

## R.F. Staples School Council Meeting

Tuesday January 9, 2024

1. Call to Order at 6:05pm
2. Chair Rilayna Pidsadowski welcomed everyone.

In Attendance: Cory Kubinec, Mike Edwards, David Truckey, Mike Johnson, Adam Dormer, Robin Horricks, Michelle Rigney, Bonnie Provencal, Darcy Kirkham

3. Land Acknowledgement
4. Approval of Agenda - additions of Snack Ban and Cafeteria made to the New Business section.  
Motion to approve by Michelle Rigney, seconded by Bonnie Provencal, carried
5. Summary of minutes from previous meeting Nov 21, 2023 presented and motion to approve by Bonnie Provencal, seconded by Robin Horricks, carried
6. Trustee Report by David Truckey - Barrhead High School has begun the right-sizing project. Currently has room for 1230 students, enrollment is presently 750, and right sizing will project it for 850. The 2024-25 school calendar has been approved and will have a November week long break again, which will require an earlier August start date. Superintendent Michael Borgfjord has resigned and the process of looking for a new superintendent has begun.
7. School Administration Report by Darcy Kirkham - Senior Boys basketball tournament this weekend has to be postponed due to cold weather. Senior basketball programs had a trip to San Diego and a good time was had by all. Thank you to Pidsadowski's I.D.A. Pharmacy for making a donation to the program to help with funding the trip. There were no calls to the principal during the entire trip. Currently 6 junior high basketball and 3 senior high basketball teams so this is an uptick in participation from last year. Archery started Jan 8 with 43 participants. Some from other schools also participating. Run by Mr. Edwards and Mrs. Kaufman. Social and English diplomas begin this week for the written portion. Week of Jan 23 for other diplomas and exams. Reminder that diplomas CANNOT be rescheduled, and even if poor weather conditions students need to get to the school to write their exams. The next opportunity if these dates are missed is April. Exam dates are posted on school website, facebook page, an email through the school messenger system was sent out, and teachers will be reminding students a lot. Reminder that outdoor activities at the school are canceled if it is -25C or colder, travel by school groups will depend on conditions and choice can be made right up until the event, or even during a bus trip if conditions are too bad. Morning bus routes at the drivers discretion, schools will always be open. Mr. Edwards position as Associate Principal has been extended to the end of the year. He has been working with students with parking privileges to try to keep the student parking lot along Highway 18 cleaner. Jan 31 semester 2 begins.
8. Old Business
  - a. Alberta School Councils' Association workshops - Rilayna has booked the webinar "School Council Purpose" Jan 16 @ 7pm. She will email the webinar link to everyone on the school council email list when she receives it. Hopefully some will have a chance to attend

- b. Council of Council's Dec 5 - Rilayna attended. No advice from other high schools as to the difficulties associated with having an open campus.
- c. East gates - Clarification of supports that are currently available to students which include 2 social workers in the school and that students in need get a referral and their family is also given the opportunity to access help. RCMP involvement does occur when activities are happening in the community, and two officers specifically work with the school and students to deal with youth addiction without incarceration. Every 1-2 months there is an update from Constable Taylor about the legal status of students if pertinent. Overall, there are a wide range of students misbehaving at the gates and into the residential area beyond. If photos or video are sent to Mr. Kirkham, he will contact families and students directly to discuss. We as parents can let community members know this. No parking along the street has helped the school, but moved the kids further afield into the residential area. Suspensions have occurred. Mr. Edwards stated that teachers and administrators supervise every 15 minutes and work hard to keep junior high students away from the area. Efforts are ongoing and colder weather has decreased issues. Request for information about the DARE program was made by a parent - this is an informational program completed with the Grade 9 class every spring to spend a day learning more about addictions, drinking and driving (try out beer goggles) etc. Question by parent if a closed campus (even just for junior high) is a possibility? Mr. Kirkham confirmed that it does have to do with teacher supervision organization and assignable time that each teacher has each year. As a scheduling situation it might be possible for junior high, but could be rather difficult.

#### 9. New Business

- a. Rilayna suggested the opportunity to recognize staff at the end of the semester. Semester break confirmed as January 30 being the best day - very few high school students and teachers mostly busy marking. Parents confirmed that sweets like cinnamon buns and donuts and coffee to be provided for the staff in the staff room would be a good idea. Rilayna will work on that and Bonnie agreed to carry boxes if needed.
- b. Snack Ban - throughout all of junior high due to lack of respect for quiet and clean eating. December warnings were given out but students ignored this and continued to be very disrespectful and messy. Certainly not all students, but not just a few that could be dealt with individually. Likely temporary until some sanity and appreciation of the privilege is restored. Still have breaks in between classes to snack, and if for a medical reason students can have small snacks available in class with them.
- c. Cafeteria - parent brought up that they have been hearing from multiple students that the food quality of the cafeteria has decreased and prices have increased, sometimes multiple times in a week. Sometimes your grilled cheese and fries comes with essentially no fries. Mr. Kirkham stated he has tried to keep an eye on prices as the contract with Chef Angel does require a certain amount of food be provided for a reasonable price. Prices have increased from last year, for

example cheeseburger/fries/gravy/water bottle used to be \$7, now \$10. No complaints have come to Mr. Kirkham at this time from students or staff but he will look into it. Currently Chef Angel does have a year to year contract.

Adjourned at 6:58pm.