

**G.S. Lakie Parent Council Meeting
Tuesday, January 25, 2022
Start Time: 6:02 pm
By Microsoft Teams**

Sharon Mezei
Brad Dersch
Aimee Dewacht
Vanessa Steele
Tisha Elford
Christa Pike
Mike Shanks

Ginny Bergsma
Jeff Schimpf
Amanda Schimpf
Karma Van Schack

1. Call to Order by Chair, Mike Shanks

A. Welcome & Introductions

B. Review of Agenda

C. Review of Last Meeting Minutes (posted on GS Lakie Website)

2. Administrative Report:

Sharon Mezei

- a. Happy to have students back. There's been an average of a 7% absentee at our school. We've only had to do an internal coverage on one occasion so far this month due to staff shortage and not being able to get subs. There are schools in the district that have had more difficulty.
- b. Distribution of masks have been staggered by Grades. Grade 6's went home with their masks and test kits today. Grade 7's will take masks and test kits home tomorrow and Grade 8 the following day. There is a procedure in place to ensure anyone who was/is not at school will come to the office to get their supply upon their return to school. We are expecting a further shipment in a few weeks.
- c. Still needing volunteers for parent representation at Division Town Hall. Please contact send an email to Sharon Mezei if you are interested and/or able to attend. The date of the meeting is February 1, 2022 at 6:30pm. The is seeking parent perspectives.

Brad Dersch

- a. Extra-curricular continues to be an evolution and a hot topic. The school is very thankful that students have had some opportunity to participate in extra-curricular activities, even though it may not be what it would normally be. Several schools are

experiencing staff shortages. We are making the best of it and trying to provide the best experience possible for students.

- b. The Westside Basketball Tournament is coming up with Senator Joyce Fairburn. It's a 16-team tournament. Our two schools are working together as united front. Hopefully all goes smoothly and there are no changes due to covid between now and the start of that tournament this weekend.
- c. There has been a weekly meeting in the Division's secondary administrators to discuss extra-curricular polices and to determine whether changes are necessary on that given week.
- d. We continue to live-stream all games. We acknowledge it is not the same as being present in-person, however we are happy to still be able to provide some form of opportunity for parents and grandparents, etc. to watch those events.
- e. Badminton will be starting up following basketball. Basketball quarter finals are starting next week. Badminton starts at the end of February. February 28 is the scheduled date and will run to the easter break. Badminton is generally a 6 week program.
- f. Field trips are currently limited. If trips are relevant to class learning, the school is making best efforts to continue to offer those sorts of opportunity. Fieldtrips such as movies trips, etc. are currently not being offered.
- g. Dance program: Instructors from outside the school have continued to come to our school throughout the year. They are, and have been, required to provide vaccination proof. There have been no issues to date in that regard.
- h. Canteen: We've lost a few volunteers during this second term of the school year. We are having difficulty finding replacement volunteers. The commitment is fairly small. Should anyone being willing and able

Aimee Dewacht

- a. We've registered six (6) new students in the past couple of weeks, with more still coming. We've had a new staff member join our team as Mr. Yartez has pursued new opportunity. Sophie Doiron has begun her role in this position. Three (3) new Educational Assistants have also recently been hired, however, we also recently lost an additional EA due to a family move. We've now replaced that position as well. We've been very fortunate to have exceptional EA staff at our school and we continue to have a great crew. We've been a little short recently due to covid, however, are making the best of this.
- b. We have not yet mapped out what next year looks like, but we are working on that.

- c. Parent/teacher Interviews are later this week. If your child has an ISP, please review it and check-in with your child's teacher as to whether any amendments are necessary at this time.

3. District School Council – Tisha Elford

- a. Alberta School Council Association (ASCA) Conference will be held in Edmonton from April 22-24, 2022.
- b. 2022-2023 Division Calendars are now posted online.
- c. There's a new event coming up whereby Trustees will be available to chat to the public in public spaces around the city (ie. A coffee shop or park) to ask questions they may have for Trustees.
- d. The Division Annual Town Hall is scheduled for February 1 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Parents encouraged to sign up to bring your thoughts and opinion to this meeting.
- e. There was a discussion regarding "Illness Reporting". If you mark your child sick with any other illness other than sickness, it is preferred that you not select "illness" at this time unless the illness is Covid. This is requested in order that the Division can monitor the impact of Covid-19. Should your child be sick for any reason other than Covid-19, parents/caregivers may select "Parent approved absence".
- f. Next District Meeting is March 7, 2022. There will be a presentation on brain development and sleep.

Discussion Topic(s)

- a. Engagement Grant
 - i. In addition to receiving the annual parent council funding of \$250 from the province, we will also be receiving an additional \$500 this school year. There are very specific guidelines as to how these funds may be used and specifically the purpose of the funds is to better engage parents.
 - ii. Discussion regarding the possibility of using funds to hire a translator to attend a Parent Council Meeting. It was decided that an Arabic translator may be a great place to start. Aimee Dewacht will assist with looking into this.

- b. Policy Review re:

[January PAC Minutes](#)
[303.1 Administration Appointments](#)
[404.3.1 Leaves of Absence](#)

No concerns brought forward by attendees. Vanessa Steele report back with an email advising of same.

4. Agenda Additions

- a. Staff appreciation. Teachers were given a cookie and hot chocolate on behalf of Parent Council. This idea followed along the same lines as the book “If you give a Mouse a Cookie”. I.e. If you give a teacher a cookie, they’ll probably want a hot chocolate. There will be one other teacher/staff appreciation toward the end of the school year.

5. Upcoming events

- a. January 27th (evening) January 28th Parent/Teacher Interviews (you can still sign up)
- b. January 27th & 28th Basketball Tournament
- c. February 1st - Division Town Hall
- d. February 16th – Pink Shirt Day (actual day is February 18, but our school will be acknowledging the date on Feb 16)
- e. February 26 is Western Day

6. Addition Information

- a. [School Calendar 2022/2023](#)

7. Bootsma Donut Day

Discussion regarding a good day to hold a “Bootsma Donut Day”, similar to what we did last year. April 14 will be reserved for Donut Day. This will be the last day before the Easter Break. Tisha will contact Bootsma Bakery to make inquiries.

8. Adjournment – Next Meeting February 15th, 2022 at 6:00 pm