

## **GS Lakie School Council Minutes**

### **October 25, 2016**

#### **Attendees:**

Administrators and staff: Doug James, Kyle McKenzie, Pam Garner, Kristine Savage

Parents: Brian Palsky, Corinne Steele, Bonnie Takats, Brent Juergensen, Dinesh Thekkoot, Jason Humphreys, Lisa Althouse, Merlyn Berg, Nancy Purkis, Tony Deys, Trish Zwingli, Brent Boynton

#### **1. Call To Order: 6pm**

#### **2. Presentations**

a) **Presentation by Kristine Savage about the Ordinary Heroes program.** This program is for the Grade 6 students and is about finding that special, caring adult (other than a parent) in their lives that can help them with problems. It starts with a lesson on stress where they learn what stress looks like for them as well as strategies to help reduce stress or cope with it. After identifying their special person, students write a letter of gratitude to that person. The letters get mailed. Kristine chooses 25-30 that will be honoured at the Ordinary Heroes Celebration in December. Studies show that receiving and showing gratitude are good for mental health.

b) **Presentation by Pam Garner about the Counselling Services available at GS Lakie.** Pam talked about anxiety in students and how the counselling team helps students cope and work through their anxiety. A great website for more info is [www.anxietybc.com](http://www.anxietybc.com)

#### **3. Administrator's Report – Doug James**

a) Academic Awards ceremony (Grade 6 & 7 from last year) was successful. Admin is thinking about changing the format of the athletic awards in the spring to be more like the academic awards.

b) The Middle School conference went well. Gary Anaka presented on the adolescent brain and how it works. He did a parent session as well which was fantastic. All parents are encouraged to attend future sessions sponsored by the District.

c) Volleyball Classic will be held at Chinook High School this weekend

d) School Remembrance Day Ceremonies will be held on Nov 9. The public is invited to attend.

e) No school Nov 10 for District Learning. Middle school staff will be focusing on what Middle School looks like and how to maintain continuity between the middle schools in the district. How can the transition from Grade 5 to Grade 6 (into middle school) be better, how can the transition from Grade 8 to Grade 9 (into high school) be better.

f) Addiction Awareness Week is Nov 14-18. There will be a presentation at the school and parents are encouraged to attend.

g) First Term ends Nov 18, Second Term begins Nov 21

h) Aladdin Performance runs December 12-16. Both Matinees and Evening performances (10 performances total) will be held. Juran Green from New West Theater will be the Genie and the feeder school choirs will be participating.

#### **4. Old Business**

A fall clothing exchange was already planned to be held Oct 24 at Galbraith School. GSL will host the spring exchange and planning will be discussed with Kristine Savage at future meetings.

## **5. New Business**

The Discussion topic for the November meeting will be the multisport park to be built in 2018. Dan Westwood (the architect) will be in attendance to answer any questions and get feedback.

Future discussion topics (tentative) are as follows:

1. January – School Principal profile – Superintendent or representative attending
2. February – Internet and device safety; what parents need to know.
3. March – Clothing Exchange planning
4. April – Grade level skill sets; round table with teachers
5. May – Transition to the next grades, June events and summer activities to keep kids engaged in learning

## **6. Upcoming Events**

a) District School Council-Nov 7, 2016 @ 6:30 in the board office. See the district website and the attached District School Council meeting minutes for more info. Currently there are 10,730 students enrolled in Lethbridge District 51. The District calendar of events can also be found on the district website. [www.lethsd.ab.ca](http://www.lethsd.ab.ca)

b) Alberta Education is reviewing and updating the curriculum, which outlines what students are expected to learn from Kindergarten through Grade 12. Alberta Education is asking for parent feedback through a survey which will be open from October 18-November 18, 2016.

## **7. Adjournment**-Next meeting is November 29, 2016 @ 6pm

Minutes prepared by Lisa Althouse

## District School Council Minutes Highlights for October 3, 2016

### 1. Elections for District School Council

**Chair** Allison Pike; **Vice-Chair** Brooke Culley; **Recording Secretary** Joy Morris and Lyvia Hughes; parent reps on committees were filled (see full minutes).

2. **Trustee Report** First reading of staff policy 400.1.1, on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression passed. \$350K approved for purchase of literacy resources for grades 1-6. Updated budget for 2016-17 presented, based on enrolment 10,730. Adjustments will be made and final budget submitted to the province.

### 3. Alberta School Councils Association (ASCA) Report

- 3.1. Resolution Committee Update – issues so far: improving bathroom-to-classroom ratios; incorporating mental health into curriculum; knowledge and employability classes; inclusion and special education; Truth & Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action; using Speech Pathologists' research. Next meeting Thurs., Oct. 20, 6:45-7:45 p.m., in the District building. All welcome. Please no new policy proposals after that.
- 3.2. ASCA Parent of Distinction Award, Webinar Wednesdays, School Council Resource Guide. All available (with more information) from [www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca](http://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca).
- 3.3. School Council Engagement Task Force. Ensure that school councils have parents on the task force. Email [tracyk@albertaschoolcouncils.ca](mailto:tracyk@albertaschoolcouncils.ca) with your rep's name.

### 4. District School Council Calendar of Events and Shared Opportunities

Parent Calendar for events: <http://www.lethsd.ab.ca/view.php?action=calendar&id=249>.  
October 11th 1-1:30 Minister of Ed meeting with Mike Mountain Horse School Council.  
October 11 7 p.m. Gary Anaka presentation on the teenage brain. Register in advance by email to [wilson@lethsd.ab.ca](mailto:wilson@lethsd.ab.ca), venue will depend on numbers.

### 5. Superintendent's Report - Cheryl Gilmore

- 5.1. **2017 Excellence in Teaching Nominations** are due in late February or early March.
- 5.2. **Support for School Councils** District pays ASCA membership fee, one registration (per council) to ASCA AGM and conference. Also \$200 (included in each school's budget) towards ASCA AGM expenses. ASCA AGM April 28-30 in Edmonton.
- 5.3. **Update on Provincial Curriculum Development** Ministry engagement session for community Mon. Oct. 17, 7-8:30 p.m., Chinook branch Lethbridge Public Library. Online survey open Oct 12 or 13. LeeAnne Tedder will send out a link to the online survey to school council chairs when available. Survey will be open for 6 weeks.
- 5.4. **Update on funding of Mental Health supported project (Making Connections)** Alberta Health Services has changed Making Connections from a project to a sustainable initiative. Focus more on mental health instead of social services.
- 5.5. **School Council Membership List** Parent info sheets to be processed by school councils who wish them. Communications can and should go through principals also. School councils are subject to PIPA for privacy. Cheryl will distribute info about how to create and use email lists, and about privacy-related responsibilities under PIPA. School councils will get lethsd.ab.ca email accounts next week, encouraged to use them.

**5.6. Islamic Academy at Wilson** Lethbridge Muslim Association have submitted a proposal that meets School Act requirements. Need to put forward a more detailed proposal, addressing projected enrolment and sustainability; this requires a call for expressions of interest in registering. If a program is approved, it is then operated by the School Board. All Board policies apply. The Board is required to provide programs that meet the criteria laid out in the School Act and are sustainable.

**5.7. Announcements.** The next DSC Meeting will be on November 7.