

GS Lakie School Council Minutes

October 24, 2017

Attendees:

Administrators and staff: Sharon Mezei, Tavis Newman, Brandon Fletcher, Lori Adamson, Gord Smith

Parents: Nancy Purkis, Scott McKenzie, Amanda McKee, Bonnie Takats, Corrine Steele, Lacey deKock, Raila Duda, Hanna Ghazieh, Brian Palsky, Lisa Althouse, Tony Deys

Call to Order: 6:00pm

1) Presentation on the “Innovative Project Design” option – Gord Smith and Lori Adamson

We are in the 7th wave of innovation, and need to identify the skills students need for the future. Job vacancy rates are increasing, primarily in the trades.

CTF (Career and Technology Foundations). This is a new course offering at G.S.Lakie which pools kids together for more opportunity: Technology, human connection, business etc.. The course is marked as complete or incomplete with anecdotal comments instead of grades. There are currently 25 students Grade 8 enrolled in the course and they work in groups of 5. Students have been completing learning logs and action sheets on a weekly basis. Since this is a new class they are also providing input on the structure of the course.

The Design Challenge is to Improve the Outdoor Classroom at G.S.Lakie. Each group had to present an idea to a panel (including Principal Sharon Mezei), and received feedback and suggestions. The designs were modified and sketches were made. Ashcroft home builders partnered with the program and finalized the designs. They will be coming to the school on Thursday Oct 26 to build the projects with the students. Around Alberta CTF is offered in various ways, as stand alone courses, in conjunction with core subjects, as school wide projects or as projects designed across multiple curriculums.

2. Reports

a) Principal – Sharon Mezei.

October – The school budget has been balanced, the largest part of the cost is staffing. Due to numbers G.S.Lakie has been approved for an additional part time teacher (0.82). Jennifer Jay will be teaching core French, science, and social as of next week.

Parent Teacher Interviews – Feedback re booking. Some parents found the system confusing or restrictive, especially when it came to booking multiple teachers as well as the time of day that interviews were available. A map in the foyer was suggested to facilitate finding classrooms.

It was also mentioned that Powerschool mail notifications aren't working properly (emails are sent out but the content is missing).

November – A Remembrance Day Assembly will take place. The upcoming Gatorstock will be the 25th, so a special event is planned. There will be a Drama production called 'Middle Class'

b) Vice Principal – Tavis Newman. Orange Shirt Day. This is a new event to G.S.Lakie, it came out of the reconciliation process. This is a chance for schools to remember survivors or residential schools in Canada. Learning about residential schools is a part of the Grade 7 curriculum, other grades had a chance to learn about them in a Social unit before the event. An elderly survivor came to share his story with the school. Sharon Mezei mentioned how impressed she was with the behaviour and respectfulness of the students during this event. FNMI history is now a mandatory part of the AB curriculum.

Teachers will participate in a 'Blanket Exercise' at their next retreat. This involves sitting in a circle and lead through a history lesson from pre-European contact through to present day. Afterwards people are encouraged to share their own stories and insights.

c) Teacher – Brandon Fletcher. The book "Wonder" is being studied across Grade 6 during literacy through a variety of activities. The study will culminate with going to see the movie when it is released. There will be a Halloween Fashion Show on Friday Oct 27. The Grade 6 transition to middle school has gone well.

d) District School Council – The next meeting will take place on Monday Nov 6 at 6:30, the topic will be "Opioid Crisis and School Division Response".

Here are a few more upcoming dates and topics:

Dec 4 – FNMI Blanket exercise for parents

January 15 – Governance Structures – public education

Feb 6 – Town Hall

3. New Business

- School Council Subscription form. Remember to Subscribe!

- Discussion topic for next meeting: Tony suggested a Fundraiser update.

Lisa suggested that a "New School Update" be added to all future agendas for the year so that we can be kept up to date on progress etc.

Sharon reported that she attended a meeting at the district regarding school boundaries, the plan (still in progress) will have to be approved by the board before being made public. There will be a meeting with staff prior to the end of 2017 to discuss the staffing process with them. G.S.Lakie and Waterbridge should be staffed by the end of March, regular staffing will take place afterwards.

4. Upcoming events: "Parenting the Self-Regulated Child" November 7, 2017 @6:30pm at the LCI Large Lecture Theatre.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm

The next meeting will be held November 28 ,2017 at 6:00pm

Minutes were prepared by Nancy Purkis

