

GS Lakie School Council Minutes

March 22, 2016

Attendees: Administrators and staff; Doug James, Jeni Halowski, Kyle McKenzie, Guest Counsellors: Jen Robinson, Pam Garner, McMillan Wilkowich

Parents: Brian Palsky, Corinne Steele, Barry Knapp, Rebecca Seely, Vivien Kossuth, Carl Epp, Tony Deys.

1. Presentation by GS Lakie Counselling Team

Mr. James introduced the whole Counselling team and talked about what they do at GS Lakie.

McMillan Wilkowich led us through a presentation about stress and anxiety and how to identify when anxiety becomes a real problem. We talked about why kids seem to be feeling higher levels of stress today. A likely contributor is that our society (parents and schools), have made their lives so protected that they haven't had a chance to develop coping skills that will help them deal with difficult situations. Social Media definitely plays a role in the new higher stress environment. Some parents felt that Middle School is a good place for their children to take some risks and learn to become more comfortable with feeling uncomfortable. We want to focus on strategies to handle good stressors and developing skills that will make our kids resilient, accountable and adaptable.

2. Administrator's Report – Doug James

- There was a lock down drill during a nutrition break. The students did a good job during this unstructured time of day.
- See the web site for all upcoming events and field trips.
- April 20th is grade 6 new student orientation and April 26th is Parent orientation.
- Staffing update: there are 7 temporary contracts ending on June 30 and an Assistant Principal position still to fill.

3. New Business

- Because of the conflict with Grade 6 Parent orientation, the April School Council meeting will be cancelled. This meeting time may be used by the Bylaw Subcommittee if needed.

4. Upcoming events:

- School Council Bylaw workshop on April 7 and May 16 – Subcommittee will attend
- ASCA Conference and AGM April 22-14/16 – no representative from GS Lakie this year
- Policy 502.2 Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Gender Expression mtg March 23/16
- Parent Internet Safety presentation April 12/16

5. Next meeting: No April meeting. The last meeting of the year will be May 24th at 6:00 pm.

Minutes prepared by Corinne Steele