

**G.S. Lakie Parent Council Meeting  
Tuesday, February 15, 2022  
Start Time: 6:01 pm  
By Microsoft Teams**

Sharon Mezei  
Brad Dersch  
Aimee Dewacht  
Vanessa Steele  
Tisha Elford  
Christa Pike  
Tyler Demers

Karma Van Schaik  
Markham Johnson  
Laura Miller  
Jodie Goruk  
Jeanine Mikos  
Ginny Bergsma

**1. Call to Order by Chair, Vanessa Steele**

**A. Welcome & Introductions**

**B. Review of Agenda**

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

**2. Administrative Report:**

**Sharon Mezei**

- a. Students returned to the school on Monday, February 14 with the option to wear/not wear a mask. This appears to have gone very well, as some students have discontinued to use of a mask and others have continued to use their masks. All students have been supported regardless of their choice.
- b. Despite the new mask rules from the Government of Alberta, they have continued to send masks and kits to our school. The latest shipping of masks and test kits are currently being distributed.
- c. Dance production is moving ahead. It will be held at Yates on March 10.
- d. Pink Shirt Day is being held tomorrow. All Lakie students will be receiving a pink shirt purchased by the school. Students have also been writing words about themselves on their pink t-shirt. Photos will be taken tomorrow and students will come home with their shirts.
- e. Sharon Mezei has announced she will be retiring at the end of the school year. She feels very fortunate to be wrapping up her career with an exceptional 5 years at Lakie. She will miss the people, both students, staff and parents. Her position will likely be posted by the Division in the next few days.

### **Brad Dersch**

- a. Basketball season came to an end last week with the tournament being held at our school. It was a fun end to an excellent basketball season.
- b. Year end basketball awards: At the beginning of the year, due to Covid, we took a different approach to distributing sports awards. The basketball awards will be given out on a Fish Friday at the beginning of March.
- c. Badminton ID Camps will commence Monday, Feb 28 to Thursday, March 3. We will create our Rep teams thereafter. We've asked students to register in advance for Badminton ID Camps. Additional details will be in the Gator Gab this Friday.
- d. Dance: We are hoping to have our feeder elementary schools attend the Dance Performance at Yates. The date of the Performance is March 10. Times for elementary students would be 9:30 am or noon, however, we are still in the process of working this out as there is some uncertainty due to covid.

### **Aimee Dewacht**

- a. Our Wellness Team made a bunch of valentine cards that they cut into matching pieces and distributed to all staff. Staff then had to find their "valentine match". They also created candy grams. There was a great deal of energy in the school due to these projects. It's been a great couple of days with a positive vibe.
- b. We hired a new EA since the last Parent Council Meeting. We are very excited about this hire. We have a great team of EA's at Lakie.
- c. We have had a great deal of staff members down out with Covid in recent weeks and everyone is doing their best to come together to support each other.
- d. Term 3 will begin on March 14, which will take us to the end of the school year.
- e. PAT's are going ahead for Grade 6 students this year. We acknowledge the concern of some parents that our students are so far behind, and we wish to remind everyone that this is the case everywhere, not just at our school.

### **3. District School Council – Tisha Elford**

- a. Town Hall: There were some technical issues, but overall good feedback like other years.
- b. Next District Meeting is March 7, 2022. There will be a presentation on brain development and sleep.

#### 4. Discussion Topic(s)

##### a. Engagement Grant

- Further discussion from last meeting re: use for a translator.
- Sharon inquired with other schools (middle school and high school). So far other schools have not come up with a plan to use this money.
- Tisha advises at Chinook High School Parent Council they've discussed having a mental health night, ie. A speaker coming in. Also, there is a university student that has previously translated Arabic for a different school who has indicated she would do the same for our school.
- The following are examples of parent engagement activities and projects that funds can be used for include:
  - Workshops for parents to increase capacity for school council members;
  - Information sessions on how parents can support student learning at home and at school;
  - Parent resources and workshops on important topics such as, mental health and well-being, cyber bullying, healthy living, etc.
  - Programs to support multi-cultural and Indigenous families including, English language learners and First Nations, Metis, and Inuit learners;
  - Parent resources and tools in multiple languages;
  - Events to engage parents on important local issues;
  - Parent engagement in promoting the value of arts;
  - Trainer/ facilitator costs for the professional development, workshops, or sessions associated with the above.
- Examples of non-allowable expenses include:
  - Entertainment costs, meals, snacks, other food
  - Capital asset purchases
  - Activities that have already taken place
  - Organization membership or conference fees
  - Fundraising events
  - Prizes or incentives to parents and/or students
  - Payment to school board staff including honoraria, gifts
  - Entertainment activities such as barbeques, volunteer teas, movie nights, dances, concerts or performances, etc.
- Further discussion will need to take place regarding how we would like to promote such an event.
- Discussion re: the possibility of inquiring with Alison Lux to speak regarding mental health. Alison is a psychologist who is contracted with the Division.
- Aimee Dewacht will look into both a mental health speaker and a translator for such an event.

b. Donut Day

- Donut Day has been scheduled for Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup>
- Bootsma Bakery has capped the maximum amount of donuts at 1000.
- 3 flavors: Chocolate sprinkle, homer (Pink Glazed with sprinkles), glazed
- They charge us \$3 per donut (includes box)
- Orders to close by end of March
- We will charge \$5.10 to cover the division fee for school cash online and have \$2 profit per donut
- Reminder that these are big Texas donuts, not regular donuts.
- Fundraiser proceeds from Donut Day will be used to secure the Kona Ice Truck for a date closer toward the end of the school year. Vanessa Steele will inquire with Kona Ice Trust regarding availability. As well, Admins will discuss a date and coordinate with Vanessa.

**4. Agenda Additions**

a. Crosswalk by Grade 7 Doors.

- It can get chaotic at that area and we are wondering if we should look at ways to improve that. Possibly an additional crosswalk.
- Apparently this was looked into last year by a parent who wrote to the City.
- Christine Lee would be the best person to discuss this issue with. She is the liaison between the Division and the City.

b. Honor Roll Recognition.

- What is the current policy on this and why it is no longer proceeding?

Last year it was a different situation with Covid, however, this past Fall there was a conversation with staff at Lakie determining whether honor roll would be continued or not. Some other schools do not do this and it was decided to discontinue this practice for a variety of reasons, i.e. Different teachers grade differently; some students were a percentage or two from the overall honor roll percentage; students who attain a lower overall percentage may have worked equally as hard, etc.

c. Discussion regarding team sports/awards and the competitiveness of sports at the middle school level.

- Parent Inquiry as to whether a similar thing should be done with sports awards as it is in respect of honor roll. It was noted that a new system was put in place this year so that awards were given out after each sports completed its season, rather than hold out until the end of the year. Awards are now typically given during Fish Fridays.
- Concerns brought forward re: Students not being offered school sports at the elementary level and once reaching middle they do not necessarily get an opportunity to play on a team. It would be great to see more students have an

opportunity to play on a team even at the developmental level to encourage confident building, learning and inclusiveness. Discussion regarding the shortage of teachers/staff to accommodate more teams than those that already exist. Noted that if a parent were interested in volunteering, they would still require the presence of a teacher due to Division policy/safety protocols. In recent years however a great deal of progress has been made in this regard.

- d. Parent inquiry as to what to expect for students who are transitioning from Grade 8 to High School and whether there will be any sort of orientation, etc.
  - Teachers and staff typically meet to discuss transition of students at both the Grade 8 and Grade 9 levels.
  - There use to be an orientation process prior to COVID, however, we did not have that last year. This year, Lakie Admin have reached out to Chinook High School to determine what we can arrangement for the upcoming school year. Those details are not yet determine, however are in progress.
  - As well, Lakie will be inquiring with elementary feeder schools to determine the process of transiting Grade 5 students. Lakie admin is hoping at the very least to be able to attend the elementary schools to meet students who will be moving to Lakie for Grade 6.
- e It may be possible to hold the next Parent Council Meeting in-person, however, this will be dependent on the upcoming government announcements.

## **5. Upcoming events**

- a. February 16<sup>th</sup> – Pink Shirt Day (actual day is February 18, but our school will be acknowledging the date on Feb 16)

## **6. Additional Information**

- a. Tyler Demers advised that the School Division will be in contact with our Parent Council Chair, in the coming weeks, to discuss the hiring of the incoming Principal at Lakie. Parent Council will have an opportunity to give input regarding the hiring, ie. any specific characteristics or strengths, etc. that we may be looking for in a Principal.

## **7. Adjournment – 7.24 pm.**

Next Meeting March 29, 2022 at 6pm