



**JOHN RENNIE HIGH SCHOOL
GOVERNING BOARD**

Minutes of Meeting 2022-2023 #9

21 June 2023¹

Meeting held in person in the school library

Parent Reps: C. Santaguida, C. Chabot, C. Boyarchuk, D. Bensimon, E. Schultz.

Staff Reps: A. Sayfy, A. Cooper, K. Pellegrino, L. Brabant, R. Lobaton, S. Sievers, S. Vann

Administration: E-M Durand, J. Armstrong, J. Kurta, M. Larocque

Student Reps: R. Santamaria

Community Rep: M. Venturino

Commissioner: Absent

Public: No Public in Attendance

Secretary: Absent

Regrets: A. Saunders, C. Veillette, G. Grenier-McDermott, K. Leonard, M. Fuga, S. Legore, S. Day, W. Kogan.

1. Call to Order/Verification of Quorum/Territorial Acknowledgement

- D. Bensimon called the meeting to order at 6:57 p.m.
- Territorial land acknowledgement was recited by D. Bensimon.

2. Approval of the agenda

22-23-53: The agenda was approved unanimously, via a motion from A. Cooper & seconded by L. Brabant.

3. Approval of the minutes from the last meeting

22-23-54: The minutes from 17 May 2023 were approved unanimously, via a motion from S. Vann & seconded by K. Pellegrino.

4. Question Period

- No public was present therefore no questions were asked.

¹ The original meeting date was 14 June 2023, but this was changed in order to have more time to prepare the subjects discussed at the meeting.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

- None

6. Consultations

- D. Bensimon informed the meeting that a response to the consultation on the Three-Year Plan of Immovables 2023-26 was sent to the school board on 19 May 2023.
- D. Bensimon also informed the meeting of a proposal regarding the LBPSB Electoral Divisions. It would divide its territory into 12 electoral wards, comprised of roughly 6000 electors each. Although no action was required by the Governing Board, the consultation indicated that any elector (as an individual) may oppose this proposal in writing before 3 July 2023.

7. New Business

- **School Fees:** the proposed school fees for the 2023-2024 were presented to the meeting. It was noted that combination locks will be offered to all grade levels. It was noted that some fees increased due to inflation, while others did so through choices that teachers made for specific material. There was discussion about the possibility of making last-minute changes to the list of school fees, but since they need to be voted on by staff council and the Governing Board, this is not feasible. The proposed fees were adopted unanimously following a motion by A. Sayfy and seconded by C. Santaguida (**motion 22-23-55**).
- **Code of Conduct:** proposals to the school's code of conduct were presented to the meeting, including a new policy on cell phones. It stipulates that cell phone use will be permitted during recess and lunch, but not during class time. Phones often distract students in class and are difficult for many teachers to manage. Students often use other devices, such as Chromebooks, in class for work that needs to be done online. A survey of teachers found that the vast majority were in favour of the proposed policy. The code of conduct would also now contain wording regarding the adoption of a mandatory school top. It also contains text forbidding the use of artificial intelligence for school work. It was recognized that these changes will require adjustments by both staff and students, but that it was necessary to include such regulations, since the current situation is problematic. The discussion on this topic

also addressed ethical questions around the use of cell phones (e.g., filming others without their consent), the possibility of restricting access to certain sites via the wireless network of the school, the possibility of higher printing costs if teachers move away from online platforms for some school work and the correlation found between time spent by teenagers on social media and levels of anxiety. The modified code of conduct was approved following a vote with all but one in favour, via a motion from L. Brabant & seconded by A. Sayfy (**motion 22-23-56**).

- **Standards and Procedures Document:** this item was tabled for a future meeting.
- **Uniform Supplier:** samples of the school tops provided by [Moni Factory Outlet](#) were shown to the meeting. The supplier requests a written commitment for a period of 2 years and would not be able to deliver the tops before Thanksgiving. Ordering would be possible online or at the supplier's store. Delivery would be done for free at the school or at the store, or could be mailed to the student's home for a fee. It was mentioned that the school tries to help families who are in difficult financial positions and that graduating students would be encouraged to donate their tops for use by students continuing at the school. A motion to adopt Moni as a school supplier for a minimum of 2 years was adopted unanimously, after being moved by E. Schultz and seconded by A. Cooper (**motion 22-23-57**).
- A motion to sign a protocole d'entente with the Grant Brothers Boxing Gym and the Fédération québécoise de boxe olympique was adopted unanimously, after being moved by S. Sievers and seconded by C. Chabot (**motion 22-23-58**).
- A motion to enter into a partnership Agreement with l'École supérieure de ballet du Québec was adopted unanimously, after being moved by C. Chabot and seconded by L. Brabant (**motion 22-23-59**).
- **Governing Board Secretary:** the meeting was informed that S. Day would be retiring this summer. D. Bensimon thanked her in absentia for her years of service to the Governing Board. He mentioned that for the next school year, it will be necessary to find a secretary. While the school receives some funds to cover the cost of a secretary, there are not enough to pay for a secretary for each meeting. It was mentioned that in other schools, parents fulfill the role of secretary on a voluntary basis.
- **JRHS Governing Board Annual Report 2022-23:** D. Bensimon presented the [annual report](#), which outlines motions adopted by the board, meeting dates, consultation

responses sent to the school board, as well as a list of members. The report will be updated to include the Anti-violence, Anti-bullying Plan and the agreements adopted at the current meeting.

8. Fundraisers

- None

9. Field Trips

- 22-24 September 2023: Trip to Canada's Wonderland
 - Transportation: Coach bus
 - Cost to student: \$675
 - A 10:1 ratio of students to adults is expected on this trip.
- A discussion regarding proposed Futsal tournament at the school from 10-12 November 2023 was tabled until a future meeting since it is necessary to check so-called "blackout dates" for the West Island Lakers Basketball Association beforehand.

22-23-60: The above-mentioned field trip was approved following a vote with all but one in favour, via a motion from S. Sievers & seconded by R. Lobaton.

10. Reports

- a. **Principal:** J. Kurta thanked all participants of the Governing Board for their involvement in the past year. She thanked D. Bensimon for chairing and J. Armstrong for her work, notably on the topic of the school tops and informed the meeting that J. Armstrong would be working in a different role for the 2023-2024 school year. The results of a national survey assessing student life were presented to the meeting. It was noted that the results for the school were close to that of Canadian averages. Reported levels of anxiety and depression were much higher for female students than for their male counterparts.
- b. **Staff:** No items to report.
- c. **Students:** R. Santamaria praised the quality of the 2022-2023 yearbook. A recent sports banquet went well and was the forum for a stirring speech by one of the students. Convocation was held on 2 June 2023 and went well: Mr. Kyffin was

thanked for doing a great job as master of ceremony and many awards were handed out to deserving students. The school prom will take place on 27 June 2023.

- d. **Representative for the LBPSB Parents' Committee:** the report summarizing the 8 June 2023 meeting of the Parents' Committee is available on the [shared drive](#).
- e. **Commissioner:** No report was presented, as the commissioner was absent. The meeting was informed that the commissioner sent an email informing all that a final council meeting for the school year would take place on 26 June 2023 and that, as always, it is open to the public.

11. Correspondence

- a. D. Bensimon informed the meeting that a summary of the Council of commissioners meeting held on 30 May 2023 had been received and was available on the [shared drive](#).
- b. The meeting was informed that an email containing summer health and safety tips had been received and that this information was available on the [shared drive](#).
- c. D. Bensimon informed the meeting that the latest edition of Pearson News is available at <http://pearsonnews.ca>.
- d. An email regarding protection of personal information for staff members was received on 21 June 2023.
- e. An end-of-year message from the Director General of the school board, Cindy Finn, was received on 21 June 2023.

12. Varia

- C. Boyarchuk thanked staff members for all of their hard work. D. Bensimon extended thanks to all participants of the Governing Board and thanked the teachers and administration for their dedication to the school and to its students.

13. Date & Location of Next Meeting

- The next governing board meeting will be taking place on Wednesday, 13 September 2023 @ 6:45 p.m. in person in the school library. If this meeting is not needed before the Annual General Assembly on 21 September 2023, D. Bensimon will inform everyone by email in early September.

14. Adjournment

- **22-23-60:** A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by K. Pellegrino at 9:00 p.m. & was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Dov Bensimon, Chair, John Rennie Governing Board

Approved _____
J. Kurta, Principal

Approved _____
D. Bensimon, Governing Board Chair