.

Leslie Aggrey-Fynn is presently away and will be returning to work soon.

Resignation of Vince Silvaggio from the LJA Governing Board. Will begin proceedings to replace him.

4.2 Chairperson: Report given by Peter Ferentinos.

- Received correspondence for the Criteria for the Selection of a Principal Consultation which we will be discussing tonight.



4.3 Parents' Committee: Report given by Anthony Ortona.

- The PC meeting was held on February 12th.
- Anne Marie Lavoie is the Interim Assistant Director General.
- The school calendar 2026-27 was discussed. Highlights – December break (Dec. 21-Jan. 4). Jan.4 PED Day, March Break (Mar. 2-7), and school ending June 23.
- Election for Ward 9 on March 27th.
- Distinguished students (alumni) participated in the Olympics.
- Discussed results of the Budget Building Survey. Highlights – 11/15 not happy with allocations; Schools wanted more professional services, development of specialized programs, more digital resources, increased training, hiring more professionals, increased allocations for special needs, and increased allocations for maintenance and repair.
- The next PC meeting is scheduled for March 12th.

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

- For Staff Appreciation Week, Home & School decorated the staffroom, balloons, stocked the bathroom with soap, hand creams, and deodorants, and gave Kleenex boxes to staff.
- Had a Dress Down Day on January 30th.
- Continuing with the ice cream fundraiser.
- For Valentine's Day, gave Valentine goldfish to students. For staff, gave them baked cookies and decorated the staff room.
- Planning St. Patrick and Easter activities.

4.4 Treasurer Report: Report given by Maxim Pozdirca.

- The GB budget allocation was \$1102.
- To date the expenses are \$418, which includes the secretary stipend for 4 meetings.
- The members wanted to express their sincere condolences to Leslie Aggrey-Fynn for his loss with flowers.

LJA-GB100326-03: Shaun McMahon motioned for the LJA Governing Board to approve allocating funds to purchase a flower arrangement to express their sincere condolences to Leslie Aggrey-Fynn, Ani Desjardins seconded, unanimous. Motion carried

5.0 New Business

5.1 Consultation – Criteria for Selection of a Principal: The Criteria for the Selection of a Principal was reviewed and was discussed. The documentation had been emailed to the members. The response to the consultation, noted below, was approved and the Criteria will be submitted to the SWLSB.

LAVAL JUNIOR ACADEMY CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF A PRINCIPAL 2026-2027

1. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- a permanent teaching certificate issued by the *ministère de l'Éducation et de l'enseignement supérieur du Québec*.
- administrative experience at the High School level; knowledge of Elementary is beneficial.
- a mastery of the English and French languages.
- eight (8) years teaching experience.
- three (3) years as a school administrator.
- relevant experience in budget and financial management within the educational milieu.
- proficiency in the use of computer technology.



2. ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT QUALIFICATIONS:

- a graduate university program in education administration.
- commitment to a minimum three (3) year term in the position.
- evidence of ongoing professional development.
- recognized as a good teacher.
- strong interpersonal skills and a very effective communicator.
- leadership skills to motivate people to work together towards the vision and continuity of common goals.
- is invested in understanding the needs of the community and shows creativity and innovation in addressing those needs.

3. DEMONSTRATED ABILITY IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

Effective School Management

- works together with the Vice-Principal(s), staff, and parents to develop a strong team spirit and cohesive approach.
- liaises effectively with municipal and business communities and other stakeholders.
- demonstrates high-quality, positive communication skills which are essential to foster unity between administration, staff, parents, and students alike.
- regularly and promptly informs parents of developments within the school in an effective manner, as well as communicating those elements that are required by the Education Act.
- ensures the safety and security of the students and staff.
- supports efforts to decrease the “environmental footprint” of the school, i.e., promotes and implements procedures to increase energy efficiency, decrease waste, promote sustainable practices, make the school “greener”.

Progressiveness in School Programming

- committed to supervision of teachers and supporting the implementation of new curricular initiatives.
- adapts school scheduling considering the complexity of the school programs.
- understands and implements the necessary special need programs.
- promotes arts and culture in school.
- promotes good physical health in school, through nutrition awareness, sports, and healthy outdoor activities.
- committed to overall excellence in the school and the active promotion of enrolment, particularly by finding resources to support modernization and improvements to school facilities, equipment, and academic programs as well as adequate administrative and teaching staff resources, to make the school more competitive in retention of students within the school board.

Student Body - Effective Management and Interaction

- effectively handles adolescent problems and situations in an appropriate manner.
- is sensitive to the needs of special needs students.
- implements positive behavior strategies and is a key player in the development and implementation of the Anti-Bullying Anti-Violence Plan of the school.
- delivers equitable and consistent discipline and must apply the school policies. This is a priority in maintaining the goal of respect between all stakeholders of the surrounding community.
- appropriately manages the challenges of adolescent drug and alcohol use.
- shows leadership in implementing strategies to support good mental health in students and staff.
- shows leadership in understanding the use and impact of social media among students and the community.



*LJA-GB100326-04: George Foutrakis motioned for the Laval Junior Academy Governing Board to approve the LJA Criteria for the Selection of a Principal for 2026-2027, as presented, Anthony Ortona seconded, unanimous.
Motion carried*

6.0 Field Trips

6.1 Montreal Science Center (April 15, 2026): The Secondary 1 Science Concentration students will be visiting the Montreal Science Center in April. The date will be changed from April 15 because it coincides with the Cabane à Sucre Constantin field trip. The field trip will compliment the academic learning in class (Material World & Living World). Students will build a structure and then test with a simulated earthquake to see if it can withstand the shock. Students will also see an Imax movie and the exhibit on animals. Departure from school at 8:45am and return to school 3:30 pm. Activities start at 10:15 am until 2:00 pm with lunch scheduled between 11:30 am to 12:00 pm. Transportation is by STL bus to the metro station, followed by the Montreal metro to Imax Telus (Montreal Science Center). The cost is \$22 +tax per person and covered by the concentration fees.

*LJA-GB100326-05: Betty Aliftiris motioned for the LJA Governing Board to approve the Laval Senior Academy Montreal Science Center field trip for the Secondary 1 Science Concentration students in April, date to be determined, as presented, Irene Tsoflakis seconded, unanimous.
Motion carried*

6.2 Low Ratio Class Sec. 2 Visit to LSA (March 19, 2026): The Secondary 2 Low Ratio Class of 20 students will be visiting LSA on March 20, 2026. Students will attend an information session – alternative program options. Departure time 9:30 am and returning to school at 12:30 pm. No cost for transportation (walking to LSA from LJA). Supervision ratio 1:5 – 4 staff with 20 students.

*LJA-GB100326-06: George Foutrakis motioned for the LJA Governing Board to approve the Secondary 2 Low Ratio Class visit to Laval Senior Academy on March 19, 2026, as presented, Maxim Pozdirca seconded, unanimous.
Motion carried*

6.3 Cabane à Sucre Constantin (April 15, 2026): The Cabane à Sucre Constantin field trip, planned for April 15, 2026, is open to all students. The cost of the trip is \$60 for the Sugar Shack all you can eat meal, the horse drawn wagon and busing (transportation). Departure from school 9:30 am and return 2:30 pm. Ten buses have been reserved.

*LJA-GB100326-07: Laura Orzea motioned for the LJA Governing Board to approve the Cabane à Sucre Constantin field trip on April 15, 2026, as presented, William Evans seconded, unanimous.
Motion carried*

6.4 E-vote – Armand-Frappier Field Trip: The Secondary 1 Science Concentration students will be visiting the Musée de la Santé Armand-Frappier on March 11, 2026. Students will explore the world of viruses as part of the curriculum for the living world. Students will visit two exhibitions and two laboratory workshops, which include participating in a hands-on lab activity. Departure from school at 8:45 am and will return at 12:45 pm, for lunch time. No cost for transportation since students will walk to and from the Musée de la Santé Armand-Frappier. The field trip is paid for by the Science Concentration fees. Supervision ratio is 1:12 – 2 staff and 23 students.

*LJA-GB060226-EV01: Michael Rice motioned for the LJA Governing Board to approve the Laval Senior Academy Armand-Frappier field trip for the Secondary 1 Science Concentration students on March 11, 2026, as presented, Shaun McMahon seconded, 14 in favour and 2 abstentions.
Motion carried*

7.0 Fundraisers: Are seeking GB approval for students to sell tickets for the TEDx Youth @ Laval event at Laval Senior Academy on April 2, 2026. Ticket sales will run from March 12 to April 2, 2026 - \$2 for students and \$5 for adults. The funds raised will offset costs related to student participation in the event. These leadership opportunities promote essential competencies such as communication, critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, citizenship,



resilience, and well-being. They support students in becoming confident, engaged leaders within their school and wider community.

LJA-GB100326-08: George Foutrakis motioned for the LJA Governing Board to approve the selling of tickets for the TEDx Youth @ Laval event at Laval Senior Academy on April 2, 2026, (cost - students \$2, adults \$5) as presented, Ani Desjardins seconded, unanimous. Motion carried

8.0 Rentals:

8.1 Samuel Cappadoro: Rental of \$8,220.71. For Samuel Cappadoro for the use of the double-gym for volleyball, from May 29 to August 14, 2026. A weekly rental in the evenings.

LJA-GB100326-09: Anthony Ortona motioned for the LJA Governing Board to approve the rental of \$8,220.71 to Samuel Cappadoro for use of the double-gym from May 29 to August 14, 2026, as presented by the principal, Maxim Pozdirca seconded, unanimous. Motion carried

8.2 Stage Craft : Rental of \$1,516.67. For Stage Craft for the use of the auditorium for a concert from May 7 to May 9, 2026.

LJA-GB100326-10: Anthony Ortona motioned for the LJA Governing Board to approve the rental of \$1,516.67 to Stage Craft for the use of the auditorium from May 7 to May 9, 2026, for a concert, as presented by the principal, Maxim Pozdirca seconded, unanimous. Motion carried

9.0 Question Period for the Public: Question 1 regarding final grade weighted terms (Term 1 - 20%, Term 2 - 20% & Term 3 – 60%). This is mandated by the Quebec government. Question 2 regarding summer exams. Summer exams are tentatively scheduled for the second and third week of June. Question 3 regarding students being assigned projects during the March Break. Ideally, students should not be assigned projects during the March Break. This matter / question will be discussed confidentially.

10.0 Confirmation of Date/Time of the Next GB Meeting: The next LJA Governing Board meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2026, at 6:30 pm.

11.0 Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 pm.

LJA-GB100326-11: William Evans motioned for the LJA Governing Board to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 pm, Maria Katiforis seconded, unanimous. Motion carried

Peter Ferentinos
Chairperson

Eric Ruggi
Principal - Laval Junior Academy

Effie Kontakos

Effie Kontakos
Secretary