Champlain
COLLEGE SAINT-LAMBERT

OFFICIAL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD
2026-2027
October 6, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. Room E199

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Donald Shewan	Paul Dionne
	Denise Albert	Valerie Hadd
	Vince Amato	Patrick Straub
	Jade Fock	Victoria Gerov

REGRETS:

ALSO PRESENT: Nicole Haché, Paul Conway, Matt Refghi, Michael Newton

The Governing Board meeting is being held in person. The meeting was called to order by the chairperson at 6:31 p.m.

1) Welcoming new members

New support staff member Patrick Straub, new faculty representative Valerie Hadd and new student representative Jade Fock were introduced and welcomed by all.

2) Approval of Agenda

The following agenda was proposed.

1. Welcoming new members
2. Approval of agenda
3. Approval of minutes of the meeting of June 8, 2026
4. Business arising from the minutes of June 8, 2026
5. Public question period
6. Declaration of Interest Forms
7. Review of Roles and Responsibilities of Governing Board members
8. Schedule of Calendar of meetings for 2026-2027
9. Foundation Update
10. Hydro Expropriation/Building Expansion Update
11. Varia
12. Adjournment

It was **MOVED** by Patrick Straub and **SECONDED** by Jade Fock that the agenda be approved.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3) Approval of the minutes of the meeting of June 8, 2026

It was **MOVED** by Donald Shewan and **SECONDED** by Vince Amato to adopt the minutes of the regular meeting of the Governing Board of June 8, 2026.
MOTION CARRIED.

4) Business Arising from the minutes of June 8, 2026

Following voiced concerns regarding the consolidated CRC Operating budget and the Foundation, a letter signed by Chairperson Paul Dionne on behalf of the Governing Board was sent to Jean-Philippe Caron, Director General of Champlain Regional College on June 23, 2026.

A response letter signed by Jean-Philippe Caron was sent and received by Paul Dionne on July 22, 2026. Paul Dionne was unsatisfied with the Director General's response. Patrick Straub, who is also a member of the Champlain Regional College Board of Governors, stated that while a presentation on the CRC Operating Budget may have been tabled at the last Board of Governors meeting, **no actual financial figures or concrete numbers were provided** to its members. Consequently, characterizing the presentation as a "detailed breakdown" is factually incorrect. It is incredibly difficult to govern effectively when there is a perceived lack of transparency, and having a member confirm that the "detailed" breakdown was missing numbers only adds validity to those concerns. Patrick Straub, who was named as a Support Staff representative to the CRC Foundation committee in June, has yet to receive any sort of feedback.

Paul Dionne has asked Don Shewan to provide him with contact information for the chairpersons of two other constituent colleges for an informal temperature check on these budget transparency and operational issues. He went on to say that since Champlain Regional College operates under a unique multiregional structure, coordinating a meeting with the leadership of Champlain Regional College is a logical next step to see if these issues are systemic.

5) Public Question Period

There were no questions.

6) Declaration of Interest Forms

Don Shewan reminded Governing Board members to complete and sign the declaration of interest forms in order to protect the organization's integrity, ensure transparency, and comply with legal and regulatory standards.

Key Reasons for the Declaration

- Uphold Fiduciary Duties: Board members have a legal and ethical "duty of loyalty," meaning they must place the organization's best interests above their own personal, financial, or professional interests.
- Prevent Self-Dealing and Bias: It stops directors from unfairly benefiting themselves, family members, business partners, or affiliated entities through contracts, hiring, or procurement decisions. Even the appearance of a conflict can damage stakeholder trust; a declaration allows the board to address or recuse a member before a decision is tainted.
- Guide Meeting Recusal: Disclosures establish a clear record so that interested members step out of the room or abstain from related discussions and voting.

7) Review of Roles and Responsibilities of Governing Board members

Discussions ensued regarding the College's bylaws in which certain pertain to the involvement of the local Governing Boards. Members expressed concern as they have not been consulted on matters such as the upcoming renewal of the Director General's mandate for which he has never been evaluated.

Renewing a high-level executive mandate without a formal performance evaluation prevents the board from making an informed, data-driven decision regarding the institution's future leadership

When bylaws are bypassed or ignored, it undermines the authority of local boards and diminishes accountability.

8) Schedule of Calendar of Meetings for 2026-2027

A draft calendar of meetings was presented and discussed by members. Patrizia to send dates to all.

9) Foundation Update

Paul Dionne invited Mike Newton, current president of the Champlain College Saint-Lambert Foundation to speak to this item. The joint initiative by Champlain Regional College Foundation is still on hold and after 18 months and he is not comfortable with moving forward with the potential merger until questions and procedural directives are confirmed. Until full integration, he is proposing that the Saint-Lambert Foundation operations continue as they did in 2025-2026 to continue to support College Life.

Mike Newton is willing to meet with Roya Abouzia, Director of Corporate Affairs and Communications/Secretary General and the new CRC Foundation committee before moving forward.

10) Hydro Expropriation/Building Expansion Update

Paul Conway spoke to this item. Problems have arisen first with the results of the soil contamination tests, for which we are awaiting the final report and very recently with the City of Saint-Lambert who is insisting that we must respect a city bylaw regarding the obligation to plant trees on our land as many as 120! The two impediments put this project, as currently envisaged, at risk.

Members have asked that project manager, Christophe Sauvé, be invited to a future meeting for a better understanding of the building expansion project.

11) Varia

Don Shewan informed members that Miriam Morrisette submitted her letter of resignation today due to ongoing work commitments. Her dedication, despite demanding work commitments, was deeply appreciated. The Ministry will be formally notified, and the search for her replacement will begin immediately.

12) Adjournment

It was **MOVED** by Patrick Straub and **SECONDED** by Victoria Gerov that the meeting be adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Paul Dionne	Patrizia Polifroni
Chairperson	Recording Secretary