

RF Staples School Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday Nov 26, 2019 – 7pm

Executive: Kerri Wiegand (Chair) Bonnie Jespersen (Sec) Shawna Vollema (Treasurer)
Ellen Barrett (Social Media) Jan Hoffart (Community Member)

Reminders:

- get Pembina Hills Public Schools news! - subscribe at www.phpschools.ca – button on left side
- Operation Education – save (or get a duplicate) of your BP's & McD's receipts!
Turn in to office – proceeds go to RF parent fundraising committee
over \$1200 have been received since 2013
- 2019/2020 School Council Meeting dates: Jan 28 Mar 31 May 26

A Call to Order / Welcome & Introductions

7:05

Attendees: Wayne Rufiange, Kerri Wiegand, Wendy Scinski, Jan Hoffart. Michelle Rigney, Ellen Barrett, Marlene Etherington

B Adopting of Agenda / Adopting of Minutes from Sept 24, 2019

Michelle Rigney adopted Agenda

Ellen Barrett adopted Minutes

C Old Business

C1 – Grad 2020 Convocation date and time – Friday June 26th

Doors for students 3pm, Doors for guests 4pm, Convocation 4:30,

D Administrator's Report / Questions for Administration

D1 – Work Hard Be Kind Assemblies

-reward system of prizes, nominated by teachers, staff and peers

D2 – Diploma and PAT results

-good results

D3 – Upcoming Surveys

-seems that there are concerns from students/parents that the staff are not caring

D3 – The Grandma Posse

-Jason Wiks – not in attendance to report

D4 – Drugs on school property protocol

-low concern, 5 day suspension for possession of drugs, reasonable suspicion of students coming to school "high" will result in suspension as well

D5 – Teacher requirements re: Powerschool

*-policy is to update once per month but it is requested that teachers post more often
-parents have noticed an increase in updating this year*

D3 –October’s Guest Speaker: A’ric Jackson – thank you for email follow up
-great way to promote conversations at home

D4 – Class of ’79 ‘Safe Spaces’
-Danielle Wingrove – wanted to use money to improve student spaces (lounge and student services)

E New Business

E1 – Student trip to Italy
-currently have 27 students, would like 30 by Dec 11

F Student Report – Sr High Executive member

no report

G Trustee’s Report & Questions

See below

I Adjournment

8:45pm

Trustee Report to R F Staples School Council November 26, 2019

Council of School Councils

Meeting was held November 12. There was no rep from RFS School Council.

Ward Review

We are working on the details of the ward review. We are looking at engaging our parents and community through our local school councils and will be wanting time on an agenda in either January or February to lay out our options, timelines and processes.

Enrolment

While overall enrolment in the division is down, no schools meet the criteria for school closure. Total number in community schools was 3776 – this number fluctuates as students move in or out of the division.

Trustee Keough resignation

As a result of the resignation of Trustee Keough, Trustee McElroy will be the representative for the school. He also agreed to serve on the Swan Hills Economic Development Working Group and Swan Hills Community Matters. At this time, there seems to be no need for trustee representation on these two committees. Trustee Lefebvre will sit on the Promoting Activity Wellness and Success (PAWS) and I will represent ADLC. We decided not to hold a by-election as we were committed to doing a ward review.

School Year Calendar

We were provided with 5 options to consider. We have approved the 2020-2021 school year calendar. There will be 184 days of instruction for students in Barrhead and Westlock. Start day for students is September 2 and end day is June 25.

AP 20-03 School Dispute Resolution (External Communication Protocol)

This has not changed from our original External Communication Protocol AP – only the name has changed to align with requirements under the Education Act. This AP addresses who to contact when you are experiencing something you

may view as problematic. It is imperative that you contact the person who is responsible for the decision first. If people try to circumvent anyone in the chain, you will be redirected.

Choice in Education Act

I have participated in a webinar on this topic. At that time I asked the question as to what choices they were considering. The answer was they had no agenda, they wanted feedback from the general public. This could have significant impact on Pembina Hills School Division depending on the final Act. They are seeking input – go to edc.choiceineduc@gov.ca to give your feedback. I found it easier to google search choice in education – survey needs to be completed by December 6.

Tobacco and Smoking Prevention Act

On line survey – due November 29.

ASBA FGM – Nov. 17-19

Position statement going forward to government

- Charter Schools – That Gov't enforce the regulations on Charter Schools and wind down Charter Schools once their learning style, working style or pedagogy is being offered by the local public, separate or Francophone school board.
- Choice in Education Act – That the choice in education act continue to support and enhance the 61 public, separate and Francophone School Boards.
- Naming of Public School Boards – That the minister support public boards in altering their division name under section 116 of the Education Act to include the word "public" in their legal division name.
- Vaping – That the Ministries of Education and Health collaborate and share research about the effect of vaping.... And that all levels of gov't expeditiously amend statutes under the Tobacco and Smoking Reduction act and Tobacco and Vaping Product Act and regulations to align the restrictions on the consumption, promotion, marketing and sale of vaping products to Alberta's youth with those on tobacco products.
- Inclusive Practices – That Ab. Ed. Review current inclusion practices, with involvement from all stakeholders, to assess the strengths and challenges of these inclusion practices, report findings, and provide the necessary funding to implement evidence-based practices that support the diverse learning needs of Alberta students.
- School Bus Speed Limits – PHSD – that buses are able to operate at the posted speed limit
- FTE for Early Childhood Education – That Gov't utilize the actual full time equivalent for ECS when determining school boards' utilization of schools.
- Superintendent Regulation – That Provincial Gov't restore the local autonomy of School Boards, by rescinding the current Superintendent of Schools Regulation and to amend the Education Act to remove the requirement for Ministerial approval of Superintendent appointments.

Director of Transportation

Our current director John Blood has accepted a position elsewhere and so in the interim prior to Director Haitel's return, we will be hiring a coordinator of transportation services.

Budget

We were informed that while budget details will not be released until February at the earliest, what is known is that the budget will remain the same for the next 4 years at \$8.223 billion.

The budget announcement also included rolling 3 grants, class size initiative, classroom improvement fund, and school fee reduction grant into one which is referred to as a 'transition' grant. PHSD lost \$832,899 due to this change.

In addition, property insurance has risen by 276% and is now around \$800,000 with total insurance for the division to be around \$1 million.