

Beauty
IN THE
ORDINARY

ANNUAL REPORT

August 1, 2024 - July 31, 2025

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, November 19, 2025 @ 7:30 pm | ZOOM

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ROCKWAY MENNONITE COLLEGIATE—MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Members of Rockway Mennonite Collegiate Inc. provide oversight of the decisions and direction of the school and elect the Board of Directors. All are welcome to attend the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and participate. All members are eligible to vote on issues that arise at the AGM.

Members of Rockway Mennonite Collegiate Inc. are made up of Church Members and Individual Members.

Mennonite Church Eastern Canada (MCEC), our supporting conference, is a permanent Church Member. Any MCEC, Mennonite Brethren, or Brethren in Christ congregation may apply to become a Member. Each Church Member must appoint a proxy to represent them at the AGM and to vote on their behalf.

All parents of current Mennonite students, all employees and all members of the Board of Directors are Individual Members of Rockway Mennonite Collegiate Inc. and eligible to vote at the AGM.

The following individuals are eligible to apply for membership. Any:

- member of an MCEC, Mennonite Brethren, or Brethren in Christ congregation
- parent of a current non-Mennonite student
- alumnus or alumna
- person who has made a receiptable donation to the school in the previous 12 months

All membership applications must be submitted for approval by the Board of Directors prior to the AGM. All individual members must apply each year to renew their membership.

AGENDA Wednesday, November 19, 2025

1. **Welcome** Lori Peebles '86, *Chair*
2. **Opening Prayer** Rene Baergen
3. **Housekeeping**
 - a) Sign-in Procedures Lori Peebles
 - b) Voting Procedures Lori Peebles, Sara Wahl, *Faculty*
 - c) Approval of Draft Agenda for November 19, 2025 **Decision**
 - d) Approval of Draft AGM Minutes from Thursday, November 20, 2024 **Decision**
4. **Business Report**
 - a) Finance Committee Report Sharon Schwartzentruber '84, *Treasurer*
Steven Reesor Rempel, *Director of Finance and Human Resources*
 - i. Presentation of Audited Financial Statements Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 **Decision**
 - ii. Appointment of Auditors FY 2025-2026 **Decision**
 - iii. Presentation of Final Budget FY 2025-2026 Information
 - b) Board Member Nominations Lori Peebles, **Decision**
 - c) Recognition of Retiring Board Members Lori Peebles
5. **Life at Rockway**
 - a) Board of Directors' Report Lori Peebles
 - b) Principal's Report Josh Hill
 - c) Student Voice Julia Abicht, Oliver Berg, Henry Modolo
 - d) Parent Voice Sheri Wideman, Director of Admissions & Recruitment
 - e) Questions/Comments Lori Peebles
6. **Beauty in the Ordinary (Chapel theme from 2024-2025)** Administrative Team
Chris Ainsworth, Josh Hill, Stephanie Oliverio, Steven Reesor Rempel, Sheri Wideman
7. **Closing Prayer** Lori Peebles
8. **Adjournment** Lori Peebles

WELCOME!

Rockway Mennonite Collegiate was founded in 1945 with an inaugural class of thirty-five students. Today, it is home to over 280 students, grades 7-12, who are the heart of our Rockway community.

Mission

As a Christian educational community within the Anabaptist Mennonite tradition, Rockway Mennonite Collegiate integrates sound academic learning with growth in character and faith, together with a passion for peacemaking and service to God and all creation.

Vision

From a Christian Mennonite faith perspective, and in partnership with families and congregations, we are committed to walking with students to help form and transform their learning, character and faith. Our desire is that students learn, grow in faith and build character practice becoming **responsible, globally-minded, compassionate and reflective learners**. We refer to these as the four pillars:

- **RESPONSIBLE**

Faculty & Staff teach with purpose and passion; students learn to demonstrate academic self-discipline, focus and determination

- **GLOBALLY-MINDED**

Faculty & Staff open the world to students, modelling hospitality and love; students learn from the experiences and perspectives of others, alongside seeking opportunities for cross-cultural learning and friendships.

- **COMPASSIONATE**

Faculty & Staff build safe, nurturing and stimulating classes for learning; students learn to work together and collaborate with others.

- **REFLECTIVE**

Faculty & Staff model their Christian faith commitment and help students engage and reflect on questions and convictions that matter; students are encouraged to ask questions and seek to align life choices and their faith convictions.

1. Welcome

Betty Pries, Chair of the Board of Directors, opened the meeting by welcoming all in this virtual meeting platform. We will look at the year past and look forward to the year ahead.

2. Opening Prayer

Rene Baergen led the meeting with an opening prayer, speaking about the interaction with Peter, James, John, and Jesus meet on the mountain – Peter says, “This is good”, and Jesus, agreeing, brings them all back to the important work ahead.

3. Housekeeping

a) Sign-in Procedures

The procedures were reviewed; pointed out that the AGM will be recorded, asked to have microphones muted and proper display names included in the personal Zoom windows, provided instructions on how to raise a hand to ask a question or make a comment.

b) Voting Procedures, Zoom Polling

The reactions bar allows a ‘yes’ or ‘no’ for answers. There will be several polls included. A successful test of the Zoom polling was completed.

c) Approval of Draft Agenda for November 20, 2024

Motion: To approve the draft agenda for November 20, 2024

Moved by Kevin Bradshaw, seconded by Jenn Maxwell Motion: Carried

d) Approval of Draft AGM Minutes from Thursday, November 22, 2023

Motion: To approve the AGM Minutes from Thursday, November 22, 2023

Moved by Ron Schlegel, seconded by Lori Peebles Motion: Carried

4. Business Report

a) Finance Committee Report

Tim Hedrick, Treasurer, and Steven Reesor Rempel, Director of Finance and Human Resources, led us through the Finance Committee Report. Tim explained that the audit was very positive – the Rockway Team is very pleasant to work with. Excellent care was taken by Dawn Zehr (Rockway’s Accountant) and Steven with respect to finances. Steven Reesor Rempel discussed that the summary is in the booklet if anyone would like to go into more detail. This past year, we had a modest surplus of just over \$33,000. All of the expenses came in moderately under budget. Total expenses were just under \$6.5 million. The Sustainability Fund is doing very well. Steven also spoke of the other funds we have at Rockway: Scholarship Fund (is shrinking, showing a deficit), Tuition Assistance Fund and Facilities Fund. Overall, we utilize the funds to make a difference in the lives of students, staff and our facility.

i. Presentation of Audited Financial Statements Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-2024

Motion: To accept the 2023-2024 Financial Statements

Moved by Penelope Sisk, seconded by Scott Albrecht Motion: Carried

ii. Appointment of Auditors FY 2024-2025

Motion: To appoint BDO Canada LLP auditors for the 2024-2025 fiscal year

Moved by Tim Hedrick, seconded by Glen Woolner Motion: Carried

iii. Presentation of Final Budget FY 2024-2025

Steven Reesor Rempel, Director of Finance and Human Resources, presented the final budget for the rest of the school year. Overview of our budget:

1. Projecting a deficit of \$312,000.

2. Decrease of just over 20 students (only 15 International Students at Rockway this year) due to many factors, including Canada reducing number of International Student permits and increasing Visa requirements, etc.

3. Staff salaries and benefits are relatively stable (small reduction in staff)

4. We will need to keep spending to a minimum, but not make drastic cuts

5. This is not a sustainable budget, and we hope to turn this around – task for this year is to balance the budget

6. Scholarship Fund will have a \$181,000 deficit – anticipating a transfer of \$65,000 to cover the Scholarship Fund this year (families were promised these scholarships)

b) Ontario Non-profit Corporations Act (ONCA) By-law Amendments

The AGM package includes a 'clean version' for approval, as well as a 'red line version', which includes the changes. Most of the changes are relatively simple, yet mandatory. Steven went over the various changes that are required. For membership (Article 23), we cannot have two types of members: church members and individual members. These must be incorporated into a single-class of members. The membership will be the same as previous membership practices.

Motion: To approve the changes to the amendments in the Ontario Non-profit Corporations Act (ONCA)

Moved by Scott Albrecht, seconded by Kevin Bradshaw Motion: Carried

c) Board Member Nominations

Betty Pries outlined the responsibilities and commitment of Board Members, including those renewing their work on the Board for a second term, as well as those new Rockway Board Members

Motion: To approve Sharon Schwartzentruber '84, to serve on the Board for a first three-year term.

Moved by Jo Scott, seconded by Lori Peebles Motion: Carried

Motion: To approve Tara Sommerville to serve on the Board for a first three-year term.

Moved by Ron Schlegel, seconded by Rene Baergen Motion: Carried

Motion: To approve Bryant Whyte to serve on the Board for a first three-year term.

Moved by Kristen Hines, seconded by Leasa Peters Motion: Carried

d) Recognition of Retiring Board Members

Monica Loberto has completed two, three-term appointments. Tim Hedrick has completed three, three-term appointments. Steven thanked both Monica and Tim for all they have done for the Board. Betty Pries has completed three, three-year terms. Josh thanked Betty Pries for her incredible work as Board Chair, with Elaine Ranney (former Principal) and Ann Schultz (former Principal) giving their thanks and reflections as well.

5. Life at Rockway

a) Board of Directors' Report

Betty Pries thanked Elaine for her support as Principal, who passed her leadership to Josh, who passed his leadership to Stephanie (Vice-Principal). We are a thriving school with great academics, sports, music, etc. BUT, the reason so many send their children is because they are LOVED. By staff, by each other, in a place where they are valued and seen. Rockway is small, but also mighty - a place where students learn to be kind, generous and thoughtful. Betty is passing the Board Chair baton on to Lori Peebles and the Rockway Board of Directors.

b) Principal's Report

Josh Hill talked about various aspects of his written report. A highlight was hosting the Senior Boys' OFSAA Volleyball Tournament and how it came together. The event showcased what is so amazing about Rockway. It allowed so many students and athletes from across the province to come together. Josh also talked about the Canadian Geographic's giant floor map of the Indigenous People's Atlas of Canada and how important this was in learning and facilitating understanding. The future is so bright for Rockway – a new timetable, new programming, new courses... Josh is proud to be the Principal at Rockway.

c) Student Voice

Stella Halim discussed the course that she learned about Indigenous thinking; how we can be thankful for all we have around us in nature. The course helps students to speak on behalf of Indigenous peoples, caring for one another. Elek Katona discussed his favourite field trip to Crawford Lake. He spoke about seeing the longhouses and learning about Indigenous history and many topics. A core value of Indigenous people is to give back to the land. He holds these values in his life now and takes time to stop and experience the world – the nature – the Indigenous history.

d) Parent Voice

Sheri Wideman, Director of Admissions and Recruitment, shared the results of the Parent Survey from 2024. Some highlights:

- i. Student enjoyment and appreciation of extracurricular activities. Faculty support for students.
- ii. Teachers and Academics – in and out of the classroom, academic growth, how hard the teachers work, with specific supports for student needs.
- iii. Relationships with peers and with teachers – increase in confidence because of this.
- iv. Why do you send your children to Rockway? Academics, class sizes, extracurriculars – ultimately, community and belonging were the most-cited reason for sending their children to Rockway.

Areas for Improvement: giving more regular updates on academic performance. A progress report card has been introduced before midterms.

Sheri closed with quotes of parents from the school survey.

e) Questions/Comments

Penelope asked the question, “Were you emotional when reading these amazing comments from the school survey?” Sheri said that, yes, it is a great opportunity to get feedback and know that Rockway is a place to be proud of.

6. Do Justice, Love Kindness, Walk Humbly – Rockway’s Strategic Plan

(Chris Ainsworth, Josh Hill, Stephanie Oliverio, Steven Reesor Rempel, Sheri Wideman)

Josh went over the Strategic Plan to introduce the stories shared:

- **Director of Admissions & Recruitment:** Sheri Wideman discussed how we are ‘unapologetically Mennonite’ – how we ‘do justice’ at Rockway. She talked about all of the great events held over the school year including the Food Drive, paddling the Grand to clean up garbage, bike to school day, backpacks and school supplies for Indigenous students, the Enviro-Social Committee. Living out our faith and doing justice.
- **Director of Finance & Human Resources:** Steven Reesor Rempel talked about the facilities and how operations embedded one of Rockway's key priorities, "Climate Justice". The Solar project, with 875 solar panels installed on the roofs of Rockway, was discussed. It was important to have student involvement and a positive impact on the environment, and to work collaboratively to meet the goals. At the end of the contract, Rockway will own the panels outright.
- **Director of Advancement:** Chris Ainsworth outlined the events outside of school and the many people who came out regularly to be a part of these important evenings and Rockway events. They cheer on teams and are there to see the plays, musicals, etc. The ‘Protect This Barn’ slogan includes protecting the culture and values of Rockway.
- **Vice-Principal:** Stephanie Oliverio discussed the Chapel theme. She talked about faculty, staff, and administration leading by example. Stephanie has shown pride in the commitment in coaching students and developing their character. Staff and students have shared the many things that we get right, that we get wrong and how to grow together on this journey.

7. Closing Prayer

Betty Pries led a closing prayer.

8. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting

Moved by Penelope Sisk, seconded by Danya Poetker Motion: Carried

Recorded and respectfully submitted by Duane Heide, '89, Board Secretary, on behalf of the Board of Directors

FINANCE COMMITTEE'S REPORT

The Finance Committee is entrusted to provide oversight and guidance to the finances of Rockway. We are blessed to work with committed and engaged administration, faculty and staff.

- Rockway finished the 2024-2025 fiscal year with an operating fund deficit of (\$318,134) on revenue of \$6,010,308, expenses of (\$6,328,442) and net fund transfers of \$4,221. The deficit is slightly higher than our budgeted deficit of (\$300,455). Tuition revenue was lower than budgeted driven by lower net tuition as a result of 2 international students who did not come and more students leaving throughout the year than new ones joining. As well, the Annual Fund donations were under budget due to the capital campaign that was launched during the fiscal year
- The Board approved an operating budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year with a deficit of (\$285,661). The budget includes total revenue of \$5,948,916, total expenses of (\$6,089,362) and net fund transfers of (\$145,215). The continued decrease in international student enrolment is having a significant impact on Rockway's budget. Another year with a budgeted deficit is not taken lightly and planning continues to return to a balanced budget as quickly as possible.
- The Sustainability Fund ended the year with a balance of \$1,864,312. These funds continue to be held in reserve to support emerging opportunities, unanticipated challenges and future innovations of which we have yet to dream. The Board approved a transfer of \$150,000 from the Sustainability Fund to the Operating Fund for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Due to the drop in international student tuition and the necessary restructuring that happened in the spring of 2025 to address the deficit there were some additional costs in the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Given these unanticipated challenges the Board approved the transfer from the Sustainability Fund as a one-time event. While the fund is not meant to fund ongoing operations, the Board felt that for this year it made sense to keep the overall operating deficit as close to \$0 as possible.
- The Scholarship Fund is used to support families financially to attend Rockway. We remain committed to providing tuition assistance where needed most, while also setting tuition rates that cover the actual cost of a Rockway education.
- Given the significant capital campaign during this past fiscal year the annual fund revenue saw another decrease. The shift going forward now that most funds for the campaign have been received or pledged is to focus on the annual fund and tuition assistance.

Rockway remains financially strong and resourced to continue its mission. While not immune to short-term challenges, there is excitement for the possibilities that lie ahead. The school's financial health is made possible only by the organizational health maintained by our excellent administration, teachers, staff, volunteers and supporters. It is all these amazing people working together that create the Rockway experience we all love and value.

The Finance Committee remains committed to careful stewardship of the school's financial resources as we plan for a sustainable future.

Respectfully submitted by Sharon Schwartzentruber '84, Board Treasurer, on behalf of the Finance Committee

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

		2024-25 Final Budget	2024-25 Actuals	2025-26 Budget
Operating Fund				
Revenue				
1	Net Tuition	5,232,600	5,139,361	5,318,000
2	Fees, Sales, Investment Income	239,000	326,497	193,000
3	International Student Fees	243,400	246,100	153,450
4	Annual Fund	275,000	218,246	225,000
5	MCEC Grant	66,704	56,596	44,466
6	Other Revenue	15,000	23,508	15,000
7	Total Revenue	6,071,704	6,010,308	5,948,916
Expenses				
8	Salaries and Benefits	4,839,500	4,926,973	4,748,500
9	Program	220,320	199,432	232,873
10	International Student Program	258,505	256,147	126,428
11	Administrative	462,000	438,419	423,850
12	Facility	412,500	325,704	377,500
13	Capital	179,334	181,767	180,211
14	Total Expenses	6,372,159	6,328,442	6,089,362
15	Surplus/(Deficit)-before transfers	(300,455)	(318,134)	(140,446)
Fund Transfers				
16	Transfer (to)/from Sustainability Fund	0	150,000	0
17	Transfer (to)/from Facilities Fund	53,785	53,785	49,285
18	Transfer (to)/from Scholarship Fund	(65,000)	(199,564)	(194,500)
19	Total Fund Transfers	(11,215)	4,221	(145,215)
20	Surplus/(Deficit)-after transfers	(311,670)	(313,913)	(285,661)
Operating Fund Balance				
21	Opening Balance	337,139	337,140	23,227
22	Surplus/(Deficit)	(311,670)	(313,913)	(285,661)
23	Restricted for future use	0	0	0
24	Ending Operating Fund Balance	25,469	23,227	(262,434)

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Scholarship Fund

25	Opening Balance	635,760	635,761	723,797
26	Investment Earnings	38,000	83,232	48,000
27	Fundraising Revenue	52,000	38,464	40,000
28	Fundraising Revenue - Endowments	21,000	66,756	23,000
29	Scholarships/Tuition Assistance	(292,700)	(299,980)	(305,500)
30	Surplus/(deficit)	(181,700)	(111,528)	(194,500)
31	Interfund Transfers	65,000	199,564	194,500
32	Restricted for future use/endowed	(605,996)	(732,950)	(754,585)
33	Scholarship Fund Balance	(86,936)	(9,153)	(30,788)

Sustainability Fund

34	Opening Balance	1,801,565	1,801,562	1,864,312
35	Investment Earnings	80,000	152,147	80,000
36	Fundraising Revenue	0	60,923	0
37	Expenses	0	(320)	0
38	Surplus/(deficit)	80,000	212,750	80,000
39	Interfund Transfers	0	(150,000)	0
40	Sustainability Fund Balance	1,881,565	1,864,312	1,944,312

Facilities Fund

41	Opening Balance	425,627	425,631	723,827
42	Investment Earnings	8,000	13,844	8,000
43	Fundraising Revenue	0	359,035	550,000
44	Expenses	0	(22,767)	(198,722)
45	Surplus/(deficit)	8,000	350,112	359,278
46	Deferred income and payables	0	934	0
47	Interfund Transfers	(53,785)	(53,785)	(49,285)
48	Restricted for future use/depreciation	(169,892)	(120,521)	(71,236)
49	Facilities Fund Balance	209,950	602,371	962,584

Total - All Funds

50	Opening Balance	3,200,091	3,200,095	3,333,295
51	Surplus/(deficit)	(394,155)	133,200	104,333
52	Interfund Transfers	0	0	0
53	Total Fund Balance	2,805,936	3,333,295	3,437,628

Total Fundraising

54	Annual Fund	275,000	218,246	225,000
55	Scholarship Fund	73,000	105,220	63,000
56	Sustainability Fund	0	60,923	0
57	Facilities Fund	0	359,035	550,000
58	Total Fundraising	348,000	743,424	838,000

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE'S REPORT

The Investment Committee continues to focus on ensuring Rockway's financial assets are invested to the maximum benefit of the school within acceptable risk parameters. Investments directly under management by Rockway included approximately \$1,978,000 in the Sustainability Fund and \$646,000 in the Scholarship Fund, invested through RaeLipskie Partnership. Operating bank accounts and short-term investments are held by Kindred Credit Union. (Abundance Canada owns and manages certain funds from which Rockway, as the sole beneficiary, receives an annual grant).

Investment income during the 2024-2025 fiscal year was approximately \$388,000 down from the more than \$400,000 last year, but still a very good performance. The long-term mandate of the funds and the overall investment plan does not change in response to short-term fluctuations. The Board seeks to balance the reality of short-term volatility with long-term investment return goals.

The Investment Committee provides careful review and oversight of the investment process.

Some specific activities of the Investment Committee this year included:

- Ongoing quarterly meetings to review the status and fund performance of Rockway's investment portfolio relative to the performance of appropriate benchmarks
- Annual review of specific Investment Plans to ensure prudent investment strategies with an appropriate risk profile and equity exposure, including a face to face meeting with the investment advisors at RaeLipske Partnership
- Periodic review of existing investments and emerging opportunities to ensure alignment with Rockway's priorities, including non-financial considerations such as Environmental, Social and Governance factors



Respectfully submitted by Sharon Schwartzentruber, '84, Board Treasurer, on behalf of the Investment Committee

2024-2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DIRECTORS

ALBRECHT, Scott (1 – 2026)
BAERGEN, Rene '93 (1 – 2025)
BECHTEL, Craig '08 (2 – 2026)
BRADSHAW, Kevin (2 – 2025)
CLEMENCE, Kathy '88 (2 – 2025)
HEIDE, Duane '89 (2 – 2026)
PEEBLES, Lori '86 (1 – 2026)
SCHWARTZENTRUBER, Sharon '84 (1 – 2027)
SOMERVILLE, Tara (1 – 2027)
WHYTE, Bryant (1 – 2027)

KEY

(1 - Year Ending) 1st Term
(2 - Year Ending) 2nd Term
(3 - Year Ending) 3rd Term

FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE

SCOTT, Jo '05

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

AINSWORTH, Chris, *Director of Advancement*
HILL, Josh, *Principal*
OLIVERIO, Stephanie, *Vice-Principal*
REESOR REMPEL, Steven, *Director of Finance and Human Resources*
WIDEMAN, Sheri, *Director of Admissions and Recruitment*

COMMITTEES

BOARD COMMITTEES

Executive

BRADSHAW, Kevin, *Vice-Chair*
HEIDE, Duane '89, *Secretary*
HILL, Josh, *Principal*
PEEBLES, Lori '86, *Chair*
SCHWARTZENTRUBER, Sharon '84, *Treasurer*

Finance

CLEMENCE, Kathy '88
HILL, Josh, *Principal*
REESOR REMPEL, Steven, *Staff Rep.*
ROBBINS, Candace, *Faculty Rep.*
SCHWARTZENTRUBER, Sharon '84, *Chair*
SOMERVILLE, Tara
WHYTE, Bryant

Nominations

ALBRECHT, Scott
BAERGEN, Rene '93
BECHTEL, Craig '08, *Chair*
HILL, Josh, *Principal*
PEEBLES, Lori '86

ADDITIONAL COMMITTEES

Compensation

HILL, Josh, *Principal*
PEEBLES, Lori '86
REESOR REMPEL, Steven, *Staff Rep.*
SCHWARTZENTRUBER, Sharon '84
SOMERVILLE, Tara, *Chair*

Investment

EBY, Ben '05, *Advisor/Consultant*
SCHWARTZENTRUBER, Sharon '84, *Chair*
REESOR REMPEL, Steven, *Staff Rep.*
WHYTE, Bryant

Fundraising Advisory

AINSWORTH, Chris, *Staff Rep., Chair*
GINGRICH BERG, Kristen, *Advisor/Consultant*
HINES, Kristen, *Staff Rep.*
HOFFMAN-BAILEY, Jen, *Staff Rep.*
JEFFREY, Kathryn, *Advisor/Consultant*
LOBERTO, Monica, *Advisor/Consultant*
SISK PETER, Penelope, *Advisor/Consultant*
WEBER, Amanda, *Advisor/Consultant*
WINKEL, Danielle, *Advisor/Consultant*

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE'S REPORT

Background:

The following Board member is open for renewal:

- **Rene Baergen** – Has completed one, three year term and is open to renewing for another.

The following Board members have given many years of service and will not be renewing their terms:

- **Kevin Bradshaw** – ending his 2nd three-year term. Kevin has acted as Vice-Chair this last year.
- **Kathy Clemence '88** – completed her second term. Kathy submitted her resignation to the Board in June 2025.

Thank you Kevin and Kathy, for your many years of service to the Rockway community!

NEW Nominations:

- **Lianne Gerber Finn**

(as there was an open seat on the board, Lianne began her term in March 2025)

- current Rockway parent of two sons (grades 7 and 9)
- brings experience with various boards and communities as well as a strong call to service
- attends Stirling Ave Mennonite Church.

- **Penelope Sisk Peter**

- current Rockway parent of three students (one in grade 10 and two in grade 12)
- brings experience in non-profit management, Board governance, fundraising and development
- actively seeking a home church for their family

- **Kathryn Cressman**

- current Rockway parent of two daughters (grades 9 and 11)
- a pastor interested in representing the larger Anabaptist community on the Rockway Board
- member of Hillcrest Mennonite Church

Recommendations:

1. That **Rene Baergen** be approved to serve as a member of the Board of Directors for a second, three-year term, commencing November 19, 2025.
2. That **Lianne Gerber Finn** be approved to continue to serve as a member of the Board of Directors for one three-year term, commencing November 19, 2025.
3. That **Penelope Sisk Peter** be approved to serve as a member of the Board of Directors for one three-year term, commencing November 19, 2025.
4. That **Kathryn Cressman** be approved to serve as a member of the Board of Directors for one three-year term, commencing November 19, 2025.

We are grateful for the work of all our current Board members. Additionally, we welcome your help in finding new members. If you know of anyone who may be interested in joining the Board, or who may be a good person to consider, please fill out or have them fill out this **Board Expression of Interest** form. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted by Craig Bechtel '08, on behalf of the Nominations Committee

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REPORT

Hello Rockway Community.

Rockway has had another wonderful year of learning and fun. The Rockway community has continued to thrive with strong academic programs, sports, music, clubs, spirit days, field trips and chapels. In addition, many parents and family members enjoyed a wide range of community events, such as the Family Breakfast, the Spaghetti Supper, and the year end BBQ Bash. Rockway is not just a school for the students, but also a school for families, as there are so many ways for everyone to be engaged in the Rockway community.

As a governance board, we work alongside Principal Josh Hill and the members of the Admin Team (Stephanie Oliverio, Chris Ainsworth, Steven Reesor Rempel and Sheri Wideman) to oversee the school and represent parents and the broader Rockway community. We are all volunteers who are connected to the school as parents, alumni or supporters of Rockway, and we collaborate with the Admin Team to provide vision and direction for the school. This past year we started to do work on our new Strategic Plan, which we plan to complete by the end of first semester. This plan will give focus and clarity to the faculty and staff for the next five years. We are excited to work with Mark Weber as he guides both staff and board members through this process.

In addition to our Board meetings, Board members also attend and support Rockway events. One of my favourite events that I attended this year was the Founders' Day Chapel. Alumni Mary Groh '49 and Ray Boehm '84 (who is also a retired faculty member) spoke about their Rockway experiences and how Rockway impacted and influenced their lives. Even though they attended Rockway about 30 years apart, the commonalities in their stories were a testament to the consistent solid community that Rockway has provided. As we celebrate 80 years of Rockway and embark on the next chapter, I know that this community will continue to thrive under strong leadership and donations from many generous donors.

Our Board members consider it an honour to be able to support Rockway through our Board work. We look forward to continuing to work on behalf of our students, parents and faculty and staff.



Respectfully submitted by Lori Peebles, '86, Chair of the Board

SUMMARY OF BOARD ACTIONS

The Board of Directors took the following actions and/or passed the following resolutions:

September 24, 2024

1. To approve the 2024 - 2025 Final Budget.

October 22, 2024

1. To approve the 2023 - 2024 Audited Financial Statements and recommend them to the membership for approval at the AGM.
2. To recommend to the membership the approval of Tim Sothern and BDO Canada LLP as auditor for Rockway Mennonite Collegiate Inc. for the fiscal year ending July 31, 2025.
3. To approve all parents of Mennonite students, all employees, and all board members as individual members.
4. To recommend for approval by the membership updates the Rockway Mennonite Collegiate Inc. Bylaw as presented.

November 13 and 19, 2024 (motions via email)

1. To approve named individuals who have applied for membership of Rockway Mennonite Collegiate Inc. for the upcoming AGM.

November 27, 2024 (motions via email)

1. To confirm Lori Peebles as the new Chair of the Board for a three-year term, commencing November 20, 2024.
2. To confirm Sharon Schwartzentruber as the new Treasurer of the Board for a three-year term, commencing November 20, 2024.
3. To affirm Bryant Whyte to the Finance Committee for a three-year term, commencing November 20, 2024.
4. To affirm Tara Somerville to the Finance Committee for a three-year term, commencing November 20, 2024.

December 10, 2024

1. To approve the tuition rates for the 2025 - 2026 school year.

January 30, 2025

The January 2025 meeting was not held due to the unexpected and tragic deaths of Zoe Wiebe (grade 10 student) and Jennie Wiebe (mother).

March 25, 2025

1. To approve the recurring annual tuition assistance amount for the 2025 - 2026 school year.
2. To approve Lianne Finn joining the Board of Directors for her first three-year term commencing immediately; recognizing this approval will be confirmed at the AGM in November 2025.

April 29, 2025

No motions for this meeting.

June 10, 2025

1. To approve the 2025 - 2026 Preliminary Budget.

Recorded and respectfully submitted by Duane Heide, '89, Board Secretary, on behalf of the Board of Directors

It was a year full of highlights! In fact, there are far too many to share in this report, but I hope the list below gives you a sense of the incredible variety and breadth of amazing things that happened at Rockway last year:

- Participated in the KW Oktoberfest parade with our THINK float, encouraging people to consider their use of single-use plastics.
- Ran one of the most successful food drives in Rockway's history to support the work of House of Friendship.
- Sr. Boys' Volleyball OFSAA berth for the third straight season.
- 850+ Solar panels were installed on the school roof - we are running on sunshine!
- All school musical - *Charlie and the Chocolate factory*
- Launched the Youth Leading Change: Community Peacebuilding Certificate Program
- Released the all-school SOLAR video
- 80th Anniversary Founders' Day event
- 3 Parent engagement events; Cell Phones and Social Media, Understanding Solar, Youth Mental Health: Understanding Anxiety
- Collaborative youth events with MCEC

This list of events, of course, does not include all of the regular Athletics activities, Music concerts, Art Exhibitions, Chapel speakers, grade retreats, field trips, or Trips Week excursions. Rockway is a busy place full of opportunities for students to discover who they are alongside their peers, while being supported by caring faculty and staff.

Beyond just the events of the school, I wanted to also outline the ways in which we are living into our mission, vision and values by using the metaphor of "barn raising". The reality is that Rockway is much more than a list of events and activities. It is a place where community members find belonging, feel valued, and are empowered to reach their potential. I have chosen a few examples below that help illustrate the ways in which this work is carried out, and the foundation that it is rooted in.

Brief History of Barn Raising

As I dig deeper into the 2024-2025 school year in this report, I want to use the theme of "Barn Raising" to frame my comments. Barn raising is a practice in Mennonite and Amish communities where the entire community comes together to build a new barn for a member of the community. This practice involves the young and old, men, women and children. Everyone has a role in the construction of not only something physical, but also in the building of community. Each person's role and contributions are important and necessary for the success of the project, and the greater health of the community. It is a practice rooted



in service, reciprocity, and reliance on one another. It is an example of the giving and receiving of support in ways that lead to greater personal and community wellbeing. I had the opportunity to preach at several local Mennonite Churches this past year on this topic where I outlined the ways in which Rockway is leaning into this practice figuratively in the work that we do as a school. Below you will find some of my reflections on the ways that we worked to "raise the barn" at Rockway last year.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Raising the Barn: 80th Anniversary

On Friday, May 2, we hosted a special 80th Anniversary Founders' Day Chapel where I had the privilege of interviewing Mary Groh '49 and beloved retired faculty member Ray Boehm '84 about their time at Rockway. It was inspiring to be reminded of the positive impact that Rockway has had on the lives of young people for 80 years. We heard stories that made us laugh, and develop a deeper appreciation for the history and legacy of this community. It made a direct connection to our current students as they heard about some of the same experiences that they have today at Rockway. It was a reminder that as in a barn raising, young and old come together to work, share stories, and contribute their gifts to the community.

The work of barn raising is about ensuring that the next generation is formed by the stories of the past.

As we celebrated our 80th Anniversary this past year, it was a time of looking back, celebrating the work of those that have come before us, and ensuring that the stories that have shaped our community are heard and understood by our current students.



Raising the Barn: Community

As described above, barn raising is a communal practice where everyone comes together to offer support and help in a time of need. A barn raising can happen for lots of reasons, both good and bad. When a new married couple sets out on their own and a new barn is needed, the community comes together. When a tragic event happens and a barn is destroyed because of a natural disaster, the community comes together. Barn raisings remind us that we are part of a community of support that surrounds us in times of celebration as well as times of tragedy.

This year at Rockway, we experienced tragedy with the loss of grade 10 student Zoe Wiebe and her mom Jennie. I stood with our faculty and staff, the day after the tragedy, deep in my own grief and sadness and saw our team step up and say I will open my art room for students to come and grieve together; I will open the music room for students to sing together; I will open my home to students and families so that they can be together. MCEC pastors reached out to say we will come to be with students, to pray with them, and to hold them in their grief. Administrators said we will come and watch over the school so that you can have the space to lead and care for your community. Families brought food to nourish our bodies, and remind us that we are not alone. Shalom Counselling surrounded us with support. In the midst of our grief and loss we found hope in God's plan for community and restoration. We experienced a barn raising. The act of barn raising does not take away the feelings of grief and loss, but it helps root us in the only way to shoulder that grief and loss, which is together.



Raising the Barn: *Capital Campaign*

Another example of barn raising from this past year was the Protect This Barn Capital Campaign. In a little under a year, at the time of writing this report, we have been able to raise \$2.1 million dollars towards our \$2.2 million dollar campaign goal. This is an inspiring example of barn raising, where countless donors have come forward to support the rejuvenation of our “barn” so that we can continue to live fully into our mission, vision, and values. For me personally, the opportunity to meet with donors and hear their stories of transformation because of Rockway has been overwhelming. Not only have these stories helped ground me in the legacy of our community, but the subsequent donations have been inspiring as people give generously to the work of the school in this practical way. It has helped to create a tremendous amount of energy and optimism about the future of Rockway. The community has truly come together to contribute as they are able to raise the barn. I want to thank Chris Ainsworth and the entire Advancement team for their extraordinary work on this campaign over the past year. We will see the impact of this capital campaign at the end of the 2026 school year and at the start of September 2026. These infrastructure projects are critical to the immediate and long term success of the school, but cannot happen without everyone coming together.



This has been a year of “barn raising” and I couldn’t be more grateful for the work and collaboration of every member of our community. What makes us unique is that we are rooted in the Anabaptist Mennonite tradition that calls us to a posture of service, reciprocity and reliance on one another. As the Apostle Paul reminds us in Romans chapter 12, we are all uniquely gifted and have a responsibility to use those gifts on behalf of others as members of one body. Our success is dependent on each of us offering what we have to one another and seeing and valuing each other for what we offer to the community. I have these values play out in powerful and inspiring ways this past year and I couldn’t be more excited about where we are going as a community.

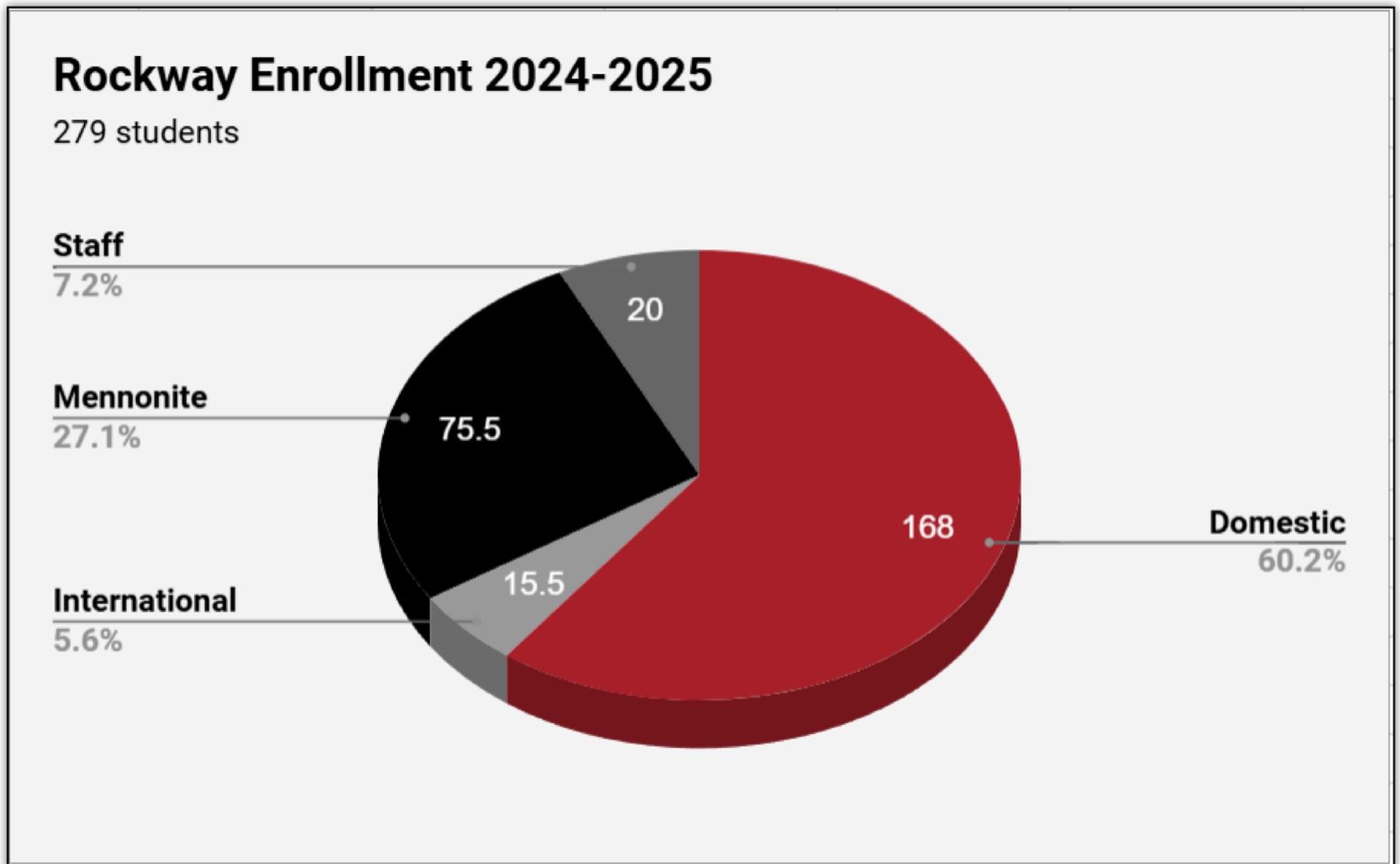


Respectfully submitted by Josh Hill, Principal

DIRECTOR OF ADMISSION & RECRUITMENT

The 2024-2025 school year was a period of challenges, growth, and resilience. Our enrollment declined to 279 students, reflecting a noticeable drop in international students alongside a slight decrease in domestic enrollment. This represented a significant decrease compared to 2023-2024 enrollment numbers.

The break down of the enrollment demographics was as follows:



Recruitment

Family School Tours started early in the fall and applications for the 2025-2026 started to come in by late September. However, the recruitment season started in earnest in November with our *Discover Rockway* Open House which was a very successful event as we welcomed 40 families in the building. Guests were able to discover the Rockway that was right for them by exploring our campus and connecting with teachers, parents and student ambassadors. As part of their discovery time, prospective students and their families had the opportunity to experiment with our sound and lighting system, make a snack in Family Studies and test drive Thermite, our Rockway robot! Prospective students followed up their experience with a shadow visit that allowed them a true insider's perspective on the Rockway community and culture.

Our smaller recruitment event, Grades 7-12 Information Night, was once again held in April and saw a record number of guests representing over 25 prospective families. Many families chose to take part in a guided tour of our campus during the evening and signed their child up for a follow-up shadow visit. In the months following this event, we had families continue to inquire about Rockway, and sign up for tours and shadow visits, right up until the end of the school year while tours continued to be scheduled right through the summer.

DIRECTOR OF ADMISSION & RECRUITMENT

We continue to look at new marketing strategies, one of which was our Family Champions Program, the purpose of which was to brainstorm with our current families on how we can more effectively use our parent voices to spread the word about Rockway. We hosted a Family Champions focus group in September and we were truly humbled by the number of parents that gave of their time to attend. It was an energizing event where attendees engaged in small and large group discussions which generated many actionable ideas for increasing the awareness of the value of the Rockway Experience. We are so grateful to our parents, who are among our best ambassadors, for being willing to so generously give of their time and expertise to help support the school.

Tuition

Rockway's Tuition Assistance and Scholarship programs continue to be a very important support for many of our families by helping make the Rockway experience more accessible to more families. During the 2024-2025 school year, we were able to support 54 families with close to \$300,000 in tuition assistance and scholarships. We are very grateful to our generous donors whose continued support for these initiatives help make Rockway a reality for so many families.

International Recruitment

In October 2024, I travelled to Hong Kong and Japan on a recruitment trip. In Hong Kong I met with the parents of our current international students. I also met with our agents to discuss how best to market Rockway in the Hong Kong market and to update them on the Rockway program. In Japan, I met with the parents of both current and former international students. I also participated in a Canadian Education Fair as well as a B2B event hosted by the Canadian embassy where I made some good connections with new Japanese agents which have proven to be fruitful.



Respectfully submitted by Sheri Wideman, Director of Admissions & Recruitment

DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT

As I reflect on the 2024-2025 year, it is hard to comprehend all that we have accomplished as a school over the past twelve months. When the year began, we looked forward to celebrating Rockway's 80th Anniversary. What we didn't anticipate, was embarking on a major renovation and capital campaign. Thanks to some unforeseen repairs needed to our gym space, we quickly shifted focus to a major fundraising project which ended up being an incredibly rewarding experience both personally and professionally. In addition, we saw some amazing growth across all of our events and I feel both eager and excited to see how we can continue this trend.

As you will see from the numbers below, fundraising for the Annual Fund, Scholarship Fund and Facility Fund were up from the previous year. The biggest increase is to the Facility Fund which is directly related to the Capital Campaign.

We are incredibly grateful for the \$743,424 funds raised this past fiscal year. This tremendous achievement reflects the collective generosity of our donors, alumni, and community members. Those funds were allocated as follows:

- \$218,246 to our Annual Fund
- \$60,923 to our Sustainability Fund
- \$105,220 to our Scholarship Fund
- \$359,035 to our Facility Fund

The Fall is a busy time with two Advancement events kicking off the new school year: Family Breakfast and Connections: Homecoming Night. Both events are long-standing traditions at Rockway that have seen some incredible growth over the past few years.



Our first event, Family Breakfast, is exclusive to our current students and their families and helps bring our community together for a time of connection early in the school year. At a time when most families would be rushing out the door for school or work, we offered an opportunity to pause, connect, and build new relationships within the Rockway community.



The next Fall event is our annual Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser, better known as Connections: Homecoming Night. We have experienced an enormous surge in attendance the last couple of years that has resulted in over 500 people attending the event annually. We have seen an increase in the number of young alumni, families and alumni that have not been back to Rockway in years, attending this event.

We added an Online Auction to help our fundraising efforts. The auction was launched the night of Connections: Homecoming Night and included items such as: a week-long stay in Italy, cottage rental for one week, theatre tickets, gift certificates to a number attractions across Ontario, restaurant gift certificates and more. All of the items were donated from local businesses and members of the Rockway community. It was a fun experiment that seemed to provide a fun new way to donate to Rockway.

Unfortunately, not all of the news I am going to share is positive. Our Fall Appeal was negatively impacted by the Canada Post strike. We were not alone as most not-for-profit organizations felt the effects of a nationwide shutdown to our postal service. The timing of this strike could not have come at a worse time, as we had just invested a significant amount of money into the printing and preparing of our mailing just before the strike began. Unfortunately, we find ourselves in a similar situation this year, with little information about when the strike will be resolved. However, we continue to shift gradually toward digital communication and reduced print materials.

DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT REPORT

Before heading into the Christmas break, all of the necessary floorplans, artist renderings and initial budgets had been created so we were in a good position to start meeting quietly with donors to secure the funds needed before going public with the launch of our capital campaign. Almost immediately, we started receiving support for the project and were making great progress. It was around this time that an unimaginable tragedy struck our school when one of our students and her mother were killed in a motor vehicle accident. Understandably, our focus shifted to supporting our students, and each other, as we dealt with the overwhelming grief that accompanied this tragic loss. Our fundraising efforts were paused, including the release of our campaign video, public launch of the capital campaign, Spring appeal and our Founders' Day event as we mourned the loss of Zoe and Jennie.

As time passed and it felt more appropriate to celebrate, we formally launched the public phase of our fundraising efforts with the release of our campaign video. I am thrilled that we were able to reach our goal of raising 65% of the funds before announcing the project to our community. The Spring Appeal quickly followed the campaign video and support for the gymnasium renovation continued to come in. By the end of the fiscal year, we had raised over 80% of our \$2.2 million goal – an incredible testament to our community's belief in Rockway's mission and future. This is an incredible show of support by our community and I could not be more grateful to everyone involved for their generous contributions. The Rockway community's belief in this project and the direction we are heading is inspiring and truly overwhelming.



We chose our Founders' Day Celebration as the day to unveil our plans to students. It was incredible to hear their genuine excitement for the upgrades coming to our school. The students seem to really appreciate all of the changes coming to their school and (like us) can't wait for the work to be done next Fall.

Our annual golf tournament celebrated its 30th anniversary with a record number of golfers in attendance and raising an all-time high of over \$36,000. This was a great way to celebrate such an impressive milestone not only in the number of years our golf tournament has been running but with the over \$700,000 that has been raised to support tuition assistance. We are extremely grateful for the work of our founding participants who have been supporting Rockway and our families for three decades.

The largest surge in attendance was experienced by the BBQ Bash, formerly known as the Family Picnic & Outdoor Movie Night. Well over 500 people came out to enjoy a delicious BBQ, live entertainment from our Solar Band, games, snacks and of course everyone's favourite attraction, the dunk tank. This year we opened up the dunk tank to students, and parents were more than happy to stand in line with a chance to dunk their child. This year we opened up the invitation to new and prospective families considering Rockway for the upcoming school year. It was a great opportunity for those new to Rockway to come out and experience our community first-hand.



As we look back on this remarkable year, we are reminded that our strength as a community shines most brightly through both celebration and sorrow. The achievements we have realized, from fundraising to record-breaking attendance, reflect the generosity, resilience, and deep sense of connection that define Rockway. Even in the face of profound loss, we found comfort in one another and renewed purpose in our shared mission. As we look ahead to the year to come, may we continue to build on this spirit of unity, gratitude, and hope, carrying forward the legacy of those who have shaped Rockway's past and inspiring all who will be part of its future.

Respectfully submitted by Chris Ainsworth, Director of Advancement

STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBERS

EXECUTIVE

Co-Presidents

Secretary

Social Media Managers

Elek Katona and Suri Schmidt

Karan Gupta

Breckan Carnegie

Sophia Renee Friesen

CABINET MEMBERS

Jaden Alonge

Mateo Castano

Zoe Fretz Corlis

Kaesha Cornies

Harry Goodwin

Stella Halim

Micah Janzen

Nora Leis

Gavin Mohr

