



LAVAL SENIOR ACADEMY

3200 Souvenir West, Laval, QC H7V 1W9

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, January 10, 2017

In attendance:

Principal:

Dena Chronopoulos

Chairperson:

Lisa Chartier (parent)

Secretary:

Kathryn Morrow (parent)

Parent members:

Nadia Colozza, Mary Cataldo, Lina Miniaci

Teacher members:

Renata Isopo, Marcos Helguero, Sean Evans, Peter Papadeas, Frank De Luca

Professional staff:

Dominic Di Stefano

Support staff:

Barbara Diamond

Student representatives:

Sabrina Sorger

Community members:

In absentia: Paul Leal, Tracy Friedman, Silvia Messercola (parents), Eleni Albanis (student), Jimmy Mourlelatos, Angelo Grasso (community members), Daniel Desrosiers (teacher)

Guests:

2 Vice-Principals

=====

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Chairperson established quorum and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. ADDITIONS TO/ADOPTION OF AGENDA

LSA/GB-170110-077 It was moved by B. Diamond, seconded by F. De Luca, that the Laval Senior Academy Governing Board hereby adopts the agenda with the addition of the following item:

4.1 Resignation of Parent Member **CARRIED**

3. NEW BUSINESS

3.1 School Success Plan

(A) *Anti-Bullying and Anti-Violence (ABAV) Plan 2016-17*

The Principal circulated the ABAV plan for 2016-17 which has been discussed, but not approved, by the teachers. GB members were asked to look over the document and bring any comments to our next meeting. In response to a question, the Principal confirmed that the school board is aware that the completion of this document is late, but that we are taking our time to do it properly. Tabled.

(B) *Standards and Procedures of Evaluation 2016-17*

The Principal circulated the Evaluation of Learning for 2016-17 document which has been discussed and approved by the teachers. The major change is in section 3.3.1 where in Secondary 4, as a pilot project, no minimum mark will be used for Math CST, Science and History; this will start as of term 2. The data from this project will be available and used as of the next school year.

A discussion took place concerning moderation and ponderation of marks; a link to a Ministry site will be sent to GB members to explain this process. Comments included that giving a zero to a student would take away all hope; however, giving a 24 to a student who had done absolutely nothing, as well as to a student who had really tried but not done well was really not fair either.

It was pointed out that on the chart on the last page, the last box on both sides of the chart should read "0-24" and not just "24".

In response to a question about where are mid-term exams mentioned in this document, it was stated that it is a school decision to do them in December and even though it appears to parents that it is very close to the end of the first term, it really is well after first term has ended. Some schools do mid-terms towards the end of January, which seemed to be a fairer representation of where term 2 ends.

LSA/GB-170110-078 It was moved by M. Helguero, seconded by S. Evans, that the Laval Senior Academy Governing Board hereby approves the Evaluation of Learning, Standards and Procedures 2016-17 as corrected at this meeting.

Voting for: 10 Voting against: 2 Abstaining: 1 **CARRIED**

(C) *Management Educational Success Agreement (MESA) 2016-17*

The Principal circulated the MESA document for 2016-17 which targets four areas (Secondary 4 Math CST, Secondary 4 Science & Technology, Secondary 3 History & Citizenship, students feeling safe at school). The document has been discussed but not approved by the teachers.

Discussed ensued about the 4th area, students feeling safe at school. The data had been taken from the "Tell Them from me" survey completed by students and comments were made that it is not always completed seriously by students and does not truly reflect the school environment; as well, it is data only from students and not staff. This subject will be discussed with students at upcoming assemblies. Because students have been doing this same survey for many years, it was suggested that perhaps it is time to either change the questions or to separate the survey between elementary and secondary schools, where there are widely varying concerns and needs. It was noted that although students are asked to complete the survey, they have no idea where the results go or what the data is used for; results could be vastly different if students were made aware of why they are being asked to do this. It was also suggested that there be a separate place or person in the school where students could go to express concerns about safety at school. This item will be re-discussed at our next meeting.

3.2 Subject-Time Allocation 2017-18

The Principal circulated the Subject-Time Allocation for 2017-18 which has been discussed and approved by the teachers. The Principal referred to two surveys that had been sent out to the school community in December and circulated the responses received.

The Principal reported on two major areas of change:

1. A cohort of French Immersion at Secondary 3 with the following subjects to be taught in French: Science & Technology, History, Arts (Music) Physical Education;
2. A course in Financial Education at Secondary 5 mandated by the government; Contemporary World will have 2 periods and Financial Education will have 2 periods. At this moment, there is no course content; because the course is so rushed, it might be pushed back, but the STA has accommodated the possibility.

Discussion ensued concerning the proposed French Immersion programme. Since there is such a programme at the junior high school, parents want to see it continued in the senior grades and up until now, it has not. As previously reported, our system is losing a great number of students between Grades 6 and 7, in large part due to the fact that there is no continuity of programmes. This is the senior's school attempt to keep some of these students.

There is also a problem with the music programme, which is very different at the junior school level, with no band offered; the same goes for Sports Etudes which stops after Grade 8.

It was noted that classes of Physical Education in Secondary 4 and 5 are separated by gender. S. Sorger raised the issue that this is prejudicial to transgender students who don't want to be singled out. Discussion ensued, with administration saying that they are flexible and listening to the concerns raised. They agreed to look at the possibility of having mixed classes at the Secondary 4 and 5 levels or at least one class.

LSA/GB-170110-079 It was moved by P. Papadeas, seconded by S. Evans, that the Laval Senior Academy Governing Board hereby approves the subject-time allocation for 2017-18 as presented to this meeting. **CARRIED**

4. **OTHER BUSINESS/VARIA**

4.1 Resignation of Parent Member

The Chairperson reported that Silvia Messercola had submitted her resignation as a parent member of the Governing Board effective immediately. Her position will be filled in accordance with the requirements of our Internal Rules of Procedure (section 3.4). We will first approach parents who presented themselves for election at the General Assembly last September, i.e., Orazio de Rosa. If he is not interested, then a public notice, e.g., the school newsletter, will ask parents to notify us of their interest. The new parent should be in place for our meeting in February.

LSA/GB-170110-080 It was moved by L. Miniaci, seconded by P. Papadeas, that the Laval Senior Academy Governing Board hereby authorizes the replacement of the vacant parent position as per the internal rules of procedure. **CARRIED**

5. **COMMENTS/QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

(A) A letter from the Pediatric Department of the Cite de la Sante Hospital had been received thanking us for the 110 gifts delivered to them in December.

(B) B. Diamond asked to specifically mention the insightful input and opinions from the student representative at the meeting tonight.

6. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, February 23, 2017

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

LSA/GB-170110-081 It was moved by S. Sorger, seconded by B. Diamond, that the meeting adjourns; time 8:50 p.m.

SIGNED AT LAVAL, QUEBEC, this 23rd day of February 2017

Lisa Chartier, Chairperson

Kathryn Morrow, Secretary