

Agenda for R.F. Staples School Council Meeting  
Thursday September 19, 2024

1. Call to Order at 6pm
2. In attendance: Jennifer Poss, Leane Maguire, Rilayna Pidsadowski, Abby Schmidt, Jaime Sterling, Michelle Rigney, Mike Johnston, Donnelle Schlachter, Kathy Despaul, Michelle Rau, Adam Dormer, Robin Horricks, Julie Dunlop, Brett Seatter, Cory Kubinec
3. Land Acknowledgement
4. Approval of Agenda without any additions
5. Summary of minutes from previous meeting given by Rilayna no adjustments.
6. Student Council Report - Abby Schmidt

Students Union events going well. Students sold concessions at the Movie in the Park and made over \$700, planning to use the money for backdrops for dances. Terry Fox run was a success, cake was handed out to the entire school and over \$700 raised for cancer research. Events coming up: Oct 7-Tropical Day, Oct 8 - Dress like your teacher/teacher dress like students day, Oct 9 - Jersey day, Oct 10 Rock band day/80s day/Neon day, Oct 11 RF Colors day. Going to be a dance - Homecoming on Oct 11 along with the Friday night lights Football game. Parents needed to chaperone, take tickets at the door, etc. Need helpers from 8:30-11:30pm. Meet at 7:45 and Mrs. Stevens will make sure you get fed. Fridays have been selling popcorn and cotton candy and making \$100-200 each time. Money to go towards dance decorations right now. Planning to have a Food bank drive Oct 1-11. Other Football games they are planning to work the gates, need a parent and 1-2 kids from 4-6:30, \$5/vehicle to be allowed in and Students Union will get the money. Dates are Sep 26/Oct 3/Oct 11. Also fundraising towards 2 Christmas trees for the Frosty Dance (\$500/ea at Costco). Also fundraising for a slush machine. Plans for Halloween dance for junior high on Oct 31 and a Frosty Formal in December.

7. Trustee Report - David Truckey

September organizational meeting was held, Judy Lefebvre was elected ViceChair and David Truckey elected Chair. Trustee for Swan Hills has resigned due to a move, but current trustees will divide work among themselves and wait for next general election next fall to fill the spot. 2024 Work plan was completed, committee selections made, getting organized for the year. Division count of students showed about 100 more in the division than last year. Council of School Councils will be held Dec 10 at Barrhead office. Tiffany Nanninga new Executive Assistant as unfortunately Charlotte Watson passed away. Cell phone policy from Province generally went well across the division, many schools already had some policies. There was more pushback from parents than students. Premier's address recently spoke about the School Accelerator Fund which is a \$8.6 billion dollar spend on modernization and right sizing of schools. Our Barrhead High School will be a part of that, hopefully pushing it along faster. Also announced were increased charter school spaces. Meeting with MLA Glen van Dijken regarding new legislation. Consultation across division will be held regarding new policy/procedure that will be developed.

8. School Admin Report - Brett Seatter

Purchases: Over the summer we purchased 2 buses, a 24 passenger and a 44 passenger. Both are used but in good condition and plenty of life left in them. The 24 passenger has been

broken into in the past week, ignition was wrecked. Both will be getting decals applied in the next week or two. Also 29 chromebooks for a high school cart and they were purchased on sale (\$100 less than usual). Utilized mostly for Science 14 class but available for other classrooms on a sign out basis. Band program received \$10,000 from the 100 Women who Care on Sep 18. This is very exciting and will allow for the purchase of new instruments.

Events: Junior high cross country running on Sep 18 at the golf course. Junior high soccer tournament in Fawcett on Sep 26. All of the volley ball teams have started practices, and high school invitational goes this weekend Sept 20/21. High school cross country running team is practicing in preparation for Zones in Hinton. High school golf team participated in zones in Slave Lake on Sep 16. Dream Merchant Theatre has begun after school practices to prepare for their production in late November, they will perform "Willy Wonka Jr". Next week is Truth and Reconciliation Week with Orange Shirt day on Sep 27.

Administration: Jr High and Sr. High have separate lunch breaks with a short overlap (7 minutes) at the end of HS and the start of JR. This has been notably better for eliminating some issues from the past. Grade 7 and 8 classes have fewer teachers this year, creating more cohesion and connection between students and staff. JH now on a 2 day rotating schedule instead of the 8 day schedule last year. HS no longer has a Focus block as this was determined by previous admin as something that needed to be removed. We are monitoring and gathering data on how this impacts attendance, learning, student grades, etc. Alternative timetables have been briefly discussed as potential solutions to mitigate the issues we may find from the loss of the focus block. Any plans going forward would need to mitigate the issues that were happening with the focus block. Cell phone policy has gone well for the most part. Dealing with problems as they arise on a case by case basis. JR High health curriculum is being taught in a designated block in the timetable every 2 weeks. Some health objectives can be covered in a cross-curricular manner but there is a block to intentionally cover the objectives.

Question from parent - Can better cameras or better security be set up to help with things like student parking lot vandalism and the bus break in? Maintenance is looking at revamping the system next summer, not sure if that will mean improved cameras. School itself has been broken into twice on the North Side, same classroom, and the window was left open. Once the custodians were still in the building. Same individual both times. School Admin are working with the RCMP.

Confirmed for a parent that phones at lunchtime are allowed.

School resource officer (SRO) revisited - Trustee Truckey updated us that there will be a meeting with RCMP in the next week or so and hope is that the current pilot project would fund such a position until 2025. Will that project be renewed? Unsure, then would town and county have to fund position? Unsure. Leduc is the newest school to have a SRO this year. Barrhead has had for many years. At this point the Solicitor General Office has to approve the position.

9. Fundraising meeting to follow at 7pm so no full report at this time. Rilayna stated that the casino was a success on Aug 28/29, so funds will be forthcoming.

10. Old Business

a. Bus purchases - already spoken to by Principal Seatter.

11. New Business

a. Meeting dates for the year proposed as: Tuesday Nov 19, 2024 /Thursday Jan 16, 2025/ Monday March 17, 2025/Tuesday May 27, 2025 (AGM). No one

opposed, so these will be the planned dates, all for 6pm in the multipurpose room at RF.

- b. Parent/Teacher/Student conferences Oct 16 and 17. Rilayna and perhaps a few more parents can be at a table to offer information about the School Council and Fundraising Committee. Need to ensure parents know about volunteering and how much they can contribute.
- c. Working on Bylaws/Purpose statement for this council. Rilayna asked what length of term we should put. 2-year might discourage people from volunteering, so 1-year term? No opposition. Rilayna also asked if the term is renewable, how many years can someone sit on the council as chair/vice-chair/secretary? No opposition to having unlimited renewals, to ensure that someone is taking the positions. Question from parent about what the purpose of this School Council is, and Rilayna stated it is an advisory council, to give input to administration and division representatives and a place where parents can get information from them. Rilayna also stated that we need to advocate to other parents about the need for volunteers in the school. \*\*Ask at school office for form requiring security check, then go to RCMP office and they will do a Vulnerable Sector Security check very quickly.\*\* Much easier than in previous years.

12. Adjournment at 6:35pm