

## GS Lakie School Council Minutes February 23, 2016

Attendees: Administrators and staff; Doug James, Kyle McKenzie, Guest Kristine Savage

Parents: Brian Palsky, Corinne Steele, Barry Knapp, Randy Helm, Rebecca Seely, Troy Danyk, Abby Metz.

Presentation by Kristine Savage about the Making Connections program at GS Lakie.

This program is designed to support student success both in and out of school. Kristine matches student and family needs with resources in the community. She works mainly with marginalized families who have issues with mental health, addictions, literacy, new to Canada, etc. She also runs programs at school for targeted groups like students with high anxiety or who are going through family separation. Students and families are referred by teachers and Child Services, but Kristine also knows some of these families through working at the elementary schools. The Middle School focus is on building capacity and providing students with the resources they need to be independent.

What can School Council do to support these efforts:

1. Host a clothing exchange in fall 2015 after Thanksgiving, including sporting equipment, books and electronics. This can be held in the foyer and we can provide refreshments and music.
2. We can ask for parent volunteers who are willing to help socialize new families to GS Lakie. Kristine might be able to match up families to welcome new comers to Canada and provide help like driving kids to sport events etc. How can we promote this? Ask for volunteers in the Newsletter?
3. Have a future discussion to look more deeply at why kids seem to be suffering from higher levels of anxiety. What can parents do to help kids cope with stress, depression and anxiety not just avoid it.

Administrator's Report – Doug James

1. Food Services review – lunch eating time has been extended by 7 minutes. Still reviewing the vending machine options and availability.
2. Pink Shirt day has a focus on citizenship rather than bullying.
3. Lethbridge School District 51 inducted 70 new teachers to the ATA this year. There will be some staff changes at GS Lakie but they are not finalized yet.

## New Business

1. GS Lakie Bylaw review. ASCA is offering a School Council Bylaw workshop on April 7 and May 16 at 6:30pm at the School Board office. Brian Palsky, Lacey deKock and Corinne Steele have offered to attend, but more are welcome. The GS Lakie Bylaws haven't been reviewed since they were created in 2003/04.
2. We talked about how to promote camps and other activities to keep students engaged over the summer break. Although it would be great to have list of what is available it is better for the City or other external group to do this so the School doesn't look like it's promoting certain activities or groups. Barry Knapp will discuss with a contact he has at the Lethbridge Leisure Guide.
3. Talked about hosting an internet safety discussion. There is actually a Parent Internet Safety presentation hosted by the Lethbridge Police set for April 12 at The Yates:

<http://www.lethsd.ab.ca/view.php?action=object&id=29497&stream=Homepage%20News>

4. "Take a Book/leave a Book" stations were discussed. This is a new initiative of the Lethbridge Public Library. Because the librarian makes reviewing/screening books available to students at GS Lakie a high priority, this might not work well here. We'll add a book exchange to the clothing exchange in the fall.
5. Another discussion topic might be how to better prepare our Grade 8 students for the emotional and academic transition to High School. Bridging this gap is a priority for both GS Lakie and Chinook administrations.

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 22<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.

Minutes prepared by Corinne Steele