

September 17, 2025

KCI School Council Minutes



ONE.KCI
STUDENTS • STAFF • COMMUNITY

Present: Sue Martin, Christine Carmody, Crystal Brown, Robin Schuller, Joel Kruetzkamp, Rachel (National Service dogs). Nancy Murdoch (National Service dogs). Melissa Jichici, Kathleen Siegrist, Krista Luff, Shama Olmedo, Mary Kennedy, Catherine Jepson, Rachel McQuail, Lena Wilson, Harish Pawagi, Geoff Horsman, Rochelle Knox, Sharon Meagher, Chiamaka Emeadi (co prime), Maddie Arndt (co prime)

Christine Carmody was acclaimed as School Council Chair.
Jennifer Kruithof was acclaimed as School Council Secretary.
Members that have attended two School Council meetings in a school year and have completed the official membership form are considered members of the School Council.

The chair welcomed everyone back. If you would like to receive e-mails from School Council, and did not sign the list at the meeting, please e-mail sue_martin@wrdsb.ca or christine.b.carmody@gmail.com.

Sue Martin led us in a Territorial Acknowledgement based on a reading from Braiding Sweetgrass and invited us to consider the impact we are making during the time we spend in this space."

KCI Co-Prime Update

Raider Camp was in August.

This Grade 9 orientation included ice breakers, fun activities, and a tour. Students also received their chrome books.

Welcome Back Assembly

This included a performance from the dance team and a singing group. There was a staff video and sports video. The co Primes made a spoof video. Check it out on Instagram.

Annual Grade 9 Horizon conference

The keynote speaker was a Scott Hammel, a magician and wellness/resilience speaker. About 350 grade 9 students attended.

Grade 9 orientation

The Raidy Bunch showed the grade 9's around and did ice breakers with them. There was also an assembly.

A Clubs Fair happened at lunch recently.

Upcoming events:

September 25th

Grade 9 night: The theme is tropical/beach. Leadership students will run activities for the grade 9's.

Limelight

Nov 13-15. This student Variety Show, entirely student led and directed, will include music, drama, & band participation. Keep an eye out for tickets on School Day.

Truth and Reconciliation Week is coming up.

This will include Orange shirt day, and a Community festival that will include indigenous dishes and a collaborative mural design.

Kitchener Clash

Oct 1 - This football game (KCi against Huron Heights) will be held at Jacob Hespler.

National Service Dog presentation

Mika is a black lab supporting one of our KCI students. It is going very well. Students were asked not to touch or interact with Mika.

Service dogs start training at 8 weeks. They are trained in all different settings to make sure they can handle noises and that they want to be a working dog.

When you come across a service animal remember the PAWS acronym:

People first - always address the person first, not the dog.

Assume Competence

Watch that you aren't distracting the animal when it's working.

Save the petting for home.

If you would like to volunteer with service dogs, some roles are: driving dogs to schools, fostering the dogs until they are ready for training, babysitting them for a week-end. Contact NSD for more information.

Snap Shot

This was a "getting to know you" activity.

SHSM and Tech Options

Mr Kruetzkamp told us about Technical Education at KCI. KCI loves hands on learning, skill development and inclusive pathways. One of the new courses is called TAS - Exploring Technology (Grade 9) - In this course students learn about all the tech area offered at KCI

New Graduation Requirement: Students must take a tech course before the end of Grade 10. In grades 10-12 students can specialize in various technology fields: Construction, Manufacturing, Transportation, Green Industries, Technological design, Communication Technology, Hairstyling/Cosmetology, Computer Engineering & Healthcare.

We participate in the **Skills Ontario Competition**. We have apprenticeship programs through **OYAP**.

SHSM: We offer 7 areas: Construction, Environment, Health & Wellness, Hospitality & Tourism, Information Communication Technology, Non-profit, Childcare & Education, Transportation

Benefits of SHSM:

- Resume /Employability
- Free certifications
- Field trips
- Red Seal on Diploma
- Possible bursaries & scholarships.

Students taking SHSM in 2024/2025: 208 students.

Students taking SHSM in 2025/26 as of Sept 17th: 244 students.

This opportunity starts in grade 11. Check out the KCI website for the main point of contact for each SHSM area. Or... talk to Joel Kruetzkamp.

Co-op: The student goes into the workplace for half the day.

Literacy Update:

Reading fluency is the ability to read accurately, quickly and with good expression. Fluent readers can also pay better attention to the meaning of what they are reading.

In Fall 2024 KCI started reading diagnostics with all grade 9 students. They were looking for strengths and areas for focus.

They sent out a Student Survey: Did Grade 9 English change your feelings about reading at all? 47% felt more confident in reading / 2.5% felt more negative about reading. Students reported that they liked to choose their own books and genres.

Next steps:

Continue Tier 1 supports. Continued expansion of cross-curricular literacy practices.

Add more Tier 2 supports.

Long term - Tier 3 supports - Add significant direct literacy training.

Math Pathways (deferred to November meeting due to time)

KCI's Equity Work - DABR, Sept 30th

Dismantling Anti-Black Racism Professional Learning Team. These staff will be coming together as a team for professional development in 6 areas. Commencing October 2, 2025 they will cover 5 sessions over the course of the year. They will be building on the work already done last year and investigating work that still needs to be done at KCI.

Seeking WRAPSC Volunteers for 2025/2026 school year

Lena Wilson will be our WRAPSC rep. this year.

Principal's Report

You are encouraged to bring a friend to School Council in November.

Staying connected:

- Fill out the form online to join the School Council and receive mailings.
- Sign up on School Day for KCI messages.
- Check out things posted on the KCI Instagram (kciraiders)

Staff

- 25 new staff members & 1 new admin assistant
- 9 teachers hired in August and 11 teachers in June.
- Total staff: 165 (teaching and support staff) / there are about 1610 students at KCI.

Upcoming Events:

- 31 clubs running
- Limelight - Nov 13-14
- Grade 9 night - Sept 25th
- Meet the Teacher Oct 9th 6:30-8:30
- Nov 17 - Report Cards coming home

Final evaluations:

There is a system-wide approach to final evaluations for grade 9's and 10's. Final evaluations will take place in all compulsory courses. It could be an exam, a performance piece, or a portfolio, for example. This takes place during the exam week: Day 1 - Period A exam, Day 2 - Period B exam, Day 3 - Period C exam, Day 4 - Period D exam. There is 1 day in the middle of the semester (mid-terms) to get caught up. Don't book holidays for the last week of January as grade 9's & 10's will need to attend during exam week! In the 30% Final Evaluation, one task can't be worth more than 20%. EQAO Math assessments will also fall in the last days of the semester.

GRT Passes

Students that are part of magnet programs (and live more than 3.2 km from the school) received a GRT bus pass this Fall. The distance is non-negotiable. If they misplace their pass they can come to the office to have it cancelled. Ridership is being monitored; it's important for students to use their pass.

Formal meeting is adjourned at 8:40pm.
