

GS Lakie School council Minutes September 22, 2015

Attendees: GS Lakie Admin Team: Doug James (Principal), Terry Hagel (VP Grade 8, field trips, athletics), Jeni Halowski (VP Grade 7, Inclusive Education, counseling), Craig DeJong (VP Grade 6, technology, fundraising), Kyle McKenzie (Grade 8 Science, teacher rep), Andy Tyslau (Learning Support Teacher), Cheryl Gilmore (LSD Superintendent)

Parents: Tony Deys, Corinne Steele, Debra Basil, Cam Leacock, Joanne Peterson,

Administrator's Report – Doug James

1. Introduction of Admin Team and their roles at GS Lakie.
2. Purpose of School Council is to act as an advisory group with School Administrators. It provides an opportunity for the parent community to collaborate with the school to support and enhance student learning.
3. Overview of new school year; 830+ students, added 2 new class patterns in grade 6 and 8, the building is now out of available classrooms and growth next year will have to be accommodated through open/floating classes. Review of DPA and extra labs and core activity, grad level reading assessment initiative and focus on literacy and technology skills.
4. Fundraiser – GSL Powercards. Proceeds will go toward multi-sport court to begin construction in fall 2018 to coincide with opening of new Westside Middle School. This project will be something for GSL to celebrate and will bring the new team of staff and students together. Students and parents will have input on the design, School Council will help create support among the school and larger community.
5. Middle School conference on Oct. 5th. The three Lethbridge Middle Schools together with LSD Administrators will meet to discuss Middle School philosophy and pedagogy. They will revisit what a MS learner looks like in 2015 and what learning experiences they should be having.
6. Upcoming events: Grade 6 BBQ (too wet on Sept 21, so postponed till Sept 28), School Dance on Sept 24 (parents welcome, dance and games room), Academic Awards on Oct 14, (invitations will be sent to recipients), Parent Teacher Interviews Oct 22 & 23, (on-line appointments, interviews are so much earlier than report cards so that parents can be informed of progress and can help make pro-active changes if needed), dance performance at Yates in January, drama production rather than spring musical, upcoming sporting events are on the web site.

Report from District School Council – Corinne Steele

1. DSC is a monthly meeting at the Education Centre with the Superintendent, Trustees and representatives from the 16+ School Councils in School District 51. Provincial and city wide concerns are discussed and ideas shared. A representative is encouraged from each school but all parents are invited to these meetings on the first Monday of the month at 6:30 pm.

2. Some information from the first meeting; estimated total enrollment for SD51 is 10,039 students. This is an increase of 631 students from last year. Most of these are students from the Immanuel Christian Schools which joined the School District this year.
3. Modernization at Wilson Middle School continues, ground was broken for the new elementary school in Copperwood, final approval for funding to commence the west side middle school was received and the schematic design is complete.

Parent comments

1. We asked the parents of new grade 6 students how they thought the transition to Middle School is going. The feedback is that they were all very impressed with the level of organization, the time taken to go over schedules, locker, bussing etc. and the amount of communication.
2. The web page should have more information about an event when you click on it. For example, it should have a description of the event, where, when, who is encouraged to attend. Also, please add information about clubs and when they start on the web site.
3. How to get more parents out to School Council is an on-going challenge. So please think about what topics you would like to discuss and encourage other parents to attend. Some of the other discussion topics parents were interested in are:
 - a. Growth issues. With the pace of growth on the Westside, will GSL really be able to “down size” and remove portables by the time the new Middle School is built? School District is wondering about this too, the new Middle school will be built to accommodate 900 students; 10 classes of each grade. The two schools may specialize in different areas. School boundaries will also need to be discussed with parents and LSD.
 - b. Grade level skills were discussed and how they differ from the curriculum. Skills are about how the students learn were as the program of study is what they learn. The staff at GS Lakie have been busy describing the different grade level skills. These can be highlighted at a future Council meeting.
4. Technology experts will be asked to attend the next School Council meeting to talk about the use of devices at school. Some of the issues are; identifying the different technology skill expectations for grade 6/7/8, confirming the rules for device usage during school hours, what is the school philosophy for incorporating devices into the classroom, what is digital citizenship, how can parent concerns about safety and inappropriate uses be dealt with, how can we support students who can't afford devices.
5. Election of officers: Corinne Steele said she would stay on as Chair, Tony Deys volunteered to be the Treasurer, possible secretary will be confirmed next meeting.
6. Next meetings: Tuesday, Nov. 24th at 6:00 pm. There will be no meeting in December.

Minutes prepared by Corinne Steele