

RF Staples School Council Meeting

November 19, 2024

- 1) Call to order 6:00pm
- 2) President Rilayna Pidsadowski welcomed everyone.
In attendance Kathy Despaul, Julie Dunlop, Tara Thue, Cory Kubinec, Andrea Fox-Robinson, Madison Kolotyluk, Robin Horricks, Kathy Carnegie, Jamie Sterling, Shauna Nyal, Brett Cooper(Superintendent) , David Truckey, Kyle Beattie, Jessica Stevens.
- 3) Land acknowledgement
- 4) Approval of agenda- added to new business draft of 25/26 school calendar and student parking lot.
- 5) Summary of previous meeting minutes read by Rilayna. No adjustments
- 6) Student Council report by Madison Kolotyluk. Student did a Food bank drive and raised \$300 in cash with some non-perishables to donate. The students are doing a blanket and coat drive into December. For a community service they are thinking of doing snow angels (snow shoveling) for the winter and a seniors dance at the seniors center. The Homecoming dance in October was a huge success with 170 tickets sold! \$1700 raised from ticket sales. There were 25 chaperones and the RCMP did a walk through as well. Next they are planning the Frosty Formal dance. Decorations have been purchased and planning is taking place with Mrs. Stevens.
- 7) Trustee Report David Truckey- the 25/26 school calendar draft is out. They have had some feedback on some of the days off like September 30 (Truth and Reconciliation day) most parents would like their kids to attend school that day. November break continues to be a discussion. Parents either love it or hate it. Bus safety is a concern! There have been 44 fly bys on bus routes this year!! Last year 88 for the entire year. Barrhead is having concerns with logging trucks. The board has had discussions with the RCMP on both matters and have been in contact with the MLA. The board has approved Policy 30- A place for all. The board is dedicated to creating a welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe learning environment that values the diversity and fosters a sense of belonging. They had extensive inputs from school councils, school community members, teachers and parents. Please read more on the Pembina Hills school division website about this policy. Enrollment throughout the division hasn't had a huge change from last year.
- 8) School Administration Report by Kyle Beattie- Jr high volleyball has wrapped up. 4 girls' teams and 2 boys' team (60 kids) who played their hearts out and had a great season. Thank you to all the volunteer coaches that make this possible. Thank you to Jessica Stevens and the Student council for making Homecoming week a huge success! Kids had a great time. The Jr high dance on Oct 31 was a success too. Lots of kids up dancing. High school volleyball is wrapping as well. JV boys did well, JV girls got silver at zones. Sr boys received bronze and Sr girls got gold!! They are on their way to provincials in Ponoka Wednesday! They are ranked 4th in Alberta going in. They held a pep rally today to support the girls today. Basketball tryouts are starting up. Looking for coaches expecting a lot of kids. Dream Merchant Theater is presenting Willy Wonka Jr. November 28, 29, 30 and December 5, 6, and 7. High school awards night November 22. The high school exam schedule is up on the website. Focus block, still collecting data and feedback on it being gone for this year.
- 9) Fundraising Report- meeting to follow our meeting at 7pm

10) Old Business

- a) Bylaws- started on a working draft. Looking to other school councils for feedback. Rilayna had 2 Questions 1- Do we want to continue AGM in May? Brett Cooper suggested to continue in May as the council needs to hand a council report to the board yearly in June. The old council could wrap up the year and a nice transition to the new council could happen. Everyone in attendance agreed to keep AGM in May.
Question 2- What should our mission statement focus on? Example 1- The RF Staples School Council will work together to support students to become informed, engaged citizens and curious lifelong learners through continual communication and commitment or Example 2- To foster the well-being and effectiveness of our school community and to enhance student learning . Tabled to next meeting so parents and staff can think about which one suits our council better.

11) New Business

- a) 25/26 school calendar draft- back to school August 27, fall break November 8-16 discussion ongoing. Some parents want to start after long weekend and no break. Some parents/teachers want a germ break in Nov and love the break. Brett Cooper said there will be parent survey going out very soon regarding the draft and all parents are encouraged to put your feedback in. The board will discuss the results of survey and approve the 25/26 school calendar based on parent feedback. Also there are 91 days in semester 1 and 94 days in semester 2. Teachers would like the days to be more even.
- b) Student parking lot- a parent brought up a concern about the condition and maintenance of the student parking lot. It's in poor shape with large pot holes and ruts and is wondering if it could get some regular maintenance. Kyle said he would be in contact with Pembina Hills maintenance department to discuss. Is there a possibility to expand the parking lot? Currently street parking is only allowed if you get a parking pass from the town. It was suggested to survey the students to see how many students drivers the actually are. Student parking lot to be added to next agenda. Better camera were also suggested in the student parking lot by a parent. It was suggested that maybe the fundraising committee could help pay for cameras. It was also brought up by a parent why awards night is on Nov 22 which is town light up and if next year it could be planned at a different time. This was tabled to April meeting.

12) Adjourned 6:56 (next meeting January 16,2025)