

**G.S. Lakie Parent Council Meeting  
Tuesday, March 23, 2021  
Start Time: 6:02 pm  
By Microsoft Teams**

**Attendees:**

Brad Dersch  
Aimee Dewacht  
Raj Mathur  
Lisa Althouse  
Tisha Elford  
Christa Pike  
Angela Roman  
Vanessa Steele  
Daiva Boenn

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

- A. Welcome**
- B. Review of Agenda**
- C. Review of last meeting's Minutes** (Minutes can be found on GS Lakie Website)

**2. REPORTS**

**A. Administration**

**Brad Dersch**

- March 23 – today is deadline for Out of Bounds families to apply for schools.
  - Schools to follow up with requests by April 16<sup>th</sup>
  - Note: The students at Coalbanks Elementary currently enrolled in the Spanish Program will continue to GS Lakie when they reach Grade 6. These students are currently in Grade 4 at Coalbanks and accordingly, it will be a couple more years before we see that student population at Lakie.
- May 21<sup>st</sup> additional day off school (Friday of May long weekend)
- Grade 5 Orientations
  - Student orientations with feeder schools (Mike Mountain Horse and Nicholas Sheran) – April 20/21.
  - Orientation has been made more difficult this year due to Covid restrictions.

- An orientation day was not scheduled for Coalbanks Elementary as the majority of students from Coalbanks will be attending Senator Joyce Fairburn; however, the students from Coalbanks who will be attending Lakie will have an opportunity for a parent orientation evening.
- Lakie is hoping to put a link online of the student orientation put on at MMH and NS, assuming the meeting can be recorded. This will allow Coalbanks student who will be attending Lakie in the Fall to access the student orientation. Lakie Admin will brainstorm in this regard in the coming days.
- Virtual parent orientation evening – early May
- Lakie is hopeful of getting the current Grade 5 students into the school for a tour during the last week of school in June, but due to COVID those details can not yet be confirmed.
- Lakie is hoping to offer full options to student when the new school year starts in September, but again due to COVID, there is a back up plan in place should that not work out.
- Division E-Learning Pilot Project – The Division will be running an E-Learning Program for students in Grades 1-8, starting in September 2021. Student who wish to participate in this pilot project will become students of Senator Joyce Fairburn and those students would remain on E-learning for the entire school year (ie. There will be no pivot points as there were/are in the 2020/2021 school year. The deadline for registration for the E-Learning Program was March 23, 2021.
- Staffing for 2021-22.
  - Once the boundary and student registration process is complete, the school will have a better idea of staffing changes for the upcoming school year, as staffing is based on student enrollment numbers.
- Lakie is excited to welcome Jonas Freedman, who will be the new Head Caretaker at the school.
- Students loitering around outside after school: Lakie is making best efforts to discourage students hanging around the school following dismissal and ask that students do their very best to follow these guidelines due to Covid-19.
- Resiliency Cup: Lakie has introduced the “Resiliency Cup”, which will be given to those classes who are required to isolate during the pandemic. The cup will contain a chocolate bar for each student and teacher in the quarantined class and will be presented to that class upon their return to in-person learning. This idea was put forward by Tisha Elford and has been implemented by the school, with one class having already received the cup. A thanks to Tisha for this excellent suggestion.

- Ab Ed Accountability Survey – now know as “Alberta Education Assurance Survey (AEA)”
  - This Survey will be completed by all Grade 7’s and all GSL staff later this week.
  - Data from this survey is used for improved planning going forward.

### **Raj Marthur:**

Registration process for 2021-22

- **April 13<sup>th</sup> (ish) – Registration begins**
  - Electronic registration documentation for 2021-2022 sent out to parents based on next year school designation in PowerSchool
- **April 20<sup>th</sup> – Virtual Feeder School Visit with MMH**
  - Occurs at 2:15pm
  - Raj and Aimee will meet with the classes via TEAMS
- **Virtual Feeder School Visit with NS**
  - Will take place on April 21 at 2:45pm
  - Raj and Aimee will meet with the classes via TEAMS
- **May 5 - Virtual Family Information Night**
  - Overview presentation from Admin
  - Options tour/news broadcast
  - Time allotted for Q&A at the end
- **May 7<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> – Online Options open for students**
  - Options for 2021- fluid situation depending on cohorts and extra curriculars
  - Intramurals will continue into early spring- some activities might move outside. Mr. Letasy and Ms. Gurney may take kids outside as weather gets better.
  - Moonlight Run promo- Daylight Run March 25
  - Goal is for Track & Field to begin after the Easter Break. No track meets like in previous years, however Lakie is working to put together a plan to make it a fun program this year, even though we can’t compete with other schools.
  - Practice Lockdown with SRO team- Wednesday March 10<sup>th</sup>. The lockdown went very well.
  - Learning Bar Survey overview of long answer questions
    - This survey was formerly called “Tell them for me”

- The survey was completed by Lakie students recently and provided a great deal of feedback. There were two questions asked on the survey that were unique to Lakie, as follows:

A. What were some positives from online learning?

Answers were as follows:

Students enjoyed longer lunch breaks, virtual announcements of Mr. Dersch and the use of breakout rooms; they felt less judged by their peers and felt they had more family time.

B. What questions and wonders do you have about your next school year:

Some questions and wonders were as follows:

- i. Will we have regular options next year?
- ii. Will we abandon the use of the “squares” during outdoor play
- iii. May we have a normal school year?
- iv. What will Grade 8 farewell look like this year?
- v. Will we continue to miss out on dance and drama shows?
- vi. Will we have more break times?
- vii. Will we have full locker access?
- viii. Will we be with our friends more often who are not in our class?

### **Aimee Dewacht**

- Staff PL – took a wellness/mental health focus for our last one.
  - The Lakie student population has become more diverse over the years, as well as smaller. Teachers have been exploring professional learning opportunities on how to better assist with various diverse needs of students.
  - The PL day last Friday involved bringing in the Division Counsellor to discuss ‘compassion fatigue’ and ‘the window of tolerance’. There was discussion around “every day heroes”; an opportunity for some reflection; and time taken to prepare individual letters to someone they considered to be their ‘everyday hero’. Staff also participated in a Smudge art lesson. It was a very positive PL day and exactly what the staff needed.
  - The next PL day will be held on April 12 and will take place on Teams.
- The next PL day is April 12. Half of the day is in a collaborative group, the second half is school driven. We will be focusing on professional growth plans (aka inquiry based learning) for our afternoon.

- Continue to work on the timetable for next year. We are working on a few different scenarios so we can inform the teachers, while trying to be as prepared as COVID allows us to be.
- EA staffing – currently hiring for an additional position. We look forward to welcoming our new staff member in the very near future. This will bring our EA staffing to 11
- Reconfiguration of a space for future needs. We will be reconfiguring a room off of our learning commons to support student needs.

**B. Division School Council Report (Tisha Elford)**

- The last Division Meeting focused on Inclusive Learning. Some focus on the PUFF funding program, specifically for Pre-K and K. This year Pre-K and K has been added to the Grades 1-12 funding allotment, causing much concern for many. A Petition has been commenced to the government in this regard.
- The Division is trying their best to limit the spread of COVID-19 and ask that parents reach out to them should they have questions or concerns in this regard.
- The Alberta School Council Association AGM will take place virtually this year on April 24 - 26, 2021.
- The next Division Board Meeting will be held April 27, 2021.

**3. Previous Business**

NIL

**4. New Business:**

- The Loop Publication (Tisha)
  - The Loop is a publication that comes out monthly from the Lethbridge School Division. It has a lot of resources for families and youth. It is typically attached to the school's Gator Gab. It has been suggested that the Loop be sent not only to parents, but also directly to students, possibly by way of email. This would create more awareness of available resources for students needing those supports. Lakie Admin will look into this suggestion.
- Children working in nature more frequently (Daiva)
  - A suggestion to increase opportunities for children to work in nature more frequently; to bring more nature into the classroom; possibly have children plant trees on school property and grow plants/herbs in pots on school windowsills.
  - A further suggestion for the school to inquire about "The Forest Program". Daiva will provide further details on this program to Brad Dersch. The school will take steps to look into this program in more detail.

**5. Upcoming events**

- Green Shirt Day (Organ donation awareness in memory of Logan Boulet) – March 31
- Division School Council - April 12
- Easter Break – April 2-12
- The Annual District Calendar for 2021 – 2022 has been posted on the division website (look under Our Division/Calendar and click the “Download Annual Calendar” drop down menu to find it)

**6.** Next Meeting is April 27, 2021 at 6 pm

**7.** Adjournment 7:19 pm