

MINUTES

Neerlandia Public Christian School Council
Monday, October 29, 2018 @7:30pm

Present: Steve DeVries, Randy Strydhorst, Jennifer Tuininga, Charlene Nanninga, Amanda Batty, Annemiek Elzinga, Janice Wierenga, Sheri Strydhorst, Adam Crabbe, Katherine Nanninga
Absent: Lee Anne Schmidt

1. Call to Order

2. Devotions—Steve DeVries

3. Adopt Agenda

4. Review and Approve Minutes—Minutes approved

5. Business from Minutes

- a. NPCS/NCES AGM—**ACTION- Amanda** will double check that ad will be in NCRC bulletin. Otherwise no concerns with hosting AGM
- b. Council of School Council—Charlene planning to attend same.

6. Reports

- a. Principal/Student Council—Kim reports for Brett as he is unable to attend. Reports that there is a good start to school year. A disabled student returned to Grade 8 and staffing had to adjust to accommodate this student's needs. Alvina now works 3/4 time in Grade 4. Kim works with small groups. Meghan Furster hired to run Grade 6 band. A combined Grade 7 and 8 math class was attempted but due to various student needs was not workable and these classes are now separate. Thanks extended to NCES for sponsoring band trip, the students found it enjoyable and beneficial. Thanks also given for blenders purchased for food program. Brent W is starting after school volleyball club for Grades 5 and 6 students starting in November. Issues continue with bussing, regarding a full bus to get Barrhead students here and another student wanting to attend Neerlandia. Superintendent Garbutt is aware and working towards solution. Brent, Brett and Jason went to TFT convention and were trained in same. Hoping for PCCE training in 2019. Eleven staff went to teachers convention and was fantastic event with a good keynote speaker, very encouraging and uplifting. Kim states that they had Bible break out sessions and she is planning to streamline the Bible materials in NPCS. Kim said she attended Christian leadership conference in Ottawa and was very thankful for the support of NCES.
- b. School Trustee—As attached

7. New Business

- a. Curriculum Town Hall—Sheri attended and reported on same. The curriculum is what the students need to know, and the teachers decide how to teach it. Updates are planned in Art, Math, LA, Science, and Wellness. The first field tests will be Dec 2018 for certain grades, and then roll outs periodically after that. Literacy is embedded in all subject areas. Focus is also given to first nations education.

8. Correspondence

9. Adjournment

Next Meeting Nov 28 @ 7:30pm
Devotions—Adam Crabbe
Closing —Katherine Nanninga

School Trustee Report – October 29, 2018

Board Meetings at school sites

The school board is pleased to be able to tour and hear directly from our school sites. In September we met at Eleanor Hall School, and in October traveled to Swan Hills School. The morning of school based board meetings are dedicated to hearing a school presentation and school council report. Other elements may include presentations by students, tours of the school, and/or demonstrations of activities which help trustees learn about the unique programming and culture at each of our schools.

Barrhead Composite High School: Value Scoping Study

The modernization and right-sizing of Barrhead Composite High School has been the Board's number one capital priority for a number of years. Given the size and complexity of the project, the province has approved funding for a Value Scoping Study before consideration of the project. A Value Scoping Study is a process in which a group of experts break down ideas into parts, and provide insights with a goal of minimizing costs and maximizing value in a timely manner. Trustee McElroy and I will participate in the sessions during the month of November.

Provincial test results will help drive improvement

Superintendent David Garbutt presented the 2017-18 Provincial Achievement Test results for Grades 6 and 9, as well as the Grade 12 Diploma Examination results. Teachers and principals use these results to make decisions about instruction and support student progress. The division will work with schools to make plans where improvement is needed. These results also reinforce our Education Plan priorities of student diversity, student-teacher relationships, numeracy and literacy.

Student enrolment continues to decline

In the 2018-19 school year, PHPS will serve 3,816 students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 at eleven community schools, two hutterite colonies, and two outreach centres. Similar to past years, grade 1-12 enrolment is down 40 students or 1%. The division also operates an online school, Vista Virtual School, which serves over 10,000 students across the province, and the Alberta Distance Learning Centre, which serves jurisdictions and their schools across Alberta.

PHPS to pilot stakeholder engagement tool

To provide greater opportunity for input from parents, students, staff and community, the board agreed to pilot an online tool, Thoughtexchange, for one year. Thoughtexchange provides an easy-to-access online platform that allows participants to not only share their thoughts, but consider and rate ideas shared by others. *Please participate in our first Thoughtexchange on the division-wide Student Citizenship Awards which will run from October 29 to November 12, 2018!*

Input to Alberta School Boards Association of Alberta

The board has provided input on the Alberta Education Business Plan and Member Class Size Pressures Survey to the provincial association for information and advocacy.

Alberta Education

The draft K-4 curriculum has been released and can be found at <https://new.learnalberta.ca>. Over 40,000 people participated in the two telephone town halls regarding the curriculum. The fall session of the legislature begins October 29 until December 6th.

MINUTES

Neerlandia Christian Education Society
Monday, October 29, 2018 @9:00pm

Present: Steve DeVries, Randy Strydhorst, Charlene Nanninga, Amanda Batty, Annemiek Elzinga, Janice Wierenga, Sheri Strydhorst, Adam Crabbe, Katherine Nanninga
Absent: Lee Anne Schmidt

1. Call to Order

2. **Adopt Agenda**—Add 4E—After school program. Add 6C—Grade 9 Grad

3. Review and Approve Minutes

4. Business from Minutes

a. Board Governance Meeting—Meeting is planned for Nov 12. Discussion had around whether meeting is necessary every year. Board members who had attended felt it was valuable, but not a lot of members can make it on the 12th. **ACTION-Steve** will contact PCCE seeing if it is possible to have training on same day as staff event in 2019 to save PCCE a drive out, or whether November date works best.

b. Membership Drive—Annemiek will distribute letters in church mailboxes and mail letters that require same.

c. Volunteer Forms—Not as many volunteer forms returned as last year. Determined that people are usually very willing to help and that if we need we could phone and ask people from last year.

d. Playground Equipment—Annemiek reports that the equipment will be assessed in the spring by Lee Anne and herself. She suggests funding new equipment that won't have to be replaced each year. eg tetherball.

e. After School Program—Amanda reports that there is quite a bit of legislation surrounding after school programs including staffing requirements as well as education requirements. Suggested we send out form to assess need prior to implementing program. **ACTION—Sheri** will contact Barrhead After School Program for typical fees, to include in letter going home to parents.

5. Reports

a. Financial—Randy presents budget for AGM. Reviewed budget for AGM with Randy, several items changed. Difficult to be entirely accurate as school year end is not lined up with budget year end. Steve reads all the numbers in the budget. Randy motions to accept amounts as changed. Motion seconded and carried. Janice mentioned that people may have questions about PCCE fees. **ACTION—Janice** will talk to PCCE about how those fees benefit the school in case of questions.

b. Preschool—Steve reads report from Jill. As attached. Annemiek motions to take off first month of preschool fees for Meidema family. Motion seconded and approved. Amanda motions to pay preschool teacher \$25 an hour for eight classroom hours and 20 minutes prep time per child multiplied by 26 sessions. Also that we pay the pre school teacher 7.5 hours administration time. Motion seconded and approved. Kim mentions that if preschool program is managed by Pembina Hills that bussing could be provided by same, and would make easier for parents. Board was going to think about same.

6. New Business

a. Fundraiser—Discussed what 2019 fundraiser could go towards. We already committed to funding wood working program, and suggestion made that we could start fundraising towards a new playground. Discussed different entertainment opportunities for the evening. Decided on March 8th as fundraiser date. **ACTION—Randy** going to contact Phil Calloway for availability and fees. **ACTION- Annemiek** will reach out to staff about students providing band entertainment, or theatre production for the evening.

b. Devotions Schedule—**ACTION—Amanda** will email out to all board members

c. Grade 9 Grad—Kim states that Grade 9 grad class was interested in having a spaghetti supper prior to movie night event if NCES chose to host again. Discussed that if Grade 9 would like to host supper, they could host entire evening as Grad fundraiser. Kim will inform re: same.

d. Replacing chair position—Sheri states she is willing to step into chair role with the caveat that meeting dates will not always be same night, and that attending events at the school eg assembly, will need to be managed by other board members. Board delighted that Sheri willing to take on role. Determined that next couple of months board meetings will be as follows: Nov 28, Dec. 17, January 21, February 19. Fundraiser: March 8.

7. Correspondence

8. Closing—Charlene Nanninga

9. Adjournment

Next Meeting Nov 28 @ 7:30pm

Devotions—Adam Crabbe

Closing —Katherine Nanninga

Neerlandia Pre-school Report October 29, 2018

Pre-school classes started the first week of October with two classes, a morning class of 12 and an afternoon class of 12. One of the students is a PUF student for speech needs, however he is also attending Barrhead pre-school two days a week and his needs are being addressed there. I have a copy of his IPP and will just reinforce the work being done in Barrhead with him.

Annegret Keyes from Children Services conducted an unannounced visit during our second class on October 10. Everything was in order and she will be back for one more visit sometime this year. The pre-school license will be expiring next spring and will need to be renewed. There is a 273 page document online titled “Play, Participation, and Possibilities: An Early Learning and Child Care Curriculum Framework for Alberta” that

I am familiar with, Annegret mentioned that in the future, this document will most likely become mandatory for pre-schools to follow.

Melissa Miedema contacted me last week to see if her daughter would be able to attend pre-school as she is attending in Barrhead but it isn't working out. We do have room for her, I am just wondering if she still pays \$500, or the monthly rate for the months she will be attending?

Melissa also mentioned that she had talked to the PHPS bussing department and they said her daughter would be able to ride the bus to Neerlandia pre-school. A different student has recently started riding the bus from Barrhead as well. I contacted the bus shop and they told me there was a mix up and those children are not actually allowed to ride the bus, and the parents have been notified.

Similar to last year, the two fan favorite events in our day are gym and snack...so much so that we have now integrated two snack times. I can assure you I do cover phonological awareness, math concepts, and how to get along with your friends but I'm sure all you'll hear about is the food and the utility balls. 😊