GS Lakie School Council
Minutes of September 23, 2014

In Attendance:

Lacey deKock	Corinne Steele	Randy Helm
Anne Dymond	Beth Bidarian	Kyle McKenzie (Grade 8 teacher)
Kendall McCutcheon	Doug James (Principal)	

1.0 Welcome from Doug James

- 1.1 Mr. James reviewed the advisory role of School Council. This group is to act as a sounding board for school initiatives brought about through both opportunity and necessity. It is a chance for parents and staff to discuss what things are and aren't working.
- 1.2 Power Card Fundraiser - Mr. James explained how this fundraiser was developed and that the School retains 85% of the revenue. This year's proceeds will provide the final contribution towards the purchase of a new school bus and an outdoor electronic sign. Plans for unveiling the new bus in November were shared. This will be a new 70 passenger bus to complement the 20 yr. old Gator Freighter. We had a discussion as to whether a fundraiser is required every year. This will be looked at again as we want to keep momentum but at the same time don't want to "wear out" this fundraising model. What future projects that require funding will need to be discussed.
- 1.3 We also mentioned that as an alternative to selling cards, students could collect donations of $20.00 and would still be eligible for participation prizes. Advisors should make this option clearer to students next year. Can receipts be issued for donations?

2.0 Elections:

Co-Chairs – Corinne Steele and Debra Basil
Secretary – Anne Dymond (and rotating basis if not in attendance)
Treasurer – Kendall McCutcheon
District School Council Rep – Lacey deKock

3.0 Administrator's Report

- 3.1 Mr. James discussed the Phys Ed/PDA rotation and the unexpected benefits that are resulting from having had to make this change. The atmosphere of the school is much calmer. Phys Ed classes have returned to proper curriculum based programs. Advisor time in DPA weeks is flexible and allows for more time to build relationships between teachers and students and among students themselves as informal participation in classroom activities improves. There is more core time and core support. Teachers are being trained on suitable DPA activities and each class has a DPA kit.
- 3.2 A new Westside Middle school is the School District's #1 capital project priority. There are over 800 students at GS Lakie this year with 39 teachers + part time staff. GS Lakie has a priority to hire staff that fit in with the school's culture and philosophy.

3.3 A new technology skills curriculum will be introduced to grade 6 students this year. This course is necessary to provide all students with a standard set of computer skills needed to succeed through Middle and High school. The question of how to provide this to the current grade 7 and 8 students was asked.

3.4 Mr. James highlighted a number of upcoming events; School Dance (Sept. 25), Academic Awards (Oct), Rock Show, Little Mermaid Musical (March). It was discussed again how many school events are limited or at least challenged by the inability to accommodate the current student + guest population.

4.0 We discussed the possibility of advertising topics that will be discussed at the next School Council meeting in hopes of bringing out more parents. The lack of parent participation is an on-going concern that seems to have no real solution. Potential topics include:

4.1 Space constraints and growth issues of the school – how are we to manage until a new middle school is built, esp. with a new elementary feeder school coming on in 2017?

4.2 Fundraising - do we need to do this every year? Can we fundraise for individual student trips or sport fees? What large projects do we need to fundraise for?

4.3 Use of technology and computer proficiency is a concern. Students seem to be at different computer skill levels, which limits the use of technology in the classroom. What are the rules for use of devices at school eg: cell phone policy, and how can these rules be encouraged at home. We may also discuss possible computer purchase plans so all students can have access to technology, and plans for new web page development.

We discussed how the information on the web site could be more useful; examples will be brought to the next meeting.

5.0 Minutes will be posted on the website under the School Council heading.

6.0 Next meeting dates: **Meetings are the 4th Tuesday and begin at 6:00 pm**

October 28, 2014	November 25, 2014	January 27, 2015	
February 24, 2015	March 24, 2015	April 28, 2015	May 26, 2015

If there are any errors or omissions in these minutes, please forward your information to Corinne Steele at c.steele@uleth.ca