

GS Lakie School Council Minutes February 24, 2015

In Attendance: Corinne Steele, Kyle McKenzie, Doug James, Kendall McCutcheon

Regrets: Randy Helm, Lacey de kock

1. Call to order 6:00 pm
 - Welcome and Introductions
 - Review of Agenda
 - Review of last meeting's minutes
2. Administrators' Report : Doug James
 - a. Further update of new middle school construction and design.

Scheduled for opening in fall 2018 with a max. capacity of 900 students. It will have a different structure than recent modular schools by constructing a larger core area including classrooms and a multipurpose/divisible gym. Middle school specialization in terms of schools building on existing strengths was discussed eg; Wilson has a social and health focus, Gilbert Paterson has French immersion, GSL has fine arts and technology. Perhaps the new school can focus on science and technology?
 - b. What will the new school mean for GSL? Reduced enrolment to 600 students from the current 800. Some portables may be relocated. Develop options and CTS courses in line with the theme of the school to enhance fine arts and integrate technology. Create a more device friendly teaching environment. The largest impact will be on the separation of the teaching team which has been carefully recruited to re-enforce the teaching style and values of GSL. The staff is understandably anxious about this division. Focus must be kept on developing a collaborative Westside Middle School community rather than a potentially competitive one.
 - c. Assessment Accountability Initiative will review the formative and summative assessment practices at GSL with an aim for consistency among teachers and grade levels.
 - d. Closing the gap – GSL is working on ways to bring students up to their grade level by offering supplemental literacy and numeracy workshops during alternating Phys Ed. periods that will group students by proficiency level. Groups will work on the skills they

need to practice at their particular level. This will also help to challenge students working at accelerated levels. The extra computer workshops have worked so well at bringing up the grade 6 and 7's computer skills that this time can now be used to focus on these other foundational skills.

- e. Upcoming events include Cheer Team provincials, Badminton tournaments, Little Mermaid, Tell them from Me Surveys.
- f. Athletic Park - the fall 2015 GSL Power Card fundraiser will go ahead since these cards have already been purchased. Proceeds will go to the Athletic Park. It is hoped that the school can raise \$100-\$120 K and then have this matched by external grants. This will be a 2 -3 year project. A GSL grant writing team exists to look for and apply for external grants.

3. New Business

- a. We had a discussion about school uniforms and how research has demonstrated the positive effects they have on learning environments. This idea has been opposed by parents in the past but perhaps it is time to revisit. The demography of GSL has changed to include more ethnic diversity, different economic groups, changing family situations etc. School uniforms may help to avoid some problems before they even start.

4. Adjournment

Next meeting; March, 24th, 2015 at 6:00pm

Future discussion topics:

1. Chinook AP program termination. What does this mean for Lakie students?
2. Now that the bus is paid for what are the upcoming projects that require funding? Do we need a major fundraiser each year? Can we fundraise for individual student trips or sport fees, like a scholarship program?
3. Regular "push" emails to parents who want them to share school news and deadlines. Remind 101
4. Space constraints and growth issues facing the school
5. Use of technology and computer proficiency issues; what are the rules for use of devices at school eg: cell phone policy, and how can these rules be encouraged at home? Possible computer purchase plans so all students can have access to technology. Plans for new web page development.