

**Neerlandia Public Christian School Council**  
**Wednesday November 28 2018 at 7:30pm**

Present: Sheri Strydhorst, Katherine Nanninga, Charlene Nanninga, Janice Wierenga,  
Randy Strydhorst, Lee Anne Schmidt, Annemiek Elzinga, Kym Sybesma, Jason Ferster  
Absent: Adam Crabbe, Brett Seater

**1. Call to Order**

Welcome our new board members: Sheri Strydhorst and Katherine Nanninga

**2. Devotions**

**3. Adopt agenda**

**4. Review and Approve Minutes:** Charlene approved minutes, Katherine 2nd - all in favor

**5. Review Executive/Non-Executive Roles**

Sheri read a brief overview of board positions. Board positions are as follows for the 2018/2019 year:

Chairperson: Sheri Strydhorst

Vice Chair: Katherine Nanninga

Secretary: Annemiek Elzinga

Treasurer: Randy Strydhorst supported by Charlene Nanninga

Correspondence: Annemiek

PCCE Rep: Janice Wierenga

Annemiek made motion to approve all the new positions, Charlene 2nd - all in favor!

**6. Business from minutes**

a. NPCSC/NCES AGM review

**ACTION:** Randy will look at the requirements for moving our fiscal year end.

b. Council of School Council (November 6 2018)

**See attached report from Charlene Nanninga - please note the insurance discussion**

**ACTION:** Janice will ask the church if we as NCES is covered through church insurance for our fundraiser.

Alberta School Council Association AGM is April 26-27 2019

[ACTION: Select volunteer to attend AGM](#)

## 7. Reports

- Principal Report (Brett Seatter unable to attend- Kim Sybesma reported)

November 28, 2018 Principal's Report:

- Volleyball is pretty much over, with the elementary tournament happening tomorrow in Westlock. It's been a great year with 34 out of 46 students participating in Jr. High and 25 participating in Elementary volleyball (grade 5 and 6)
- Christmas concert is winding up - we will again be having the concert in the church as the gym would not hold enough people. This year's show will be fairly different from past years as each classroom teacher is responsible for their own little class performance. Some classes have joined together, others will remain on their own. We will have the band performing in between plays and there is a Jr. High play for those who volunteered to participate. Although the format will be different than what has happened in the past (with Kathi H. leading), it will still be a good show :)
- Basketball is starting now with volleyball ending. The boys will continue to be T/Th, girls on M/W. Mr. T. Wierenga is coaching the boys, Mr. Seatter will coach the girls.

Elementary basketball should be starting sometime in January.

- We're looking at doing a road trip up to Swan Hills for a Jr. High basketball day or afternoon. Swan Hills has done a lot of travel the last couple of years to try to re-energize their school sports and they've expressed frustration that other schools won't travel their direction. Although it costs a bit to go up there, it costs them the same to travel to the rest of us. If we can take the younger players, pick up Fort Assiniboine on the way, and have a mini-tournament, I think it can be a fun day and would be meaningful to the Swan Hills staff that we'd be willing to travel to them.
- Brent Wierenga is beginning a running club for grades 4 - 6. There are 36 students signed up, but waiting for parent confirmation for those numbers (hoping there will be less as they are unable to practise all at once due to space). They will be practising at school regularly, but also at the Barrhead Agrena and one practise at the Butterdome in Edmonton. There will be three different tournaments in Edmonton that the students will be participating in this year.
- CTF and Options is wrapping up for term 1. I believe we've had a very successful term with many great projects taking place in the different subjects. Term 2 will run from December to March.
- The LAMP donation service project is underway and we will be promoting it until they pick up the items on December 6th
- We had a successful lockdown practice in November. Being the first practice this year, we kept things simple and straightforward to keep the stress to a minimum. We're planning on one or two more practices through the year.

- With new curriculum potentially starting next school year (optional for the 2019-20 school year, mandatory for the 2020-21 school year for k-4), PHPS has been working on preparing the teachers for this over the last couple of years. Literacy, Numeracy, Inclusion, and Indigenous perspectives were introduced last school year. This year, we are looking at the new structure of the curriculum and how it was developed. PHPS is ahead of most school divisions in this preparation as we've been doing the PD to look ahead and prepare in chunks so it doesn't all have to happen at once. Although the structure and format of the curriculum is quite different, the content does not appear to have anything too surprising or alarming at this point. We will continue to teach all of our curriculum from the TtT viewpoint.

- **School Trustee Report - Jennifer Tuininga**

### **School Trustee Report – November 28, 2018**

#### **No schools considered for closure next year**

The school board accepted administration's recommendation that no schools be considered for closure next year. Each year administration reviews the division's schools against the criteria in Policy 15 to determine if a school or program should be considered for closure. This year, none of our schools met the criteria, which include:

- Are there health and safety threats?
- Is the school hitting a critical minimum enrolment?
- How many students are we expecting to attend in the future?
- Are fewer than 60 per cent of the students in the attendance area attending the school?
- Does operating the school create excessive costs for the division?

#### **School board looks for input on division citizenship awards**

Through the online tool 'Thoughtexchange' the school board re-examined Student Citizenship Awards. A website of the thoughts that were shared was presented at the November 28<sup>th</sup> board meeting. The exchange confirmed that we should continue to recognize Student Citizenship. We also heard you say that academics should not be a criteria for nomination, and more emphasis should be placed on community service, volunteering and other characteristics such as kindness and respect. The board discussed the feedback that was received and provided direction to the policy committee.

#### **School Boards provincial meeting**

All 61 Alberta School boards attended the annual general meeting of the Alberta School Boards Association Nov. 18-20<sup>th</sup> where they voted to support position statements on English Language Learning funding and support, stop-arm cameras on buses, training for bus drivers, and access to mental health professionals in schools. As boards we also engaged in a facilitated discussion about education funding, as well as funding to maintain school buildings.

#### **Transportation Concerns**

### **1. Critical shortage of bus drivers – Looking for drivers!**

We are experiencing a critical shortage of bus drivers across our school division. We have done our best to avoid route cancellations, but we simply do not have enough spare drivers to support all our routes. We have recently recruited new drivers, and although they are cleared and ready to begin training, they need to obtain their Class 2 License. This is where we are experiencing delays—with limited access to local examiners. To alleviate the issue we are sending more drivers to larger centres with longer wait times. Bus driver shortages are not unique to Pembina Hills. This is a province-wide issue that affects many school divisions.

### **2. School Bus Red Flashing Light Violation**

In September of this year we had 24 reported fly-bys in our division. This occurs when a school bus has their red lights flashing and their stop sign out, but a vehicle continues to drive by. During the 2017-2018 school year we had 120 reported fly-bys in our division. It is a \$543 fine and 6 demerits. Some school boards have installed external cameras at their own expense (roughly \$3900 ea.) to capture license plates for convictions; however, fine revenues go directly to the province.

### **3. Mandatory Entry Level Training (MELT)**

As of March 1, 2019 you will need a class 2 license to drive a school bus and will be required to take an entry level training course (MELT). This is expected to be a 65 hour training program in addition to the approximately 20 hour S-Endorsement training program currently in effect. No additional funding to school boards will be allocated for this program (cost will be \$1625-\$2000 per operator). In addition, only certified driving schools will be allowed to administer the program.

### **4. Seatbelts on Buses**

The government will be doing more crash testing before making an official decision regarding whether or not seatbelts should be mandatory on school buses. There will be huge implications if passed (cost, time, seat space etc.) and concerns about how the legislation would be enforced.

## **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. For the new K-4 curriculum, there is a preparatory phase, early implementation phase, and then full provincial implementation is set for September 2020. On the Alberta Education website there is a 'Shifts' document that shows what has changed between the new and old curriculum: [https://education.alberta.ca/media/3795497/shifts\\_curriculum\\_october2018.pdf](https://education.alberta.ca/media/3795497/shifts_curriculum_october2018.pdf)

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## **8. New Business**

### **a. Bill 24- An act to Support Gay-Straight Alliances- discussion on NPCA position**

Community members, parents and board members still has some concerns regarding the school's position over this. Jennifer Tuininga drafted a letter to explain NPCS and PHPS position. After some discussion some changes were made, to better reflect our school. The letter will be sent home with students and will be available for community members.  
**Please see attached letter**

- **ASCA Webinar- K-4- Curriculum Implementation Webinar**

Katherine 'attended' the webinar. Need to get notes from Katherine yet :)

### **Adjournment**

Next Meeting December 17 2018 at 7:30pm

Devotions: Lee Anne Schmidt