

# MINUTES

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Neerlandia Public Christian School Council  
Monday, September 24, 2018 @ 7:30PM

Present—Randy Strydhorst, Jennifer Tuininga (school trustee), Lee Anne Schmidt, Katherine Nanninga, Janice Wierenga, Sheri Strydhorst, Charlene Nanninga, Annemiek Elzinga, Amanda Batty, Brett Seatter  
Absent—Adam Crabbe

## 1. Call to Order

2. Devotions—Annemiek Elzinga

3. Adopt Agenda—Added 7c—Parent Engagement Task Force

4. Review and Approve Minutes—Minutes approved

## 5. Business from Minutes

- a. NPCSC/NCES AGM—November 5, 2018
  - i. Promote—**ACTION—Amanda** will get in school newsletter, on facebook, CRC bulletin
  - ii. Reports—**ACTION—Jennifer Tuininga** will give report as trustee, **Brett** will give principal's report, **Steve** will give president's report, **Randy** will give treasurer report.
  - iii. Devotions—**ACTION—Annemiek** volunteered to open with devotions
  - iv. Refreshments—**ACTION—Annemiek** will ensure coffee is made. **Charlene** and **Lee Anne** will bring baking.

## 6. Reports

- a. Principal/Student Council Report—Brett reports that the theme for morning assemblies is “Living the Story”. After putting Monday morning assemblies on pause for the first couple weeks it was decided that staff members would take turns telling their stories. Reports that Running Club is new this year and is run by Brett Wierenga. Great participation from the elementary level. Terry Fox and orange shirt day are Sept 27. Reports on Grade 2 service project about buying Bibles for the Wierenga (Trent) family to take with them on mission trip. Grade 1-3 have new Math resource, although there is some adjustment to the format and timing, there are already strong results in student understanding. Band trip is being planned. Volleyball is underway with a junior and senior team for both boy and girls. Experiencing some bussing challenges and will address same with Superintendent Garbutt.
- b. School Trustee—As Attached

## 7. New Business

- a. Alberta School Council Association (ASCA) Workshops—Steve reports that membership in ASCA is paid by division. Email was sent out to board members about attending upcoming events. If members are interested contact Jennifer Tuininga regarding intent to attend.
- b. Council of School Councils (COSC)—November 6, 2018—**ACTION—Charlene** volunteered to attend
- c. Parenting Engagement Task Force—Steve reports that this is a group that seeks feedback from parents to present to government etc. Once or twice yearly a request for input comes, and then the question can be brought to board members for input. Steve has web address for members willing to sign up.

## **8. Correspondence**

## **9. Adjournment**

**Next Meeting—October 29, 2018 @ 7:30pm**

### **School Trustee Report – September 24, 2018**

#### **School Board Organizational Meeting**

At the organizational meeting, I was elected to continue serving as Board Chair, and Trustee Wendy Scinski as Vice chair. A full list of board committees is available on the division website.

#### **Board refines travel ban list**

In October 2016 the school board suspended authorization of international field trips to all of Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia for two full school years, until August 2018.

Assistant Superintendent of Education Services Mark Thiesen provided an update for the board on international travel conditions. Following his report, the board voted to extend the travel ban until August 2020, with some changes. While Africa, the Middle East and Asia remain off limits, the board will now consider approving trips to Europe. They also added the Indian subcontinent to the travel ban list.

Although a specific country may not be included in the travel ban list, approval is still subject to the guidelines in AP 60-03 Field Trips, Excursions, National and International Tours.

#### **Division begins work on Indigenous Elder Protocol**

Assistant Superintendent Thiesen also provided an update on the status of an Indigenous Elder Protocol, intended to help guide schools in their engagement with the Indigenous community. The school division will seek input from Elders in the community as part of the next steps.

#### **Internal Audit Report Items**

Use of the online fee payment system through SchoolCashOnline.com continues to increase especially with younger parents (NPCS – 55%). This is very helpful to school staff as students do not have to carry cash or cheques to school. It is available for any item or trip that the school enters the information for. After the year 2020 student records will only be maintained electronically.

#### **LED Lighting Upgrade**

With a combination of in-house facilities staff, summer students, and electrical contractors the first phase of the LED lighting project was completed. They replaced 2500 fixtures, 1500 ballasts and 12,250 light tubes! PHPS received a \$159,000 rebate from the government to help pay for this project as well as using monies from the maintenance budget. After a three-year payback timeframe the division will see a potential energy savings of approximately \$150,000 a year.

#### **Other Facilities Summer Projects**

- Gym floors at Dunstable, Barrhead Composite High School
- Major renovation to Busby School to ensure barrier-free access
- Maintenance on modulars at Pembina North
- Expanded parking at Eleanor Hall
- Roofs at Fort Assiniboine and BCHS

- Staff Room and Foods Room at Fort Assiniboine
- Old school site at Fawcett filled in and gravelled, ready for the community

### **PHPS Relocation Incentive**

In May 2018 PHPS introduced a \$2,500 Relocation Incentive to all new and existing employees who live outside the division and choose to move to a community within Pembina Hills' geographic area. Twenty-four staff members took advantage of the incentive, four were existing staff. Half of the staff members (12) settled within the Town of Barrhead.

### **Education Minister David Eggen Visits Sunny Bend Colony - September 20th**

The students, staff and parents of Sunny Bend Colony School were proud and excited to welcome Minister Eggen to his first ever colony school visit. It was a great morning that included showcasing inclusive learning within the school, and hearing from the colony leaders. Kathy, a grade 9 student, described a typical colony school student day, which includes two hours of German school in addition to English school each day.

### **School board news to be published in local newspapers**

The education of our children is far reaching. Discussions about the decisions that impact students have an impact on us all. Regular space in the Barrhead Leader, Swan Hills Grizzly Gazette, and Westlock News will be reserved to publish the school board news to a larger audience.

### **PHPS Citizenship Awards**

For over 20 years, the board has presented Citizenship Awards to chosen students in Grades 6, 9 and 12, based on the criteria in *Administrative Procedure 20-18 PHPS Citizenship Awards*. At our September 12th meeting, the board discussed revising the criteria for the award, including eliminating the academic requirement. Instead of one award winner per year, we talked about possibly recognizing more students more often, similar to the Recognition Awards program that honors exemplary teachers, support staff, contractors, parent volunteers and community partners. We also talked about doing a combination of the end of the year and ongoing awards.

To help guide our decision, the board is asking for input from parents, school councils, students, principals, staff and community members. We will gather the input we receive and then revisit the topic at a November board meeting. We will then provide direction to the Policy Committee for the drafting of a policy on recognizing student citizenship. Look for the online survey on the division website mid-October to provide your input.

Follow me on Facebook or Twitter!  
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### **1. Do you think the board should continue with the annual Student Citizenship awards, change to an ongoing award similar to the Recognition Awards, or perhaps a combination of the two? (please check one)**

- Continue with the present practice of annual awards in gr. 6, 9 12 at the end of the year
- Provide ongoing citizenship awards throughout the year for all students
- Do a combination of the above - both annual and ongoing

*Comments, other ideas you have to recognize student citizenship:*

**2. What other award criteria might you add when thinking about student citizenship?  
(The board is looking at removing criteria 1.5.)**

**Current Criteria:**

- 1.1 Demonstrates concern for school, community and people through active involvement in local or regional structures (e.g. Student's Union, 4-H, School or Community Committees, etc.).
- 1.2 Active history of volunteerism.
- 1.3 Proven ability to learn from errors and to positively accept consequences for actions.
- 1.4 Proven history of actively and positively seeking solutions to problems and issues.
- 1.5 Maintain an overall academic standard of at least 70% in the four core (Language Arts, Social Studies, Sciences and Math) academic courses

**MINUTES**

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Neerlandia Christian Education Society  
Monday, September 24, 2018 @9:00PM

Present—Randy Strydhorst, Lee Anne Schmidt, Katherine Nanninga, Janice Wierenga, Sheri Strydhorst, Charlene Nanninga, Annemiek Elzinga, Amanda Batty, Brett Seatter

Absent—Adam Crabbe

**1. Call to Order**

**2. Adopt Agenda**

**3. Review and Approve Minutes—** Minutes approved

**4. Business from Minutes**

a. Pancake Breakfast—Those who helped felt it went well, although we were low on food this year, so sent info to Lorna for next year. **ACTION—Charlene** will send card to Larry, Barry, Colin and John for cooking for us. Also discussed that some parents find attending the Pancake Breakfast at the start of school too much, and whether we would want to change the day to Terry Fox Day instead. Also, it was suggested that in publicizing the pancake breakfast we should have an end time for the breakfast so that the assembly isn't delayed. Having an agenda for the morning was also mentioned so everyone knows how things will proceed.

b. Welcoming Committee—Charlene reported that she contacted new families to inform them of NCES and answer any questions.

c. New Board Members—Katherine Nanninga volunteered to be on school board and was in attendance

d. Transportation Fees—Steve reported that the family that had the entire bussing fee paid for by NCES chose not to attend and that same will be refunded. Charlene reported that most rebate fees have been paid.

e. Terry Fox Run—Steve talked to Amy at TD Bank regarding whether they would like to attend Terry Fox Run to showcase outdoor classroom. **ACTION**—Steve will speak that morning to thank them for grant.

## 5. Reports

a. Financial—Randy reports that membership donations and associate membership are far lower than budgeted. Several questions asked and answered about various line items.

b. Preschool—Steve reports that Jill informed him that classes start Oct 3 with a total of 24 students.

i. Contract—The Board reviewed contract. Discussion had about whether we are paying teacher enough, given that she can sub as teacher as well. It was mentioned that last year we increased her wage from \$20 up to \$25. Determined that wage might be slightly below regular teacher, but prep time is quite generous. **ACTION—Steve** will discuss with Renee how much prep time is reasonable to expect for preschool age children.

c. Outdoor Classroom—Randy reports that budget for outdoor classroom was met, no extra money for outdoor instruments.

## 6. New Business

### a. Funding Request

i. Request from food studies for four blenders at approx 50/blender. Annemiek motions to spend \$200 towards food studies program. Motion seconded and carried.

ii. Band Trip Request—Request to subsidize the cost of 11 students to attend a band camp at Camp Nakumum and complete workshops with a conductor. Students would stay overnight one night. Randy motions that we use \$500 from Band Budget to pay for Camp Nakumum band experience. Motion seconded and approved.

iii. Request for wood studies program. Anticipated that tools purchased would last 10-20 years. Tools are used once a week. Anticipated cost of supplies is \$3,318.00. Suggestion made that Neerlandia Coop might be able to get good wood working supplies for good price. Amanda motions to spend a maximum of \$3,300 for wood working program and adding same as a budget item for next years budget. Motion seconded and approved.

### b. Prairie Centre for Christian Education

i. Annual Fees—Fees are \$13,000

ii. Teacher's Convention—This year it is anticipated that attendance fees will be covered by the ATA. Brett unsure of teacher attendance numbers at this time. **ACTION—Steve** will talk to Kim re: conference costs (hotel etc)

iii. Workshop on Board Governance— Steve reports that Gail is scheduled to come out to present on November 12, 2018.

c. Membership Programs—Suggested that we put note in youngest child's agendas regarding lack of memberships, and only mail associate memberships donation requests.

**ACTION—Steve** will get same to Debbie for agendas

d. Volunteer Sign up List—**ACTION—Amanda** will email out last years list to board for feedback and ensure it gets handed out at parent teacher night or in school agendas.

e. After School Program—Amanda reports that she has been approached by a few parents who indicated it would be easier for their child to attend our school if an after school babysitting service was in place. These children do currently attend but might be more difficult for parents in future with out this program. **ACTION—Amanda** will contact Barrhead and find out info surrounding their after school program.

f. Playground Equipment—**ACTION—Annemiek** and **Lee Anne** will inventory equipment and assess if replacements needed.

g. Future Chair person—Steve stressed that his term is done soon, but if someone willing to take the role now, then he would be able to mentor for next couple meetings.

**7. Correspondence**—Letters for Treasurer.

**8. Closing —Amanda Batty**

**9. Adjournment**

Next Meeting—October 29, 2018 @ 7:30PM

Devotions—

Closing—