

R.F. Staples School Council Meeting
Wednesday March 18, 2026

In Attendance: Kathy Carnegie, Kathy Despaul, Rilayna Pidsadowski, Tara Thue, Robin Horricks, David Truckey (arrived late), Derek Dachyshyn, Kyle Beattie

1. Call to Order 6:03pm
2. Welcome by Rilayna Pidsadowski, Chair
3. Land Acknowledgement
4. Approval of Agenda - consensus vote, all approve
5. Summary of minutes from previous meeting - Rilayna read minutes and consensus vote approved minutes
6. Student Council Report - no one present to give a report
7. School Admin Report - Derek Dachyshyn
 - a. Events: Archery tournament Feb 13-14 with 350 participants
 - b. Jasper Ski trip for jr and sr high, 46 students.
 - c. Basketball season wrapping up, had 7 teams, big thank you to all the coaches, teachers, officials, bussing, etc to make the season a success. Senior girls won zones and off to Provincials in Coaldale Mar 19-21.
 - d. Soul Sisters sponsored presentation March 12 by Ahmad Jabbar about mental fitness, joined by students from St. Mary's and Westlock Outreach School.
 - e. Gr. 9 students from PNCS and EHS came to school March 18 for tour, info about CTS courses and electives. RFS gr 9 students then joined for a presentation in theatre about high school credits, graduation requirements, and planning for programs and course requests.
 - f. Early planning for 2026-27 has begun, and will be much busier after Spring Break.
 - g. High school options have been a tough situation where interest is not enough to warrant running an entire class. Aviation had to be cut, Business studies was also cut. More independent studies being completed instead. Jr high options seemed to go better. Grade7 with one block being the required band to start, then french and drama OR continue in band. Likely this scheduling will be continued next year. Grade 9 Agriculture was mandatory, making it easier for planning and the field trips. However we might not have the funding for next year (Last year some grant \$ from Westlock Community Foundation had been secured.) A new mandatory option for junior high in 2027/28 is Career, Education and Financial Literacy, our school is considering making it mandatory for 2026/27 as well.
8. Fundraising Report - Kathy Carnegie
 - a. Completed a 50/50 fundraiser through Rafflebox online. Jan 23-March 2, total pot was \$4630, with winner receiving \$2315. Will plan to repeat again as it is now set up for a calendar year.
9. Old Business
 - a. Presentation to school and parents by Ahmad Jabbar. The evening session had about 11 parents/guardians come and was appreciated by all. It wasn't exactly what the students received, but still a mental fitness focus that was interesting and informative.

10. New Business

a. Diploma results - review

RF was very close to provincial results for acceptable/passing grades in almost all subjects. We did not have as many exceptional results as provincial benchmarks. Some key areas like numerical response results were not as good, so teachers may focus more on examples of those types of questions. There have been Collaborative Team Meetings between high school and junior high teachers for strategies to improve grade 9 writing in both social and LA for coming into grade 10. Question by a parent: are Clyde and PNCS teachers in these meetings as well? If not, perhaps they should be. Question by a parent: how do these diploma results compare to other years? No knowledge in the moment from admin, but Rilayna stated she remembered there being more issues with RF not having enough acceptable grades in past years to match the provincial results.

b. School Fee Schedule approval for 2026-2027 - only three additions

- i. a Vista Virtual fee for a second course. All RF students can take 1 VV course at no charge. If they choose to take a second they will have to pay a course fee upfront (could be up to \$650, depends on the course) and when they pass they get the fee refunded. Try to increase accountability.
- ii. Distance learning/work experience bond - \$50/credit
- iii. Agriculture Field Trip fee - up to \$25

Some increased fees, to allow for rising costs. Some removed fees as they are no longer applicable. Kathy Carnegie motioned to approve the fee schedule as presented and listed. Kathy Despaul seconded the motion. Vote passed.

- c. Job Fair - May 5, 2026 8:30-4:30 at Spirit Centre. Mr. Dachyshyn still hasn't seen many colleges or universities on the list, but hopeful the Chamber of Commerce will succeed in getting a few out.
- d. Alberta Post Secondary Schools powerpoint prepared by Mrs. Stevens shown briefly. It has been shared with students, hopefully of all grades, and parents asked for it to be posted on the RF website, perhaps under the "For Parents" section, perhaps near the scholarship information. It can be shared with parents via email as well.

11. Trustee Report - David Truckey

- a. Feb 25 school board meeting included approving an international tour for Barrhead Comp students going to Europe.
- b. 2026/27 Budget Framework for operating budget approved in principle. Gives direction for administration to build the detailed budget which must be submitted by May 31 to Alberta Education. The board confirmed that the budget will be balanced, meaning spending will not exceed expected revenue; the division is not in a position to allow deficit spending. Enrolment projections have been developed carefully by each school, and staffing levels are expected to remain similar to 2025-2026. No schools will be opened or closed. The budget will also reflect a new CASA Mental Health classroom and the continuation of the provincially funded K-6 classroom complexity team.
- c. 2026/27 Calendars finalized and alternate calendars approved for 11 schools in the division.
- d. Transportation fees for in-town bussing is increasing to \$280/year and the "walking distance" cutoff has changed. If K-6 it is now >1.6km. If 7-12 it is >2km.

- e. Parent engagement night at Fort Assiniboine to discuss enrollment. Had 17 participants along with the Board rep and admin.
 - f. Elementary school councils are excited that Fundraising could be paid to them through the online school pay system in the near future. Parents are looking for online ways to pay and this could be helpful. More information will be shared as it comes available.
12. We are needing to recruit for next year before the AGM in May. Rilayna is willing to stay on as chair, but we will need a new secretary. Not sure about Vice-chair Michelle Rigney at this time.
13. Adjournment 7:02pm (Next meeting includes AGM Tuesday May 26, 2026 6pm)