

RF Staples School Council Meeting

Tuesday March 12, 2024

Call to order 6:00pm

1. Chair Rilayna Pidsadowski welcomed everyone.
In attendance: Cory Miklos, Robin Horricks, Adam Dormer, Mike Johnston, Michelle Rau, Michelle Rigney, Mike Edwards, Darcy Kirkham, David Truckey.
2. Land Acknowledgement
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Rilayna gave summary of previous meeting minutes - no adjustments.
5. Trustee Report by David Truckey- School calendars all approved for 2024/25. The budget for each school council was increased, and so more opportunity for people interested in attending the ASCA Conference in April. Board attended the Provincial Rural Education Conference where most concerns were regarding transportation and mental health. Address by the Education Ministe Demetrios Nicolaidis was good, he stated he wants to hear from school authorities and he even stayed for a Q&A session. Completed some board planning with Superintendent. Polling and internal surveying was completed by principals of the region when looking for a superintendent, so Board feels they have the right person for the job. Pembina Hills is applying for a School Resource Officer (SRO) for the East side of the division. This will be presented at the tri-council meeting of Town of Westlock, County of Westlock and Clyde. Speak to your school board trustee, or town or county councillor to let them know how you feel about this. Barrhead has had an SRO for many years now and has been very happy with it. Thank you to parents for being involved.
 - a. Discussion about SRO - would cost about \$190 000 per year, a constable trained specifically for that role, numerous partners needed in funding the position but not clear exactly how that would be allocated just yet as in the initial stages, and support from municipal partners is key. The portion that the School Division contributes would NOT be funds that are currently allocated to student resources, but would be from another reserve pool. Mr. Kirkham noted that better communication between the school and RCMP would be very valuable and things occurring at the East gates might get pushed a bit further off campus which would be good for the junior high students. Currently we have 2 school family liaisons who are clinical social workers (both working 0.8FTE positions), 1 full time teacher counsellor, 1 inclusive education coordinator who is also a part time counsellor, 2 success coaches that are both academic and solution focused. Question posed about what this officer would be doing when not at a school, how they would be "shared" around the schools on the East side of the division (RF, Pembina North, WES, Eleanor Hall). Again, not sure at this point, initial stages of the request. Noted by a parent that this is a lot of money, what are the

reasons an RCMP officer would be needed at the school, as RCMP are already in town. What are the facts about how many events have occurred that required police presence at the school? Lengthy discussion about how SRO would hopefully improve communication, allow for prevention, have students feel safer, reduce some of the activities that admin have to do in these areas and allow for them to do more in classrooms as they would like to. Concern from parent about how we need to be cautious about throwing money at something without understanding the underlying issues. It was noted that the idea of an SRO in Westlock schools has been brought up at least 3-4 times in the past 15 years but has never gotten off the ground. Need information about what an SRO would do, how it can help our students.

6. School Administration Report by Darcy Kirkham - Senior Girls Basketball team won Zones and are off to Provincials at Strathmore this coming weekend. It is very exciting and congratulations to all the girls and coach Wade Hicks. Badminton starting, archery continuing, jr. High ski trip to Jasper returning tonight with only 2 minor injuries. High School ski trip will be in April. Feeder school CTS tour is March 20, all 6 spaces are shown off to grade 9's from around the region that will come here for grade 10. In the afternoon they also get information about the RAP program, work experience, green certificate and trades presentations. Open House for incoming grade 10's occurs April 10 and one for incoming grade 7's as well. Thursday March 14 are parent/teacher interviews.
7. Fundraising Report: Casino will be August 28 and 29 - fundraising association will be asking for volunteers before the end of June to make sure we have contact information over the summer. Fundraising Association meeting April 3 at 6pm in the multipurpose room.
8. Old Business:
 - a) Jr. High Snack ban is over - each teacher is now controlling classroom as they see fit.
 - b) ASCA Annual Conference April 26/27/28 - Rilayna is going April 26 for the fundraising association information sessions. Paid online, but noted Sheila Kulmatyski to also get the bill and then possibly reimbursement by Pembina Hills school division.
 - c) Sports program for credits - Mr. Kirkham spoke with a Wetaskiwin school running a hockey program "academy". They have a larger staff and can absorb the requirement of having a dedicated hockey coach with a certain level of training. In April will be our staffing meeting to start to see how many staff RF gets for the next school year. We are not able to have a program like that without making all other class sizes bigger. In Westlock Minor Hockey and our school there are 75 kids enrolled, and Mr. Kirkham could think of another 25 kids in hockey programs outside of Westlock, so about 17% of our current student population. Wetaskiwin charges

\$350/participant and has community support for ice time, with it being donated. Also noted that we are a big volleyball community, lots of kids also involved in basketball and ringette. Overarching “performance” type program? Elite performance is more of a charter school type program, which we cannot do as RF is the only public high school in the catchment area. Also noted that a Gymnastics Academy idea was looked at for Pine Valley Resort and Gymnastics along with Eleanor Hall (Clyde) School a few years back. eSports (gaming) as a high school credit program was also mentioned as a unique program idea. Mr. Kirkham noted RF enrollment was up by 7.5% this year over last.

9. New Business: Next meeting April 23 at 6pm in the multipurpose room

10. Adjournment 7:05