

MINUTES
KELSO SCHOOL DISTRICT
WORK SESSION MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
07/13/20

The Work Session of the Board of Directors of Kelso School District No. 458 was called to order at 4:00 p.m. at the RoyParsons Executive Board Room through a Zoom online/phone platform.

Board Members: Leah Moore (In Person)
Karen Grafton – Vice President (Zoom)
Jeane Conrad (In Person)
Mike Haas - President (In Person)
Ron Huntington Absent (Zoom)

Cabinet Members: Scott Westlund – Chief Financial Officer (Phone In)
Holly Budge – Director of Human Resources (Absent)
Don Iverson – Director of Student Services (Absent)
Heather Ogden – Director of Special Programs (Zoom)
Kim Yore – Director of Teaching & Learning (Absent)
Lacey DeWeert – Associate Director of Teaching & Learning (Zoom)

Superintendent: Mary Beth Tack (In Person)

Asst. Secretary: Molly Guler (In Person)

OTHERS PRESENT – Cindy Cromwell (KVA Principal)

ABSENT -

ALE- Alternative Learning Experience

Where We Started

- KVA started in our district 16 years ago, as an Alternative Learning Experience (ALE) online educational option for students in grades 8-12.
- Originally, a digital platform called APEX was used, but two years ago KVA transitioned to a new digital platform called Odysseyware.
- By ALE law, students are required to meet at a minimum, weekly, with their teacher to review academic progress and to receive needed support. If students are not making academic progress, they go on an academic probation plan. If the student does not improve while on probation, they are exited from the program and back to their home school.
- KVA utilizes one Kelso School District teacher to run this program. At this time, we have 29 students, grades 8-12, utilizing KVA as their individualized educational option.
- Currently KVA and Loowit are housed together in the same double portable on Allen St., above KHS and CMS. Cindy Cromwell is the new KVA & Loowit principal, and will also be taking on a teaching role at Loowit.

How We Got to Expansion

- The last couple of years, we have regularly fielded phone calls from parents asking if there was a middle school or elementary KVA option.
 - Parents are interested in the flexibility online school has to offer.
 - Students are intrigued by the ability to work at their own pace.
 - Some students thrive in a quieter, less crowded space.
 - COVID gave the final nudge needed to expand our educational options for Kelso students.
 - By expanding to K-12, we are going to be able to meet the needs of our students and families and keep Kelso kids, in Kelso.
- ❖ For our 6-12 students, they will be able to join in and use the current Odysseyware platform for online learning.
- ❖ But for K-5, we had to find a different platform to meet the needs of elementary students.


Process of Expansion and Identifying a New Digital Platform

- Started by reviewing the approved digital providers list from OSPI.
- 22 programs were screened, from there it was narrowed down to 2, chose **Edgenuity**.
- In the review, these are some of the components that were screened for:
 1. Are the courses CCSS and NGSS aligned?
 2. What other districts are already using this platform? Made phone calls to them.
 3. Are there workbooks for students to write in, included in the program?
 4. What does the audio voice sound like when the digital program is reading text to a student?
 5. Is there ELL support?
 6. Can teachers manipulate the content? Add their own content?
 7. Cost, what do we get for with our purchase?
 8. Is this something that parents will be able to support at home?
 9. Does it fit our family survey data that parents wanted both printed and online learning opportunities to support their child?

Edgenuity offers over 30 standards-aligned courses for K–5 students who complete all of their learning online.
<https://sislogin.edgenuity.com/>
 Login: elemdemo512
 Password: DemoStudent

Student learning is supplemented with offline worksheets, workbooks for the four core areas and explicit support for Learning Coaches, (aka parents) to help assist their child with coursework.

-  **LANGUAGE ARTS**
- Language Arts K
 - Language Arts 1
 - Language Arts 2
 - Language Arts 3
 - Language Arts 4
 - Language Arts 5

-  **MATHEMATICS**
- Math K
 - Math 1
 - Math 2
 - Math 3
 - Math 4
 - Math 5

-  **SCIENCE**
- Science K
 - Science 1
 - Science 2
 - Science 3
 - Science 4
 - Science 5

-  **SOCIAL STUDIES**
- Social Studies K
 - Social Studies 1
 - Social Studies 2
 - Social Studies 3
 - Social Studies 4
 - Social Studies 5

-  **HEALTH AND PE**
- Health K–1
 - Health 2–3
 - Health 4–5
 - Physical Education K–1
 - Physical Education 2–3
 - Physical Education 4–5

-  **TECHNOLOGY**
- Keyboarding
 - Scratch Coding

-  **MUSIC**
- Recorders Level 1

-  **ART**
- Arts & Crafts, K–2
 - Art Level 1
 - Art Level 2
 - Art Level 3
 - Art Level 4

All K-12 KVA students will receive a KSD Chromebook to use with KVA

Kelso School District teacher(s) will be utilized to support KVA students

Costs

- Kelso receives \$8,680 basic education dollars for each student from the state.
- Edgenuity cost is \$960 per student each year.
 - This includes 4 workbooks per semester for the core 4 areas of Math, ELA, Science and Social Studies. Students will receive 8 workbooks per school year.
 - Includes a mentor teacher for PD support for the KSD teacher working in KVA.
- One time Professional Development fee of \$5000 in order to train all of our KVA staff.

Timeline

- July 13th, 2020, school board workshop to share plans for the expansion of KVA from 8-12 to K-12.
- July 13th, 2020, seek school board approval for the expansion of KVA to K-12, starting in the 2020-2021 school year.
- Media push will start July 14th, with Michelle Nerland's assistance. There will be information on KSD social media, KSD website, Superintendent newsletter to parents and other local media outlets.
- Information will be passed along to school principals and secretaries so that if parents inquire with them, they can point the parents in the right direction.
- Administrative assistants in Teaching & Learning, Student Services and Special Education have all been given a brief script to share with parents who call inquiring about online schooling.
- A shared Google drive has been created so that regardless of which administrative assistant receives a parent phone call or email, that information can be shared in one location.
- As inquiries come in, Cindy Cromwell will be following up with those parents and pursuing enrollment.
- Purchasing timeline and training dates for staff are still to be determined.
- On the first day of school, September 2nd, K-12 KVA will be an option for all Kelso students.

Director Moore - Approximate enrollment so far?

Mrs. Cromwell - 29 students currently enrolled and 20 families already asking for information and that is before our media push with information.

Director Moore - Max enrollment?

Superintendent Tack - Staffing will follow enrollment

Director Conrad - Is this in addition to brick and mortar for families or in conjunction with.

Superintendent Tack - This is just one pathway to public education for the coming year.

Director Conrad - Will this be made clear to parents?

Superintendent Tack - Yes, we are going to be giving information to parents so that hopefully we can help them understand enough to commit to a full semester.

Director Moore - Marketing will be important to inform parents of this option

Director Haas - We keep hearing the phrases “Pivot and Hybrid”, is it one or the other or both? If someone started with brick and mortar and changed their minds on October 1st, could they go to the other pathway? (KVA)

Assoc. Director DeWeert -We are asking students to remain enrolled for a full grading period (semester/trimester)

Director Haas - What I’m hearing is that this gives us an option to have kids enrolled in KSD without having to attend in person.

Director Conrad - Are there extra tech support costs?

Assoc. Director DeWeert - We will need to support parents as well as staff.

Director Conrad - Extra Chromebook costs?

Assoc. Director DeWeert - Yes, there will be an extra cost as each KVA student will receive a chromebook from the district.

Director Huntington - Is this available for Sped kids? High risk kids?

Assoc Director DeWeert - We can manipulate content to serve these students in most cases.

Communication between all involved will be key. It is a workable system.

Director Haas - Good work on this new opportunity

Assoc. Director DeWeert - This has been a team effort

Superintendent Tack - We are excited for this option based on needs/circumstances

Director Conrad - What are other schools using?

Superintendent Tack - Vancouver is just 2 days behind us on this move.

Director Haas - It is important that we communicate with parents the opportunities that this presents for families, not only for academics but also for social growth by being able to participate in sports/clubs/assemblies etc.

Adjourn meeting 4:49 pm

X

President

X

Secretary