

**G.S. Lakie Parent Council Meeting**  
**Tuesday, November 17, 2022**  
**Start Time: 6:05 pm**  
**By Microsoft Teams**

Brad Dersch  
Matt Brunner  
Aimee Dewacht  
Vanessa Steele  
Mike Shanks  
Tisha Elford  
Christa Pike  
Cheryl Gilmore  
Cristian Palma

Karma Van Schaik  
Erin Wallace  
Catherine Ball  
Laura Miller  
Moya Johnson  
Jackie Van Dyk  
Marcel Cvevas

**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)**

Approved by: Tisha Elford

Seconded by: Laura Miller

**2. Administrative Report:**

**Brad Dersch**

Gatorstock – November 28, 2022 at 7pm in our foyer. Tickets are \$5/person.

Beginner Band Winter Concert – December 7 @ 6:30. Tickets are free.

70's Dance Party – November 23, 2022 6-8pm.

Winter Break – Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> and return January 9, 2023

Lethbridge District Town Hall

- It will be in-person this year.
- We'll need 6 parent volunteers, as well as one staff rep, 4 students and 1 community representative from our school.
- Trustees are asking for feedback on two questions:
  - i. In what way are we successfully supporting students to help them grow as learners?
  - ii. Where do you see room for improvement in support students as learners?

## **Matt Brunner**

### Clothing under deadline for Christmas

- New provider this year. November 25 is the deadline to order to get items in time for Christmas.

### Volleyball Wrap-up

- We are very proud of our volleyball teams this year. Volleyball was a big success. We are also thankful for our coaches and the time they've devoted to this season.

### Basketball Start-up

- Tryouts are underway. We are hopeful that the Grade 6 and 7 students who play basketball this year, will develop skills to continue on next year.

### Piano

- A piano has been donated and will live in our foyer. Students have been enjoying use of the piano and it has been a nice addition. It has been neat to see students/staff randomly walk by sit down to play the piano and it has created a great atmosphere for our school.

### Lunch in foyer

- Students have started eating lunch in the foyer this week. Part of the middle school philosophy is to socialize and so we believe it was important to return to this a more socialized setting during lunch. Students were excited about this announcement. There are a couple of things we would like to iron out, but overall, it has been a very positive move.

### Zone banners in gym

- It has been noted that Lakie's sports school banners have never been displayed in our gym, as they typically are in other schools. This has been investigated and it's been determined there are a total 13 banners from previous school years. We are looking at having these previous years achievements displayed as plaques in our gym. Given the cost of the banners, we have decided to purchase plaques for the previous years and in future years we will look at purchasing banners instead.

## **Aimee Dewacht (Report Presented by Brad Dersch)**

### Moving into Term 2.

- Term 1 ending on December 2. Next term starts on December 5. What this means for the middle school level is that new options will start. Core class do not change at the middle school level.
- We offer a diverse set of options. From one term to the next, there is a small percentage of students who request for option changes. We typically ask that students try the assigned option for at least a week before asking to be switched. We do our best to

place students in options they desire, but of course cannot always guarantee students get every option they request.

#### Honour Roll.

- We are returning to a model of recognizing those students who receive an overall 85% average in all core students. These students will be recognized by having their name listed on the honour roll that is displayed in the foyer. These students will also be recognized at the end of the school year.

#### Middle School reporting parent feedback survey.

- Qualtrics Survey/Qualtrics Experience Management.
- During the 1<sup>st</sup> week of December the school will be sending out a survey to find out how parents are liking the way the school is reporting, ie. report cards and grades, etc. This will be a district wide survey.

### **3. Treasurer Report (by Karma Van Schaik)**

We currently have \$901.28 in our account. We will need to pay \$594.75 for the Save to Kids Campaign.

### **4. District School Council**

- There was no parent representative at the last District School Council Meeting, however, Cheryl Gilmore Reports that the division discussed the difference between Parent Council and the Incorporation of a Society. There was also discussion regarding the 4% fee associated with School Cash Online transactions and for administration to ensure parents are aware of this fee as sometimes it is built in to the fee of various items purchase on the School Cash Online website.
- Various school representatives also shared fundraising ideas.

### **5. Teacher Appreciation**

- Next one will be December.

### **6. Updates**

#### Parent Council Bank account

- The various documents have been submitted to the bank in order to set up a bank account for parent council. We are currently waiting to hear back from the bank to ensure everything in is order.

#### Society Progress

- In process of working on the Bylaws and filling out the various forms required by Corporate Registry to incorporate our society for fundraising purposes. We will have a further update at the next meeting.

## 7. New Business

### Citrus Fruit Fundraiser

- Tisha Elford advises the company that she sells fruit for is having a citrus fruit fundraiser in February or March. If we would like to participate in this fundraiser, we would earn \$5/box sold, plus Tisha would donate her profits of sales as well, making the total profit for the school \$10/box sold.

MOTION by Vanessa Steele to participate in this fundraiser during the Winter 2023 school year? Voted. Approved.

### Save the Kids Campaign Feedback

- Parent feedback included some of the following comments:
  - Many parents indicated they were “underwhelmed” by the talk
  - The speak spent too much time talking about his own experience.
  - It felt too much like a lecture about needing to love our kids more
  - His message was the same at every grade level and may have been better received by students if it were more geared for various ages.
  - A great take away was reminding parents to be aware of how they are using social media themselves, and not just how their children are using it.
  - It would have been nice to have Canadian data.
  - The speaker did not provide sources for his data/statistics.
  - Maybe something we could have done locally and paid less for.
  - This speaker did not have the same tone as the Save the Kids Campaign that was previously seen years ago.
  - Some topics discussed were heavy in nature, ie. suicide and given it is a sensitive topic it may have been nice to have a heads up on that, or to not have it mentioned so casually
  - Some parents found it helpful in terms of normalizing conversation about difficult issues.
  - The speaker provided parents with advice to check the content inside their child’s apps for other hidden apps, etc. and this was very good advice and education to have.
  - It was a consensus from parents that their high school students did not take much from the talk. Other parents thought their elementary age children did not understand much of what was talked about.
  - The message reminded parents to put phones away and assist children with sleep.
  - Parents expressed gratitude to those parents who organized this event as it sparked conversations and some of the messaging was helpful.

## **8. Division Report by Cheryl Gilmore in the absence of Kristina Larkin**

- Community Conversations have been continuing at various locations throughout the city. Additional details can be found on the Community Engagement portion of School Division Website.
- The November School Division Meeting will include budget discussion.
- The Division has been attempting to put together stats regarding absenteeism of students. This has been a difficult process due to the inconsistencies of report student absences, ie. due to illness or student excused absences, etc. It appears this task may be erroneous, especially for high school grade levels due to the way absences are reported, but may be slightly easier for elementary grade levels.
  
- Parent Question: Are more students now attending school on Friday compared to last year, as this concern was previously mentioned by Lakie Staff.
- Response: Those stats have not been compiled; however, it seems students have become more interested in attending school on Fridays since we moved to a Friday schedule that includes options. Return of Fish Friday Events has also appeared to be helpful. The energy in the building has certainly improved as a result of these changes and since returning to a more normal following COVID.
  
- Lego challenge currently happening through the district. Students are encouraged to bring their piece, but it is not a requirement. Deadline is sometime in February. More details will be sent out by the school in the next few days.

## **9. Upcoming Events**

November 18 – Rock your Mocs

November 23 – 70's Dance Party from 6pm to 8pm

November 28<sup>th</sup> – Gatorstock

December 7<sup>th</sup> – Winter Wonderband Concert

Winter Break – December 26 to January 6. First day back to school will be January 9.

Next Parent Council Meeting - January 19, 2022 at 6pm.

## **10. Adjournment – 7:10 pm. Motioned by Tisha Elford.**