

# MINUTES

---

Neerlandia Public Christian School Council  
Monday, March 19, 2018 @ 7:30pm

Present: Jim Bosma (teacher rep), Lisa Gehring (principal), Randy Strydhorst, Jennifer Tuininga (school trustee), Amanda Batty, Annemiek Elzinga, Lee Anne Schmidt, Steve DeVries, Adam Crabbe

Absent: Janice Wierenga

## 1. Call to Order

2. Devotions—Lee Anne Schmidt

## 3. Adopt Agenda

4. Review and Approve Minutes—Minutes approved as written

5. Business from Minutes—No business from previous meeting

## 6. Reports

a. Principal/Student Council—Student Council—Lisa reports that the students are working on 30 hour famine. It is planned for the middle of April. She stated there is a lot of interest. Lorna Strydhorst and Lise Wruk are teacher supervisors. Principal Report—Lisa reports that herself and Kim are in the middle of planning for next year, while still trying to accomplish tasks for this year. Have had three days recently that were about principal planning. Lisa reports that there was a good turnout for parent/teacher interviews and that the feedback was good from parents who liked that the conferences were student led. She just returned from workshop at PCCE about sexual identity. She stated needing more time to reflect and absorb all the information but her basic summary is that it is important to establish common ground and be thoughtful, caring, loving to students.

b. School Trustee—As attached

## 7. New Business

a. ASCA conference and AGM—April 20-22, 2018—Steve reports that the Alberta School Council Conference has breakout sessions on Saturday and then the 22 is the AGM. States if anyone is interested Pembina Hills covers some costs of attendance. Steve reports that he has attended in the past and the conference has many different topics.

## 8. Correspondence

## 9. Adjournment

**Next Meeting: April 30, 2018 at 7:30pm**

**Devotions: Amanda Batty**

**Closing: Lisa Gehring**

## **School Trustee Report – March 19, 2018**

### **Board sets transportation fees for 2018-19**

For the third consecutive year, division transportation fees will not be increasing.

- In-town transportation fees will remain at \$350/year
- Rural transportation fees for students leaving their attendance area will be \$450/year
- The fee for alternate bus stops will remain at \$50 per student per year. However, if the alternate site request also requires the payment of an in-town or rural transportation fee, the alternate site fee will be waived.

### **Focus on Student Mental Health**

Our Coordinator of School Counseling Colleen Teske created a 90-minute Mental Health Literacy session that was shared with all school staff at the March 5 Professional Development day.

We must use consistent language in our schools to ensure we can help provide the right supports for students and change the stigma around mental health. For example, a student might tell us they are depressed, however depression can only be diagnosed by a professional with specific credentials.

We'll continue to work to help staff and students understand the different levels of mental health:

- Mental disorder / illness
- Mental health problem
- Mental distress
- No distress and no problem or illness

Students can experience one or more levels at the same time. Mental distress is necessary and actually healthy. In fact, students need to experience mental distress in order to build resiliency and the confidence to be problem solvers.

The better job we do educating staff about mental health, the better equipped we will be to recognize, communicate and provide support for students, or when necessary help students access the supports they need.

### **Alberta Distance Learning Centre (ADLC) and Vista Virtual School**

Pembina Hills Public Schools has a Service Agreement with Alberta Education to run ADLC. The key components of this agreement are: instructing students of school jurisdictions in the province of Alberta and sharing resources. We are awaiting a response from Alberta Education regarding a funding request that accompanies that service agreement.

In looking at organizational efficiencies, and the fulfillment of the service agreement we are doing some internal restructuring. ADLC's main site will be in Barrhead and we will be closing the sites in Edmonton, Calgary and Lethbridge. ADLC is currently the distance education provider for Alberta schools. Under the service agreement, the cost

of operating the main site in Barrhead is paid for by Alberta Education. Focusing the operations in Barrhead allows us to build the ADLC community within PHPS – creating employment opportunities within our geographic area. Cost savings will be realized from the lease arrangements at the other campuses and can go towards teachers instructing students from our partner schools.

Vista Virtual School is 1 of 26 on-line schools in the province. Currently both ADLC and Vista Virtual School share office space in Edmonton and are in the same complex in Calgary which sends mixed messages to Alberta Education and our school partners. Vista Virtual School will operate sites in Edmonton and Calgary where they have a lot of student foot traffic.

Moving forward, the board recognizes that some staff reductions may be required. Therefore, they are considering reduction plans, including the viability of an early retirement incentive plan.

### **Governance as Reconciliation, Recognition and Respect: Understanding the Indigenous Perspective**

Through the provincial board I was able to attend an intensive workshop and learn more about the history of the Indigenous people. It is fascinating to learn the history through the experiences of the Indigenous people, and then talk about how we can build that relationship as we work towards reconciliation.

### **MLA Advocacy Evening**

I attended an advocacy event for school boards within our zone that included eleven MLA's. The evening involved a short presentation and then small group discussion about the provincial funding formula and the supports we have in our schools to address mental health and other needs in the classroom. Note: *Provincial budget comes out March 22<sup>nd</sup>*.

### **Consider nominating those that make a difference for an exemplary service award**

Students in our schools are fortunate to have so many caring individuals and groups who provide exemplary service.

- Consider nominating an employee, contractor, parent volunteer, or community member for an exemplary service award. Eligibility criteria information and nomination forms are available on PHPS website <http://www.phpschools.ca/our-division/recognition-awards/>

# MINUTES

---

Neerlandia Christian Education Society  
Monday, March 19, 2018 @ 9:00pm

Present: Lisa Gehring (principal), Randy Strydhorst, Amanda Batty, Annemiek Elzinga, Lee Anne Schmidt, Steve DeVries, Adam Crabbe, Janice Wierenga

## 1. Call to Order

## 2. Adopt Agenda—Item 6B added—Christian Schools Canada Convention

## 3. Review and Approve Minutes—Minutes approved

## 4. Business from Minutes

a. Movie Night Review—Feedback was all positive. In agreement that it would be nice to do again.

b. Membership Letters—Steve reports they were all sent out

c. PHSSAM Concession—Tabled

d. Open House—April 10—Lisa states there is Bingo planned for siblings that attend open house. **ACTION—Steve, Charlene and Amanda** are planning to attend to represent NCES

i. Newspaper Advertising—NCES has ad organized to be in paper March 27.

e. Christian Education Week—April 23-27—Cultivating Community—Annemiek motions to spend \$200 for students with winning proposal to use towards community project. Any class can submit idea for community project and NCES will pick one. All classes who compete will get icecream. Possible to announce idea at school concert. **ACTION—Steve** will present contest to teachers after Spring Break. **ACTION- Amanda** will pick up submissions on April 19th and together with **Charlene** will decide on which class will get \$200.

f. NPCS Planning Day/Staff Appreciation Lunch—April 13 is planning day. Lisa states that planning starts at 0900 and goes until noon. She encourages and welcomes NCES members to attend.

## 5. Reports

a. Financial Reports—Randy reports bank account looks good. Randy answers question regarding why one budget item was lower and Randy states all bills accounted for, but NCES spent less than anticipated. Membership donations are down steeply. Board is hoping these will improve with letter sent out re:same.

b. Preschool report—Report as attached. Discussed whether end of year interview would be beneficial to see if we can improve running preschool program. **ACTION—Charlene and Annemiek** offered to conduct end of the year interview and also get Jill thank-you card.

i. Conference Fees—Receipt provided for Randy from conference Jill attended.

ii. Bussing One Way—Steve reports that he talked to Pembina Hills and this is not an option for preschool children at this time.

c. Outdoor Classroom—Annemiek reports she has talked to Four Seasons Nursery and is waiting to hear on costs. She will then meet with sub committee and have presentation about options.

## 6. New Business

a. PCCE AGM—April 21/18—At King’s University. **ACTION—Janice** will tentatively see if she is able to go, Steve is possibly able to go if Janice is unable.

b. Christian Schools Canada Convention—Kim Sybesma submits request to have some of her costs covered to attend this event that happens every two years. Conference is in Ottawa and the costs are estimated as follows—Convention—\$564, Flight—\$500, Hotels—\$687. Total —\$1750. She has received grant from ATA. Amanda motions to approve paying \$1000 for costs. Adam seconds. Annemiek asks what conference is about. Lisa answers regarding what previous conferences have been about. Lisa very positive about benefit of convention. Motion approved.

## **7. Correspondence**

## **8. Closing**

## **9. Adjournment**

**Next Meeting: April 30, 2018 @ 9:00pm**

**Devotions—Amanda Batty**

**Closing—Lisa Gehring**

Pre-school Report - March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018

We have only five pre-school classes left this year! I am again planning an art show as the culmination of our year. It will be held during the last half hour of our final day (April 26) and students are encouraged to invite family members and guest to celebrate their 'graduation'. You are welcome to attend, even just for a few minutes!

I have received correspondence from the Early Childhood Development Branch of the government of Alberta stating that the educational equivalencies are changing for certification as a child development worker and supervisor (which is the certification needed to be a pre-school teacher). The changes narrow the equivalencies to focus on educational credentials with a foundation of child development and family studies. My 4-year Bachelor of Education will meet the new equivalencies, but I am attaching the information for future reference when hiring someone to operate the pre-school program.

I am interested in continuing in the role of pre-school teacher for another year, if you wish to continue my contract! A few of the evaluations last year mentioned possibly having pre-school two times a week, and I believe two sessions a week would benefit some of the students, particularly the coded ones that have speech or behaviour delays. I am not, at this time, interested in teaching two days a week; however thought I would mention this since it seems there might be some interest in having a more extensive pre-school program. I will include a question about this on the evaluation forms again this year and pass them on to you for some additional input.

Thank you, again, for your support!