

## GS Lakie School Council Minutes November 25, 2014

In Attendance: Debra Basil, Kendall McCutcheon, Corinne Steele, Lacey DeKock, Kyle McKenzie, Jeni Halowski, Guest; Gord Smith

1. Call to order 6:00 pm
  - Welcome and Introductions
  - Review of Agenda
  - Review of last meeting's minutes
2. Report from District School Council – Lacey DeKock
  - a. Three possible topics we discussed as potential resolutions for the provincial Alberta School Council Association were;
    1. Why the government continues to fund school expansion through portables vs. permanent construction. Portables may work in certain communities but not all – not Lethbridge
    2. Creating standardized targets for technology proficiency.
    3. Focusing on how to adjust the pace of delivery of course content so that students at all levels can be engaged.
  - b. Lacey DeKock volunteered to be part of the District sub-committee to develop resolutions.
3. Technology Presentation – Gord Smith
  - Technology proliferation has created both opportunities and gaps for education.
  - In grade six some time has been carved out for the development of high priority computer skills; basic competencies, keyboarding, graphics, digital citizenship.
  - Now the focus is on integrating these skills across the curriculum.
  - This has been so successful in grade 6, that the program will also be moved into grade 7 by taking over some Advisor time.
  - There is a mandatory computer class for all students at Chinook. There may be a way for GSL students to be given credit for this requirement if they can demonstrate that they have the proficiency.

The GS Lakie Technology Committee has three pillars

1. Hardware and software issues eg: evergreening, funding for new equipment
2. Skills development – program and curriculum design, consistency across courses
3. Creating a vision for technology at GS Lakie.

4. Administrators' Report : Jeni Halowksi

- a. Art show, Gator Stock and Rock Show all coming up.
- b. Next PD days will focus on teaching best practices as developed by John Hattie. The Middle School Admin Teams are meeting to talk about Middle school philosophy and best practice. In the future other PD days will bring teachers of the same discipline together to share ideas; collaborative teaching communities.
- c. Web site is still being updated. Teachers had an opportunity to learn about it and start to work on their teacher bios and individual pages. Feedback from parents about the new website is encouraged. One question was why the new web pages are so different from school to school. We thought that one of the goals was to have a more common format or at least basic structure so that parents can easily find things across different schools ie: other schools have a "Parent" button" GSL does not. It would be nice if all schools could have the same information in the same categories.

5. New Business

- a. Why does HomeLogic close so early? Not being able to check homework and exams the two weeks prior to report cards seems counter-productive to its purpose. This is the time when parents are most interested in "checking in". Is there some way to keep the parent mode open while the teachers are working back stage on the report card section? Is there another package available that will meet these needs?
- b. We discussed why marks are not deducted for handing in late assignments and how difficult it is to give a student a NIH. This practice seems to be in opposition with the three directives of the Inspiring Education document to encourage engaged thinkers, entrepreneurial spirit and ethical citizens. That is, students who know how to get their work in on time and why this matters.

6. Adjournment

Next meeting; January 27th, 2015 at 6:00 pm

Following meeting February, 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 6:00pm

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.