

LDSB Secondary Virtual School (SVS)
School Advisory Council Meeting
Thursday, September 28, 2023, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

1. Welcome and Introductions

Attendees:

Bryan Lambert, Principal SVS

Adam Andrecyk, Vice-Principal SVS

John Cusio

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 SVS. The Elementary Virtual School (EVS) was recently added to the Alternative Education (Alt Ed) portfolio. In total, there are approximately 2800 students ranging from ages 8 to 88. At Alt Ed, it is expected that parents and students will have expectations of staff.

This year, EVS is made up of a consortium of three boards: Limestone District School Board (LDSB), Renfrew County District School Board (RCDSB), and Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board (KPRDSB).

SVS has a few Kawartha Pine Ridge students attending (5 or 6).

There are approximately 35 boards across Ontario participating in the Ontario eLearning Consortium (OeLC).

Professional Activity Day – Monday, September 25, 2023

The PA Day was all about engagement and re-engagement. On-site students are not in typical classrooms with rows of desks. They participate in learning circles and have other setups that are conducive to their learning.

Staff are highly positive and have high expectations for students. They focus on what is needed to engage students. They provide students with the opportunity to participate. They invite them in and greet them.

Alternative approaches are a better way of learning for a lot of the students at Alt Ed. Most students are at Alt Ed because they want to be there.

It is important to learn who each student is – what makes them tick. Each student has their own individual way that they need to learn. Staff work with students to help them see their success path.

For PA Days, we follow the LDSB calendar, which can be found at <https://www.limestone.on.ca/board/school- year 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

There is a very large Indigenous community at Alt Ed. Orange Shirt Day will be held on September 30.

Attendance

The attendance system is being refined for EVS. Ms. Kathy Szabadka looks after attendance for EVS and for grade 9 and 10 students at SVS. Staff inform her of student absences.

The Student Success teacher focuses on attendance for grade 11 and 12 students at SVS.

In previous years, grade 9 and 10 SVS students attended classes synchronously and grade 11 and 12 students attended asynchronously. This year, grade 9 and 10 students will have some asynchronous learning to help them be prepared for grades 11 and 12.

Extracurriculars

Staff will reach out to students to determine which extracurricular activities might be of interest.

Photo Days

Photo days are scheduled for day students at 164 Van Order Drive. Staff are looking to expand photo days to include SVS and EVS students.

Principal Liaisons

The Principal Liaisons are Ann Gagnan for RCDSB and Steve Fisher for KPRDSB.

Other

For graduation, full graduation setup will be provided for graduating students (grade 12 and grade 8).

Vice Principal Report

Staff continually work to best support and improve school outcomes e.g., through student engagement and by providing staff support. We are always chasing improvement toward perfection.

2022-23 EVS SAC Annual Report

The 2022-23 SVS 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

Member at Large - John Cusio

The positions of Secretary, Treasurer and Indigenous Representative were not filled.

4. Discussion Items/Updates

Other Updates – Standardized Testing

Student success is a priority. Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) preparation opportunities are provided by Ms. McCrudden (Lunch & Learn). The OSSLT will be written between early November to the end of November. There is also a spring window for students to write the OSSLT in March-April. Students need to attend in-person to write the OSSLT. SVS will coordinate with each student. If students want to take the literacy course instead of writing the OSSLT, they can do that in the second semester. It is a full credit in-person course.

EQAO is written in grades 3, 6 and 10 for English and 3, 6, and 9 for math.

Last year, SVS students performed just above the board average. Coming into the building to write the OSSLT was an additional stress for a lot of SVS students. Most students passed, but some went through credit recovery.

Method of Communication (this was added as an agenda item)

There was a question about whether staff could communicate with students using alternative methods such as @msn.com, particularly if they are over 18 years old. Teachers are members of the OSSTF. They can only communicate with students using the school email address. If this presents a significant barrier for a student, consideration will be given to help reduce the barriers for the student while maintaining appropriate process.

SAC Priorities

Supporting student success and well-being as well as community-building were identified as SAC priorities.

5. Date(s) for next meeting

Tuesday, October 24, at 7 pm was proposed as a tentative time and date for the next meeting.

The group will touch base by email to settle on a date and time.

Thank you for participating in the SVS community!