

KSS and Vanier Meeting Minutes

October 20th, 2026 @ 6:30pm – Success Room (Rm 153)

Attendees: Chris Morrow, Stephanie Van Der Pryt, Virginia Venditti, Christie Scales, Jacoba Lilius, Carissa Bird, Jennifer Kehoe, Nicole Honderich

Regrets: Jordan Morelli, Alison Bradshaw

Minute Taker : Nicole Honderich

1. Welcome

Stephanie welcomed attendees and started the meeting

2. Land Acknowledgement

Chris shared the LDSB Land Acknowledgement with the group

3. Approval of Agenda

- a) Election of Indigenous Rep added to New Business
- b) A discussion of gender-based harassment and violence deferred to November, when Darren and perhaps VP Vanier are present, to facilitate a more productive discussion; Stephanie requested note to add to Agenda for next meeting

4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Approved

5. Student Representative Update:

Chris has reached out to both the KSS and Vanier Student Council Advisors to invite students to attend – will reach out again to extend an invitation for November's meeting

6. Principal Report: (shared by Chris)

- a) October has been a busy month for both schools
- b) Vanier students' off-property privileges have been reinstated, school community thanked for their patience in adapting to new system
- c) Acknowledgement of additional financial pressures for families re: student activity fee increases; fundraising underway; Chris to communicate perspective at upcoming Principal Meeting – suggested board-wide communication

- d) Many student activities have taken place; for example, Fort Henry cross-country races for both school communities (District meet for Vanier, KSS-hosted Invitational); DECA Mock Regional; KSS' first ever music/coffeehouse
- e) Ontario Education Minister Paul Calandra visited Kingston school communities – 2 classrooms at Vanier, 2 classrooms at Molly Brant, and 2 classrooms at KSS – Minister accepted honest feedback from staff and administration
- f) Upcoming University/College visits – applications
- g) KSS Teacher night on October 22
- h) KSS Leadership Conference takes place October 28-30, significant staff support required (additional support from retired educators)
- i) Grade 10 students at KSS will write the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) mid-November
- j) Remembrance Day ceremonies will be held for both schools on November 11
- k) KSS Holiday Bazaar takes place November 14, from 10am -4pm
- l) Question raised about provision of musical instruments for Vanier students – initially communicated that they would be provided, then personal arrangements required – Chris committed to looking into what happened

7. PIC (Parent Involvement Committee) Update

- a) Virginia sharing this first update, PIC reps Carissa and Jacoba will provide them in future meetings
- b) First meeting of PIC at Board office on Thursday, October 22
- c) PRO (Parents Reaching Out) funding information to be released November 2 – a request that this information and all general information be shared with School Councils' PIC reps as well as Chairs
- d) A discussion on what PRO funding is for – to reduce barriers for parent engagement –to discuss “Human Library” concept for this year’s application next meeting
- e) Ministry amendment of regulations – School Council members need CPIC – Chris provided forms at end of meeting
- f) Parent engagement funding - \$500 to each school annually – Stephanie to follow up with the office regarding balances for KSS and Vanier; CPICs deemed a reasonable expense, and members encouraged to keep receipts for potential reimbursement

School Council By-Laws were drafted and distributed in June 2026 – Board requires some slight tweaks, and a better definition of Member at Large will be adapted; Virginia to send in advance of next meeting, where they will be discussed

- g) Virginia also discussed parent engagement and her new Communications role with Council – she will be having conversations at the school level regarding newsletters and getting parents ‘in the know’ – Virginia to request time on the next agenda to report back

8. New Business

a) Meetings for 2026-27

Stephanie suggested a more social gathering of Council in December – there was consensus; regular meetings will take place in November, January, March, April and May; in February, School Council will help facilitate the My Blueprint event

b) Staff Representation from Vanier

Chris to put the call out

c) Indigenous Representative for School Council

Stephanie nominated Jennifer Kehoe; unanimous support; Council may have 2 Indigenous reps (one for each school); Jennifer will send an email to both VPs Chris Morrow and Valerie Hopkins to describe the role, purpose, and intention so that it may be advertised to the Vanier school community

d) Rob Switzer Recognition

Jennifer described Rob Switzer’s dedication over several decades to the school (originally at QECVI, at LCVI, but retired from KSS – a dedicated educator who actively participated at School Council meetings). Chris M to see if he’s available to attend meeting in November so that he may be formally recognized by Council. Stephanie suggests a card/cake, if so.

e) Accessible Parking Concerns

Jennifer shared ongoing concerns over past two years regarding accessible parking spaces at KSS/Vanier site; 11 spaces have been reduced to 6 in front parking lot and 1 in back parking lot. It has become an “accepted” practice for community members to use the current spaces without repercussion despite laws. In the past, signage has been covered to accommodate overflow. Later, signs were removed, and replacement signs did not meet AODA-requirements. Jennifer has been actively engaged in bringing concerns forward – both to school and Board administrators. Signs were again replaced, but still non-compliant as they do not include fees for violation. Chris shared that school has follow up in cases during the school day but acknowledges challenges of after-hour community use. No enforcement-mechanism has been implemented to date. Council acknowledged concerns and the inappropriate/harmful example set. Consensus that educational institutions must model respect.

Action Items: Jennifer requested that her observations of LDSB school sites and compliance be added to the record. Committed to sending the details following the meeting. Jennifer to send further communication to Stephanie for PIC reps Carissa and Jacoba to bring the issue forward at the November PIC meeting.

Jennifer's notes, received by email following the meeting, summarized below:

Of LDSB's 54 physical school sites, Jennifer has personally attended 20 and discovered 13 to be non-compliant; additionally, she has received photo-evidence of an additional school non-compliant as well. (14/21 = 67% non-compliant)

Compliant Schools: Molly Brant, JG Simcoe, LCVI, KLC, Bayridge PS

Non-Compliant: KSS, Rideau Heights PS, Lord Strahacona PS, Centennial PS, Polson Park PS, Welbourne, Trudell, Frontenac Secondary School, Bayridge Secondary School, JR Henderson (right sign not installed properly; visible), Winston PS, Rideau PS, Central PS, and Joyceville PS

Unremarkable: Sydenham PS- unable to access parking lot

Concerns: modelling of disrespect towards the value, intention and purpose of the accessible parking spaces. It has become the cultural norm to abuse these spaces out of entitlement.

Example: Even last night leaving the meeting, there were 5 out of 6 accessible parking spaces being occupied by parents waiting for their students to come out from the event being held at KSS. Not one of them had a permit displayed.

9. Adjournment

Chris and Stephanie thanked members in attendance and those that sent regrets; looks forward to next meeting on November 17th. Ended meeting.