

**LDSB Elementary Virtual School
School Advisory Council Meeting
Thursday, September 28, 2023, 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm**

1. Welcome and Introductions

Attendees:

Bryan Lambert, Principal EVS

Adam Andrecyk, Vice-Principal EVS

Emily Offshack

Ethel Kozliner

2. Reports

Principal

Overview of Alternative and Continuing Education (KLC/Community Ed/Virtual)

An overview was provided of Alternative and Continuing Education at 164 Van Order Drive in Kingston, Ontario, which includes Katarokwi Learning Centre (KLC), Community Ed and the Virtual Schools (Elementary Virtual School and Secondary Virtual School). There are 2500 students ranging from 8 to 80 years old, achieving positive outcomes.

Board Partnerships

For Elementary Virtual School (EVS) to remain viable, the Limestone District School Board (LDSB) partnered with two other boards: the Renfrew County District School Board (RCDSB) and Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board (KPRDSB). There are currently 115 students at EVS. Partnering with other boards has allowed continuity for classes. Students new to EVS have been getting used to logging into the system.

There are 105 students at the Secondary Virtual School (SVS) and 3-400 students taking e-learning courses with the LDSB through the Ontario eLearning Consortium (OeLC), facilitated by PRISM.

Professional Activity Day – Monday, September 25, 2023

During the PA Day, staff talked about Shane Safir's book, *Street Data*. This included discussion about how to engage and reengage students. Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs was discussed as well as being mindful of all students. This helps us to also learn from students who have been successful. The goals are to build engagement capacity and strategies, to collect what we learn and to share with other schools.

Safety training was also a part of the Professional Activity Day.

Reminder upcoming PA Days

EVS follows the LDSB Calendar for PA Days. The calendar can be found here:

<https://www.limestone.on.ca/board/school-year-calendar>

Important dates are also communicated in the weekly newsletter. Students from other boards who are participating in EVS follow the LDSB calendar.

Terry Fox Activities

There were many participants for Terry Fox Day activities. Slides were shared with the school of students from SK to our 80 year old students.

Orange Shirt Day

In order to spread out activities, September 30th will be Orange Shirt Day. Classes will discuss Phyllis' Story.

<https://orangeshirtday.org/phyllis-story/#story>

Attendance

Ms. Kathy Szabadka looks after attendance for EVS and SVS. Staff inform her of student absences.

There will be a shift to using the School Messenger Notification System for absences.

Using cameras to help with attendance can be a very sensitive issue. Students work with their teacher to learn strategies to move incrementally toward feeling more comfortable using their camera.

Extracurriculars

Coding Club will start soon. Ms. James is the contact teacher. Thank you to Ms. James and our Coding Club leader Mike Crane.

Mr. Lambert and Mr. Andrezyk will reach out to students and families to find out if there are other activities in which they would like to engage.

SVS is a full member of KASSAA (Kingston Area Secondary Schools Athletic Association) so students can participate in individual sports such as badminton or track. If EVS students are interested, we can try to have EVS become a member of KASSAA as well. Alternatively, EVS could reach out to other schools and EVS students could participate remotely.

Last year, SVS had monthly environmental club meetings and art/music club meetings. Some ideas for EVS activities could include a chess club or a paint or drawing night with an artist.

Planned assemblies would also be nice to have where classes could come together and share or present something. It could be pre-recorded.

Photo Days

EVS has reached out to Renfrew County and Kawartha Pine Ridge to coordinate opportunities for students to take photos. Students in the LDSB area may be able to take photos with KLC.

Principal Liaisons

The Principal Liaisons are Ann Gagnan for RCDSB and Steve Fisher for KPRDSB. These liaisons are for IT issues and for coordinating if students wish to attend school in-person.

Other

There are 115 students at EVS. There is a slow in and out of students and the number fluctuates between 115-118. There will be a gentle pause until early November when we have progress reports.

Vice Principal Report

The PA Day was phenomenal. Staff will attend OeLC training. There is a lot of learning on the teaching side with new ideas every month.

Staff will reach out to students and families regarding clubs, support and tutoring.

2022-23 EVS SAC Annual Report

The 2022-23 EVS SAC Annual Report was submitted to the LDSB and was shared with the group electronically.

3. SAC Elections

SAC Elections were held.

Chair – Ethel Kozliner

Secretary - Emily Offshack

The positions of Treasurer and Indigenous Representative were not filled.

4. Discussion Items/Updates

PIC Representative

Ethel will reach out to the 2022-23 PIC Representative, Kim Harper, to find out if she is interested in being the LDSB PIC representative for EVS. We will figure out the process for PIC participation for families also associated with other boards.

SAC Priorities

Priorities that were discussed include community building, bringing families together from the three communities to help them get to know one another, facilitating social engagement and fun.

Some ideas for bringing students together include student council with a representative or two from each class, having morning or weekly announcements or weekly wrap-up, acknowledging birthdays, achievements, and special holidays that reflect the student population.

5. Date(s) for next meeting

Tuesday, October 24, at 6 pm was set as the date and time for the next meeting. Meetings will generally be held on the last Tuesday of every month. Some tentative dates are November 28, January 30, February 27, March 26, April 30, and May 28.

Thank you for participating in the EVS community!