R.F Staples School Council Meeting
Wednesday September 16, 2026 - 6pm

Attendance: Kathy Carnegie, Kathy Despaul, Robin Horricks, Rilayna Pidsadowski, Sharalynn Seibt, Michelle Rigney, Katana Jestin-Monteith, Vanessa O'Quinn, Tiffany Schlachter, Maureen Schnirer, Brett Seatter, David Truckey, Keeara King

Meeting Minutes:

1. **Call to Order - 6:03pm**

2. **Welcome - Rilayna Pidsadowski, Chair.**

3. **Land Acknowledgement - Rilayna Pidsadowski, Chair**.

4. **Approval of Agenda** - Consensus Vote, Approved.

5. **Summary of Minutes from Previous Meeting** - Rilayna read minutes and consensus vote approved minutes

6. **Call for Nominations for Secretary** - Katana Jestin-Monteith was nominated. A consensus vote was given. Approved.

7. **Student Council Report** - A member from Student Council was not able to attend the meeting or provide a report at this time.

8. **Trustee Report - David Truckey**
   Superintendent of Schools has been appointed - Welcome Raime Drake. School Attendance Numbers will be available at the board meeting next week. The hold and secure that was had at Barrhead Composite High School is still being investigated. The Barrhead modernization is at $68 million dollars currently. Swan Hills rebuild is still in progress. Busby Modular is still in progress.

9. **School Admin Report - Brett Seatter**

Purchases: Purchased some new band instruments to make sure we have enough for all students (especially for grade seven students) to have access to an instrument, but also to keep the inventory up to date and functional. The PE department updated some new equipment after not getting much last year. Media arts upgraded a couple of cameras and a lens. Overall, our budget is limited and purchases will continue to be tight. We will remain frugal to get through the year.

Events: Junior highs had cross country running at the golf course on September 16th, with the unified team joining as well. Junior high soccer will be in Fawcett again this year in October. All of the volleyball teams have begun practices and tournaments. The high school cross country team has started practices in preparation for zones. Dream Merchant Theatre has begun after school practices in preparation for the upcoming production of “Aladdin”. Orange Shirt Day is on September 29, and we will be hosting an assembly.

Administration: Junior High and high school have different lunch breaks this year due to a change in the high school timetable. So far, this has worked very well. The junior high teamers are implementing the new CEFL,PE&W, and Math 7/8 curriculum this year. ELS (Extra Learning Support) started on September 8th. A letter was sent home to high school families outlining how it works and where students can go. So far it has gone quite well and is being utilized well by the students here.
Convocation date due to diploma exams on June 25th and potentially June 28th, we are looking to have the school convocation on May 28th this year - though this date is not yet confirmed.
Students in K&E are needing work experience as a requirement for graduation but often these students have a difficult time finding a job and businesses are hesitant to hire them. We have begun to canvas nearby businesses to support work experience students (with EA support as needed) to come in once per week to complete tasks at their level of ability. So far the Dollar Store, Giant Tiger, and 180nation are on board.

10. **Fundraising Report - Kathy Carnegie**

Fundraising meeting to follow.

11. Old Business

a. **Purpose of School Council (Review)**

b. **Staffing Changes** - Mrs. Pfaeffli was hired for Grade 7 LA/Socai Studies. Mr. Ivey was hired for PE/Math/CTF. Mr. Schole was hired for high school Social Studies and English. Miss. Dadson was hired for Media Arts/Photography/Science. Miss. Politeski was hired for high school Social Studies and English. Miss. Van Brabant was hired for Grade 9 Science/Social/CTF. Mrs. Mattman was hired as a new Educational Assistant. Mrs. Huppertz is on temporary leave. Ms. Strach is covering until the new year.

12. **New Business**

a. **Extra Learning Support (ELS)** - Started on September 8th. A letter was sent home to high school families outlining how it works and where students can go. So far it has gone quite well and is being utilized well by the students here. This block is to be used for time for extra help, time to catch up on missed assignments, homework, studying, fitness and activity in the gym/weight room. Some students are utilizing it for extra time in the mechanics of cosmetology labs. It will also be used for time for grad photos for students who can not miss their other classes when photos are available. Connections between peers or with teachers. “Soft Start” has made the first class more focused and efficient.

b. **Energy Drinks/Vaping/Sports Gambling Apps** - Education opportunities for our kids. The school is looking into this topic further. Teachers do not want students, especially within the junior high school drinking energy drinks during class time. Energy drinks are not available for purchase on school grounds. A discussion took place about the possibility of bringing in a speaker on these topics, or implementing them within the health and wellness curriculum. Admin is considering a ban on energy drinks for students on campus and wanted council feedback. One parent wondered how many teachers drink them and

asked if they would be included in the ban as they are role models. Overall parents in favor of a ban if admin follows through with it.

c. **Possible Speaker on Anxiety** “You are not Alone” Eric Reinhart (October 26 - November 6 range of dates). Parents in support of school getting this speaker as he seems to have an entertaining performance with a good message.

d. **Community Coach Support** - Community Coaches are able to ask administrators for parent contact information. There is a school representative required at all events. In junior high a teacher or Educational Assistant is required for all events. If a teacher or Educational Assistant is not available, an administrator can assign or recommend a member of the community or community coach support. A document is being created for community coaches so they are aware of their responsibilities. There are courses offered through NCCP online that coaches can take - Rule of Two, Respect In Sport, Coaching with Disabilities are examples of courses available.

13. **Next Meeting Dates Proposed**
    - Tuesday November 17, 2026
    - Monday January 18, 2027
    - Monday March 15, 2027
    - Tuesday May 18, 2027

    All meetings start at 6:00pm.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:58pm