

GS Lakie School Council Minutes March 24, 2015

In Attendance: Corinne Steele, Kyle McKenzie, Doug James, 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 Highlights: Doug James

a. Cancellation of Cheer Team trip to West Edmonton Mall due to potential threats. The decision by the School Board to cancel this trip was met with some protest as many other teams did attend. However, the GSL team is a school team vs. a club team and the District insurance agent would not support the trip. The decision was based on the criterion that we "support what the most prudent parent would do". There was criticism about the process and a lot of social media traffic. For a number of reasons the continuity of the Cheer team will be discussed by Admin.

b. The School District has delayed staffing plans till after Easter because of the lateness of the Provincial Budget. We will review staffing at the next meeting.

c. Assessment Accountability Initiative will review the formative (demonstration of understanding, skills development), and summative (marks, tests, assignments) assessment practices at GSL with an aim for consistency among teachers and grade levels. Staff PD time continues to focus on this initiative. Through consensus, assessment standards will be created and a shared philosophy developed. The goal is to adopt the same across all Lethbridge Middle schools.

The grade level skill sets have been identified. Now teachers are compiling the activities that will achieve the skill sets. This plan will be presented to DSC next year and will then be reviewed with grade 5 and grade 9 representatives to make sure the skill sets are correct and complete.

Mr. James continues to meet with Chinook Principal, Kevin Wood, to discuss why the move to grade 9 is so challenging and what both schools can do to improve this transition. Some of the factors are the increased flexibility and freedom of high school, the social environment and the steep jump in curriculum requirements.

- d. Due to the modified Phys. Ed schedule, 80 additional periods of core classwork were provided to all students. The range in literacy skills is still a large challenge for grade 6. A levelled reading program is being considered that will start with an assessment that will group students by proficiency rather than grade level. GS Lakie is working with Karen Rancier to develop the curriculum and new resources are being purchased. The current Core Support classes that exist are met with resentment by students and parents as they take up additional time outside regular LA classes and are viewed as a punishment rather than assistance.
 - e. Upcoming events include badminton tournament at Chinook (March 26), Grade 8 orientation at Chinook, Little Mermaid, track and field. Band trip to Disney Land next May.
 - f. Athletic Park – members of GSL attended the District information session about playground development. As planning continues, this may be something that can encourage more parent involvement next year.
- 3. District School Council Update – Lacey de kock
 - a. The next DSC meeting will seek parent input on school transitions; elementary to middle, middle to high school
 - b. FYI – there are over 750 English Second Language students in our District.
 - 4. ASCA Conference – The Council approved allocating our \$200 allotment from DSC to fund Lacey De kock's travel to the conference pending submission of receipts.
 - 5. Grade 5 Parent Information night is scheduled for April 28th at 6:30. We talked about combining the Council meeting with the info night, but this isn't really the right time. We will confirm if the meeting is moved or cancelled.
 - 6. Adjournment

Next meeting; April 28th, 2015 at 6:00pm (this meeting was cancelled because it was on the same night as the Grade 5 parent info. session)

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.