KCI Parent Council Meeting

Monday, February 22, 2021 7:00 PM

Virtual

*Present: Cindy Desbiens, Tracy Jackson, Dennis Haid, Alysse Hastie, Ann Wong-Lettenbauer, Christine Carmody, Melissa Jichici, Cher Mamuza, Selam Debs, Angelica Allen*

* [Land Acknowledgement](https://youtu.be/Qoiq-ah7xO4)
* Update from Co-Premiers – Jacob O’Malley (Natalie is absent today)
* KCI Razzle Dazzle Broadcast
* KCI Olympics
  + Individual Minute-to-Win-It style events
* Black History Month - KCI\_African Heritage Club has taken a leadership role this year
  + Check out Mr. Ashley on Instagram bio for the African Heritage Club (see above) or on wrdsb.ca
* Wednesday is Pink Shirt Day
  + Those not in school that day are encouraged to send in photos of themselves in their pink shirts
* WRAPSC
* Waterloo Region Assembly of Public School Councils meets six times a year to address issues pertaining to school councils (for eg. To share fundraising ideas).
* SHSM and Co-op: In-person co-op will not be available in Quadmester 3&4, but will hopefully continue in September
* Food for Kids:
  + Supports approx. 850 students in the area under 15 years of age
* Laurie Tremble (WRDSB Trustee) presented on the role of the trustee
* No meeting in March due to move of March Break
* Letter in WRAPSC minutes to send (in part) to politicians, trustees, school board employees re: concerns about COVID, safety concerns, parent involvement concerns, distance learning concerns
* Parents Reaching Out Grant
  + No application was sent out
  + Recommended to put this on the agenda earlier in the year
    - Potentially we need a sub-committee to focus on this and determine a topic/theme
* Principal’s Report
* Weather-Impacted Distance Learning Days don’t have the same ring as Snow Days
* Health and Safety is as January minutes EXCEPT:
  + In-person learning has begun again for those selected but now staff have been asked to verify results of student screening as they enter the building
  + Feb. 8-12: Students entered, redid the school screening for the day and showed their teacher they have a green rating
  + Last week: Students were asked to complete a survey with results of the province screening, which goes directly to the ministry database
  + Beginning this week: Ontario school screener there is an extra 1-2 questions
    - Students and staff are required to stay at home if they or anyone in their household develops even one COVID symptom
    - Testing or quarantine needs to be done at this time
* School Reorganization and Course Selection Update
  + Quad 3 is done
  + Quad 4 is going well, working out some issues for some students
  + Course selection is going well, although fewer students have completed the course selection procedure by this time this year compared with last, likely due to less in-person time together. They will have more leniency with the due date this year. Guidance counselors will use the knowledge they have to help put students in courses.
  + March Break has moved to April Break, changing the April 1st schedule (Cohort A thrown in the middle of a different rotation in order to equalize the number of days for the cohorts)
  + March 5th Civic class ends; March 8th new Careers course begins
  + Mid-point teacher/parent communication is coming out by March 10th, approx. halfway through the courses. Will include a mark or level, depending on the teacher/class.
  + MSIP postponed for next year. In order to plan for next year and the possible need for flexibility with regards to a 4 block schedule. The school board and/or Ministry of Education may make the decision in regards to whether or not MSIP returns to KCI following the pandemic.
  + Cohorting for September: If this is necessary, it will be difficult to have more than one class/day. It may or may not look the same as this year.
  + WRDSB Code of Conduct for Parents/Caregivers infographic coming out tomorrow to help parents help their students when learning virtually at home.
  + Mr. Chris Ashley was featured by our board today; 2 students were featured by the board February 10th. \*Recommended reading - see KCI.wrdsb.ca or wrdsb.on.ca
* Other Business
  + - Equity and Inclusiveness: Group Norms
      * Listen actively
      * Speak from your own experience instead of generalizing
      * Respectfully ask questions
      * Participate to the fullest of your abilities – individual voices are important
      * Share your own story and your own experiences
      * Goal is to gain a deeper understanding
      * Be conscious of your body language as it can be as disrespectful as your words
    - In our last meeting we began a discussion about equity and inclusion within our school community and by extension this school council. Following the meeting, after several conversations, it became clear that we as a council have not had a formal conversation about how we want to become a more equitable and inclusive group. There are many ways in which we can accomplish this goal as well as many viewpoints as to how we accomplish this goal. We believe it is vital that we take the time as a group to look at our options and align on an approach that is best suited for our school community. The plan for this evening is for us to start the conversation, the table is open for all who are willing to share their views as well as their lived experience. It is our belief that in sharing our lived experiences we are better equipped to build a more equitable and inclusive school community.
    - Tracy Jackson shared her personal lived experiences as an Indigenous woman.
      * Some individuals shared their self-reflections and stories.
      * Serious concerns were expressed that not all historical perspectives and lived experiences were represented and valued and this created and caused tension.
      * One individual expressed not feeling safe to share in the space.
      * How can we create a safe space for all individuals to feel safe to share?
      * How canwe get other viewpoints and perspectives from our KCI community?
      * What is next?
        + Education

Having someone in to help educate us

* + - * + Necessity of Land Acknowledgment at each meeting?
        + Investigating systemic racism within KCI
        + Parent Reaching Out Grant topic?
        + Peace and Conflict studies?
        + The WRDSB is currently reviewing school names, do we have any input if we are asked about our school name?

Meeting adjourned at 8:46pm

Next meeting: April 26, 2021: Student supports at KCI