



KSS/Vanier School Council Minutes

Tuesday, 15 October 2024 at 6:30 pm

Location: KSS School Library

Attendees: Darren Seymour, Michelle Sousa, Rob Switzer, Stephanie Van Der Pryt, Kolsen Shunk, Adrita Kar, Alison Murray, Anja Wilke, Sarah Thompson, Leanne Devlin and Sarah Phinney

Regrets: Virginia Venditti

1, 2, 3. We started the meeting with our Land Acknowledgement and welcoming new Vanier council members: Anja Wilke, Sarah Thompson and Leanne Devlin. Welcome!

4. The agenda was edited by removing Item 6: 'Parent Council Elections' that already took place at the last meeting. Agenda approved.

5. Approval of Previous Minutes: none opposed; passed

6. Kolsen and Adrita presented a thorough report:

- Vanier members requested information regarding social media: KSS Bears have an Instagram account run by students that will be linked to the Facebook account, information can also be found on the KSS website, kss.limestone.on.ca. Vanier has a Twitter account @ModVanier_LDSB and information can be found on the Module Vanier website at: vanier.limestone.on.ca.

Action Item: Please link Instagram posts to Facebook account – Kolsen/Adrita

There were questions regarding a newsletter for KSS and Vanier, which Michelle answered: Vanier produces a weekly newsletter, but at the secondary level at KSS, this is not a weekly/monthly item. Information can be found on KSS social media outlets and on occasion, newsletters are sent out for particular topics.

- Events:

KSS Fall Coffee House happening on October 17th from 6 – 8 p.m.

KSS Picture Retake Day: October 22nd

Vanier Parent/Guardian Night: went well in September

KSS Parent/Guardian Night: October 23rd 6:30

Frontenacs Night in support of Jazz Band: November 1st

KSS Semi Formal: November 29th

Little Shop of Horrors: December 3rd – December 7th

See the School Calendar at kss.limestone.on.ca/calendar for more information on Culture week, University and College Fairs and more. Vanier School Calendar can be viewed at: vanier.limestone.on.ca/calendar.

- Student cards are being sold for \$5.00. If students would like to participate in such activities as semi formal, DECA, school BBQ, please purchase a student card. Some downtown businesses give discounts to students with a valid student card.

Action Item: Michelle Sousa is currently looking into a Teacher Rep to attend Council meetings. Stay tuned!

7. Teacher Update from Rob Switzer:

Rob presented Council with the poem, 'How to Steal a Canoe' and asked us to break out into pairs. We discussed what lines that stood out to us and why. He suggested checking out Mark Sinnitt's website page or Instagram (@marksinnett) – Realtor/Writer.

The cell phone ban is still going well.

8. Principal's Report:

It's been a busy month at KSS/Vanier with students participating in a variety of sports. LINK Leaders continue to be active in the school and a variety of field trips taking place. Vanier students are taking part in STEM activities through Girls Inc to raise participation in the STEM pathways for our female students. Vanier Band and Instrumental music programs are also up and running.

Orange Shirt Day was 30 September, recognizing the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. October 1st was our first run, walk, roll event, inviting all of our feeder schools to promote connection between our schools. A fantastic day was had by everyone.

Universities and Colleges have begun their annual visits. We are also hosting help sessions for students as they begin to work through their post secondary applications. On 11 October, Vanier and KSS teachers came together for a PD of learning, looking at our school data and to making plans for our professional

learning strategies for the upcoming year. Again this year we plan to work together to boost every facet of student life.

Darren discussed the results of the OSSLT (Literacy results) for Grade 10 and what it meant for students, teachers and how to further support student's learning.

Anja brought up University vs Trades. Darren explained that it is important to support our students, whether they plan to attend university, college, trade schools or join the workplace immediately following high school. All options are pathways for a better future. Our school fairs include Universities, Colleges and Trades booths.

Sarah, who had been on Zoom, came to the meeting in person. Although we had chatted with other parents on Zoom, we did not hear Sarah asking questions or her comments. She had some concerns with getting information about activities, events and educational support/opportunities. It was recommended to reach out to our guidance counselors and teachers, who are always there to support our students and their families. She also brought up, 'My BluePrint (MBP).' We'd had an earlier discussion on having another session for parents and students on the usefulness of MBP. Unfortunately, there are only so many licenses, so parents must go in into MBP through their student's portal. Sarah believed there was a way to gain access for parents.

Action Item: Darren to talk with Mr. Blackburn to get more information regarding parent access to MBP.

9. PIC Update: there is a meeting on 24 October that our representative, Virginia Venditti will be attending, along with our Chair, Stephanie Van Der Pryt.

10. New Business: Stephanie shared that she will have a table/display at the Parent/Guardian night with information about the KSS/Vanier School Council with the intent of growing the council. Please reach out to Stephanie if you would be able to team up with her on this night. Also, she would like to hear from more members regarding their ideas and goals for this school year. She has heard from one member so far.

Action Item: Please email Stephanie before the 16th of November with your ideas/input for Council objectives/goals for this year.

11. Adjournment. Next meeting is 19 November 2024 in the school library at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting minutes taken and submitted for approval,

Stephanie Van Der Pryt (sitting in this meeting for Sarah)