

**G.S. Lakie Parent Council Meeting
September 29, 2020
Start Time: 6:08pm**

Attendees:

James Steele
Vanessa Steele
Lisa Althouse
Brad Dersch
Aimee Dewacht
Raj Mathur
Cheryl Gilmore
Christine Light
Christa Pike
Tisha Elford
Scott Elford
Viviana Lartiga
Erin Wallace

- Quick review of last years meeting minutes. Last meeting was Feb 2020 due to Covid-19.

AGM:

Election for AGM Positions:

Chair - Lisa Althouse
Vice Chair – Tisha Elford
Secretary/Treasurer – Christa Pike
Division Rep – Tisha Elford and Erin Wallace

Financial Statement

Financial Statement for the year: \$0

Administrative Report

Report of Acting Principal, Brad Dersch

- Nutrition program. Breakfast club not running the same last year, but they are still trying to find creative ways to meet the needs of kids.
- Things have been going quite well since students returned to school and he thanks all for their patience.
- 494 – 496 students registered at this time. Approx 15% of those students are currently learning online.
- GS Lakie was able to gain more staff due to federal covid funding. One of the significant challenges has been the school's ability to provide dual programming for students (in-person learning and online learning). As of this Friday some of the changes will come into effect. There will now be a full-time online teacher in Grade 8, making classes smaller. As well, a full-time home room teacher for Grade 6, making those classes smaller. Amanda Fox

will be taking over Grade 8 online learning instructions and Heather Terakita will be joining the Grade 6 team as a homeroom teacher. A message has gone out to parents providing more detail on this.

- Somewhere around the middle to end of October, a survey will come out regarding the pivot points to switch from in-person/online learning. Those pivot point dates are November 10, January 29, March 31.
- Cheryl Gilmore advises the division wanted to provide quarter pivot points so give parents more choice.
- Cheryl Gilmore advises if you do home learning it may not necessarily be with your own school.
- The school is trying to give opportunity for students to take masks off while outside and when social distancing is an option. Being safe and also being able to keep our doors open is priority.
- At the current time no extra-curricular events taking place at the school. When appropriate and safe to do so the school will let you know as they would like nothing more than to get things back to normal.
- Parent Teacher interviews taking place on October 15 and 16. Not certain what that looks like in detail yet, possibly Teams, possibly in-person.
- Behind the scenes the school is preparing for what may happen going forward with Covid, if things escalate, etc.
- Parent Communication – Gator Gab, Twitter, FB, School Messenger, etc. There are various ways the school is communicating.

Report of Acting VP, Raj Mathur:

- Health and Safety: The school is working hard to maintain cohorts. Kids have been awesome. Resilient. Adapted well. Students remain in classes, while teachers move around to them. Masks on in the building, unless eating or drinking. No sharing of equipment. The school also has a machine that cleans equipment. Staggered lunch for grade levels. Students remain in cohorts during lunch break. Teachers are taking kids outside often to give kids a break from wearing masks. Space is limited. Unfortunately, it is a lot quieter in the school. We would love to return to our normal soon and are hopeful.
- Fundraising: Thank you to all. Fundraising looked different this year, however the support was outstanding. Overall, the support was successful even though students couldn't go door to door. Money raised will go toward what students can use now, while these students are here, as opposed to those students coming after them.
- Canteen: New operation. Things were changed up in order to provide more of a service to the students. Has to be ordered ahead of time as set out in school messenger. Parents provided feedback to go to canteen contract operator/owner.

Report of VP, Ami Dewacht:

- Option classes. Different than previous years due to Covid. Students are currently not given a choice. Students will now experience a specific option for a month and the option classes will continue to rotate throughout the year each month. Option teachers are bringing the options into the class, but as a result of Covid, at a somewhat diminished way to teach their passion.

- We recently hired new EA's. Some more needs came in with the Grade 6 group and district recognized and agreed to give us more support.
- Unfortunately, at the same time, the school recently had an EA move to a new school, so they are still in the hiring phase to replace that position.
- Benchmarking of Teacher Concerns: Ms. Dewacht has started making a list of those items that teachers are expressing to be of concern to ensure all concerns are addressed. One issue that was previously highlighted as a concern was that the Teacher for the English language learners (ELL) teacher was an outside source. This was causing some disconnect for those students and new procedures have now been put in place. New strategies have also been put in place for the transition of students from elementary school, so that things like fluencies and reading challenges, etc. can be flagged for the new teachers when the students arrive at the school.
- Teams will be used to load info for students who are missing from school.

New Business:

- Clarification regarding mask wearing.
 - Isn't the reason for the cohort so that students do not need to wear a mask? Cheryl Gilmore agreed there may be inconsistencies from school to school, or district to district and we may need to address those inconsistencies on the division or school level. The general consensus is that there's been different messages going out in different classrooms, schools, divisions, cities, etc. and it is a moving target. Brad Dersch advised this will be discussed at next staff meeting.
 - Cheryl Gilmore says they are taking the health advice of the government and medical professionals. As a board they do not know when it will change, but they are waiting to move forward with wisdom and patience.
- Discussion regarding scheduling changes this year. This is due to a number of factors, ie. Necessity to rotate cohorts between learning, nutrition breaks and outside time; need to minimize the amount of students in hallways at the same time; and planning for different COVID stages (ie. Scenario 2) as the year progresses. Lunch is now 44 minutes.
- Start and finish bell times changed this year due to busing.
- Hats off to the new admin for the great job they have done this year, especially with jumping in during a new pandemic; filling in for Ms. Mezei.
- Parent Question for Cheryl Gilmore regarding the additional federal funds allocated to the division and how were they allocated between the schools? Distributed across province by student numbers; then on a division level taking in account many factors, ie. EA positions required; increased cleaning supply budgets, increased absentee for subs, and other various things, but those details will be posted by the district in the coming days.

- Lockers. Is there a plan to open lockers? The school does not yet know when lockers will be available for use as currently the opening of lockers is not part of the re-retry plan. There are also issues with distancing in this regard and they may need to get creative about how to move forward with this. Cheryl Gilmore says it is on the next meeting's agenda as they need to start thinking about winter gear, etc. and where student will store those items.
- General discussion about how wonderful it is to have students/children back at school.
- Should anyone wish to have an item added to the agenda for next council meeting, please let Lisa Alhouse know and she will ensure it is added.
- Review of upcoming Division events.
- Next meeting is October 27.

Meeting adjourned at 7:23pm.