

G.S. Lakie Parent Council Meeting
Thursday, February 16, 2023
Start Time: 6:02 pm

Brad Dersch
Aimee Dewacht
Matt Brunner
Vanessa Steele
Mike Shanks
Christa Pike
Karma Van Schaik
Cheryl Gilmore
Viviana Lartiga

Laura Miller
Ginny Bergsma
Alfredo Alvaro
Geraldine Torres
Share Thomas
Purdy Martodihakdjo
Catherine Ball
Kristi Orr
Sonalie Wiesbeck

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: Vanessa Steele

Second by: Mike Shanks

2. Administrative Report:

Brad Dersch

- Planning underway for 2023/24
 - Staff intention form for sent out to staff for 2023-2024 school year ie. Retirements, moving on, etc.
 - Staff survey, feeder school visits coming up
 - Last year we had 17 Spanish bilingual students come over from Coalbanks Elementary. We are reviewing options for what next year will look like in that regard.
 - When we start going to feeder schools, we'll have our band and the rock group go at the same time.
 - Options for next year will come out near the end of April. We'll also look at student interest for band again for next year.
 - We will have a live parent presentation in May for those students transiting from Grade 5 to middle school, as well, we'll be having those students come to Lakie at some point following the presentation.

Parent suggestion: To ensure it is clear this year that the Dance Performance Program will be over two terms and not one, as this caused some confusion last year. It was confirmed that Admin will

ensure this is clearly set out, as well as any potential fees that would be associated with a specific option. Ie. Shop.

- Teacher's Convention – Feb. 23 & 24
 - Will take place at the University of Lethbridge next week. It is for teachers of all experience levels. They get to choose sessions they are interested in learning more about.

- Pink Shirt Day – February 17
 - Will take place in our school tomorrow for Fish Friday. Tomorrow "Robbie" the dog will also be at Lakie. The theme will be "Be like Robbie".

- Oz With A Twist – Shows are March 9 & 10 at Yates Memorial Theatre
 - March 9 – 9:15, 12:30, 4:00 & 7:00. March 10 – 9:15, 12:15, 3:00 & 6:00.
 - Entire Lakie student body going to the show the morning of March 9 at no charge.
 - Those parents/public wishing to attend a show can purchase tickets through Yates website. Tickets are selling fast. It is anticipated that shows will be sold out. Lakie also invited other schools to attend matinees and those shows have filled up as well.

- 23/24 Bell times remain the same across the Division as bussing schedule will be relatively the same next year.

Parent suggestion: School division needs to reconsider the early start times. Parent advise research shows kids need to sleep later.

Cheryl Gilmore advised the Division previously attempted having elementary students start later however this strategy did not work out. Unfortunately, it comes down to a budget issue. There has to be an early bus and a later bus to make the budget work. We tried having high school students go later last year and elementary go earlier and this did not go well. Things have been much better this year. The Division ran through 85 bus scenarios when planning for a better solution for the current school year and it was difficult to find a better solution than the one we are currently operating under. We give the bus company parameters and they run scenarios with us over and over again and until we find the best schedule possible. Each additional bus is approximately \$60,000.

Further discussion regarding the 2.4 km boundary. The Division is currently working on a bus registration system.

It should be noted that Ridgewood neighborhood does not have a bus. They once did, however no longer do.

Should anyone have busing concerns, they should contact Cheryl Shimbashi at the Division and she will be able to assist with individual situations.

- 23/24 Division calendar is on the Division website

- March 13 – our Spring band Concert will be at 6pm
- Gator Stock Rock Show will be held on March 21.
- Next school dance will take place on March 30.
- A thank you to Parent Council for the staff appreciation gift and for the Oranges for Options fundraiser.

Matt Brunner

- Basketball summary
 - Basketball season has wrapped up. Our teams did great. Big thanks to our coaches.
- Badminton ID camps – February 27
 - We've decided to wait until after the February break to start ID camps. We need 8 girls and 8 boys.
 - Gator Invitational tourney – March 14-16
 - As well as are going to Senator Joyce Fairburn the week after Gator Invitational Tourney.
 - We also have Cities taking place after the Easter break at the University of Lethbridge.
- Our School & Assurance survey updates
 - We closed the survey last Friday. Grade 6 student survey is different than the Grade 7/8 survey. Matt has also talked with other schools about the survey results and info will provide details at a later date.
 - Parents will also get a survey mailed home to complete. This deadline has been extended until March 17. We will look at the two surveys (students and parents), and determine if there are any common points. Every Grade 7 parent gets the survey, but only random Grade 6 and 8 parents are selected. The government was late sending out the surveys, hence the deadline extension.
- Fundraising for 23/24
 - The school is planning to proceed with Power Card Sales as a fundraiser for the 2023-2024 school year. They are currently in the process of determining which vendors should be on the card for next year and which vendors are prepared to continue offering discounts. This has historically been a successful fundraiser that makes money for our school and students.
 - Parent suggestions to contact The Soda Mill to see if they would like to participate in next year Powercard Fundraiser as a vendor.

Aimee Dewacht

- Panago Pizza Night Fundraiser
 - Panago Pizza Northside location has agreed to donate 15% of their total sales on Monday, March 6 to GS Lakie. A flyer will be sent out to make family aware to order pizza on this date to raise money for our school. Note, Northside Panago does not deliver to the westside, however, pick up is welcomed.
- FISH philosophy in Blackfoot
 - Tom Little Bear translated our FISH Philosophy into Blackfoot. We may also be having a Blackfoot logo to go along with this.
- Grade 6 cellphone and lunch time changes
 - Grade 6 students have gone back to their classroom for eating for the time being. We recognize the importance of having socialization and we will be easing them back to the foyer slowly. We plan to schedule a two-week rotation to reintroduce student back to the foyer. We are hoping to have all students back together after Easter. It appears however the students do not mind eating in the classrooms.
 - Further, there has been a lot of students showing up at class 5, 10 and/or 15 minutes late. We've tried to clean up this issue and have begun seeing improvement. Many Grade 6 student has been standing in the hallways playing on phones at their lockers. Grade 6's now need to have their phones in their locker, not in classrooms.
 - We are currently working on a Device Policy for our school. Students are allowed to ask for their devices at lunchtime. There is a push in schools to get rid of phones, however we are trying to make a policy that is sustainable for the future. Phone use was becoming an issue and we've had to do something to deal with it. Once the Device Policy has been finalized, the school is looking at applying the policy to all grade levels. So far the feedback from parents and students has been generally positive.
- Student regulation and utilization of additional support room
 - We've started an additional support room near our portables. This has been a helpful space.
 - We also put in a swing room in our old caretaking room a few years ago, however, in this last couple of months the use of this room has skyrocketed. It is being used for students who are requiring physiotherapy also. These spaces are being used quite effectively.
 - Students who need assistance with executive functioning skills can also utilize these rooms. There is currently a list of students who attend the room for this purpose on Fridays.

- Silent Disco Dance
 - We are looking into holding a silent disco dance. This is a dance where student wear headphones and using an app they participate in a silent disco dance. This idea still needs to be ironed out but is something we would like to give it a try.
- Trauma book study
 - For those parents who opted to take the book that was made available at the September Parent Council Meeting, you are welcomed to stay for a discussion regarding this book following this meeting.
- 3. Treasurer Report (by Karma Van Schaik)**
 - \$71.67 was e-transferred for teacher appreciation.
 - \$835.36 is the current balance and we are waiting for the Oranges for Options fundraising to be received from school cash online.
- 4. Division Town Hall**
 - Consensus is that the Town Hall went well. Online survey has now been closed.
- 5. Teacher Appreciation**
 - February Teacher appreciation was completed by Tisha. She was unable to be here tonight.
- 6. Updates**
 - Oranges for Options – Everything has been picked up. We sold 69 half cases of oranges. Half cases contained 44 oranges. We purchased 70 cases and the one extra half case was donated to the school. Total profit was \$664. We are pleased with this and are hoping to do even better next year.
 - Society incorporation was submitted to Alberta Corporate Registry early January. We have not yet received filed documents. They've advised us recently that they are currently processing requests received on December 20.
- 7. New Business**
 - The Oz Production
 - We've been approached by the school to organize a silent auction during the night shows being held at Yates. We are looking at doing an electronic silent auction. We have a letter that we can use for corporate donations and will have Cathy send the letter out through school cash online.

- 2023 Option selection
 - Options for next year will come out near the end of April. We'll also look at student interest at that time, including interest regarding the band program.
 - The Arts Programs will be going out to feeder schools. This will include rock, dance, band, etc.
 - Parent suggestion to have Chinook High School participate in attending elementary school to increase student interest re: band.
 - It should be noted that the hip hop tour that took place recently was not a school promotion, but part of the dance program.

8. Division Report by Cheryl Gilmore

- After 38 years Dr. Cheryl Gilmore has given her retirement notice. Huge congratulations to her. We thank her for all she has done over the years and wish her all the best in her retirement.

9. Upcoming Events

Next Parent Council Meeting – March 16, 2023 at 6pm in the Lakie Library

10. Adjournment – 7:21pm. Motioned by Vanessa Steele.