

A meeting of the Kingston Secondary School Integration Committee met on Tuesday, November 6, 2018 at the LDSB Education Centre in Kingston, Ontario.

**In Attendance:**

- S. Amsden, Teacher (Voting member) - regrets
- L. Bark, Former Parent Rep, Current Community Rep (Voting member)
- B. Bradlynn, Teacher (Voting member) - regrets
- K. Burra, Superintendent of Education (Non-Voting member)
- S. Cherry, Teacher (Voting member) - regrets
- D. Coulter, Parent (Voting member)
- H. Davis, Teacher (Voting member)
- M. Dee, Teacher (Non-voting member)
- G. Dillon, Community Rep (Non-Voting member)
- E. Demmons, Teacher (Voting member)
- T. Ferguson, Teacher (Voting member) - regrets
- D. Fowler, Manager of Facility Services (Non-Voting member) – regrets
- E. Gauthier, Teacher (Voting member)
- N. Huskilan, Teacher (Voting member) - regrets
- A. Martin, Teacher (Voting member) - regrets
- A. McDonald, Principal – LCVI (Voting member)
- T. McKenna, Principal – KCVI (Voting member)
- L. Murray, Parent Rep (Voting member) - regrets
- P. Murray, Trustee (Non-Voting member)
- T. Orpin, Integration Coordinator (Non-Voting member)
- S. Peart, VP Vanier (Voting member)
- N. Richardson, Parent rep (Voting member)
- A Ross, Trustee (Non-Voting member) - regrets
- R. Rushton, Community Rep (Non-Voting member) – regrets
- P. Schiedel, Teacher (Voting member)
- K. Siltanen, Teacher (Voting member)
- K. Smith, Communications Officer (Non-Voting member) - regrets
- D. Spooner, Community Rep (Non-Voting member) - regrets
- C. Young, Parent Rep (Voting member) – regrets
- 4 KCVI Students (Voting members)
- 1 Module Vanier Student (Voting member)

**Recorder:** L. Strange, Records Management Coordinator (Non-Voting member)

**1. Approval of Agenda**

K. Burra called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

The agenda was approved as presented.

**2. School Nickname and Mascot**

K. Burra provided an overview of the previous phases of consultation and Integration Committee work:

- Kingston Secondary School was selected as the school's name by the Board of Trustees in March 2018.
- Phase One Consultation took place in May, and focused on the nickname and colours for KSS.
- Phase 2 Consultation took place in October 2018, and focused on the visual for the KSS Mascot..
- In Phase One and Two, KCVI students and students from the feeder schools for KCVI and Module Vanier were consulted
- In the Phase One consultation the top choice for the school colours were black, blue and white.
- In the Phase One Consultation the combined choice for the school nickname was Royals.
- In the Phase Two Consultation lion was the top choice for mascot, with bear a close second.

K. Burra stated that at the June 20, 2018 Board meeting Chair Murray made the following statement:

"The Kingston Secondary School Integration Committee has just completed tabulating the feedback for school colours and nickname. Based on feedback from 550 students, integration committee members and almost 70 staff, they have arrived at a very clear preference for the school colours - Black, Blue, and White, and for the nickname - The Royals.

This is very exciting. These colours will be shared with the builders so there may be consideration in the construction and finishing process of the new school. For the mascot, after investigation to make sure there are no concerns or other considerations that may prevent the use of that nickname the integration committee will continue the process of developing a mascot and again gathering feedback about the visual representation of the Royals."

After the June 20, 2018 Board meeting the following concerns were brought forward about the use of the nickname Royals:

- Royals and Colours (Black, Blue, White, among others) are used by a street gang in the US.
- In considering Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, the Board must think about optics and symbolism associated with the nickname and mascot of the new school. Royals may be problematic from this perspective in combination with the visual and the school name.

Student representatives of the KCVI Student Council shared information about the consultation process and the views expressed by the student population of KCVI and its feeder schools:

- The KCVI Student Council went to the student body of KCVI and each feeder school to collect the student voice in the area of KSS school mascot. After a general vote the top four choices were sent out for a vote. Bears and lions were the most popular.
- Through the process many students expressed concerns around the colonial legacy of the word 'Royals' and wished to have this nickname dropped or replaced.

- There was a firm voice against the use of a human representation for the nickname Royals. The view for a visual representation then turned to an animal.
- Through the discussions of the possible visual representation for the nickname Royals, students expressed concerns about the use of a lion. The lion has a long-standing association with the British crown, and therefore a connection to the negative aspects of Colonialization when combined with 'Royals'.
- The KCVI Student Council wished to honour the legacies of both KCVI and QECVI as these communities have come together, and combined. In considering bringing communities together and the student voice for preferred choice, they think a black bear would be the ideal mascot. Black is a former QECVI colour, and the KCVI mascot is currently a blue bear.

K. Burra shared that there were also concerns raised about the optics of the Molly Brant school being physically smaller next to a school with Colonial connotations, i.e the use of Royals, a lion mascot, etc. In addition, Kingston was originally King's Town. As a result, Kingston Royals with a Lion symbol would create colonial imagery that we have heard would be a concern among some community members. It was also noted that the 'Royals' is the name of a street gang in a US city, and the gang uses the same colours chosen for the new school.

Concerns were expressed about using a bear as the mascot as the current mascot of KCVI is the Blue Bear. In previous Integration Committee meetings there was discussion of not bringing over colours, names, mascots, etc. that were used previously by QECVI or KCVI. It was to be a fresh start.

It was noted that there is a close divide between bears and Royals, and further to bears and lions as a possible mascot. The members discussed the fact that the choice of lion may have been directly influenced by the choice of Royals as a nickname.

It was queried if the committee could choose to eliminate the use of a nickname for the school, and only select a mascot. Or even the possibility of not having either a nickname or mascot for the school. K. Burra replied that there had not been a discussion of either of these suggestions.

A KCVI student representative stated that a mascot is important at a secondary school, as it represents school community and spirit.

It was reiterated that the student voice from current secondary schools and feeder schools was predominately bears. With the removal of the term Royals the bear could be both the nickname and mascot.

It was stated that the former QECVI students at LCVI did not understand that the term Royal was subject to change after a review, and this could have directly influenced their voting.

The student representatives from KCVI raised concern about not honouring the student voice. In previous phases of consultation the students voted quite clearly for Kingston Central SS, and the Board of Trustees decided to go with Kingston SS instead.

The students emphasized that it is important to carry over the good vibe to the new school, and honour the student voice. Students felt that their earlier consultation was not listened to, and were assured that their voice would really matter in the mascot vote.

The student representative from Module Vanier stated that the students there were not aware that the use of Royals might be changed, and felt that students there voted predominately for a lion mascot because of the term Royals. It was made clear that changing 'Royals' was not part of any of the second phase of consultation.

A student representative from KCVI stated that the lion was only suggested as a mascot choice because of the term Royals.

There was a caveat that Royals is subject to change in Chair Murray's statement about the selection of the nickname Royals.

K. Burra confirmed that the second round of consultation did not include a caveat that the selection of Royals could be changed or eliminated.

It was reiterated that the votes by some students were made because they understood that Royals was a firm choice for nickname.

It was stated that concerns had been raised about the use of a lion because of the gender connotation, not just the colonial connection. Male lions have manes, and the use of a male lion could be interpreted to signify male dominance or higher importance.

The students from KCVI stated that the black bear was chosen not just to honour KCVI and QECVI legacies, but also because it is an animal native to north America and has cultural significance to local Indigenous peoples.

The members decided to take a vote to remove the use of Royals as a nickname for KSS.

*VOTE: To remove use of Royals as Nickname for KSS.*

*RESULT: 36 to 12 for yes.*

It was suggested that a small group of students should meet to discuss mascot/nickname issue, that would include representatives from KCVI and former QECVI students at LCVI.

Members expressed concerns about further consultation, as students, staff and the community have already provided input throughout the process.

The KCVI student representatives stated that they had already undertaken a thorough consultation on student voice, and that perhaps the LCVI principal could do the same with the former QECVI students at LCVI.

It was shared that consulting with former QECVI students has become more challenging over the past couple of years as those students graduate from LCVI.

It was agreed that K. Burra should send messaging out to the system to explain why the term Royals raised community concerns, and was therefore removed as a nickname by the committee.

K. Burra stated that a decision is needed soon because it has implications for preparing for the opening of KSS because crests, school clothing, and athletic uniforms would be impacted.

There was discussion of the role of the Integration Committee, and whether they should move forward with making a decision on the mascot for the school.

It was decided that the Integration Committee would vote on the following through email:

- Further consultation (KC/Former QE Focus Group) or voting electronically with the information we have?

This vote will happen in the week of November 6-9, with a 96 hour window to respond. If the first vote results in NOT having further consultation, the committee will vote on Black Bear, Coyote, or Lion for the KSS mascot. This decision will be final. If further consultation occurs with a KC/Former QE Focus Group, the student focus group recommendation(s) would be put forward for a vote by the Integration Committee and this decision would be final.

Next steps will be determined based on the first vote.

**6. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

DRAFT