

# Neerlandia Public Christian School Council

October 21 2019

**Present:** Sheri Strydhorst, Katherine Nanninga, Charlene Nanninga, Brett Seatter, Jennifer Tuininga, Janice Wierenga, Lise Wruk, Murray Tuininga, Charlene Flemming

**Absent:** Annemiek Elzinga, Randy Strydhorst, Lee Anne Schmidt

**Devotions:** Sheri

**Adopt Agenda**

**Review and Approve minutes**

## **Business from Minutes**

### **a. Feedback from Sept 25 Pembina Hills Board meeting at NPCCS**

- i. Katherine made a presentation on behalf of NCES. The Christian content came through, the board did have questions about our NCES membership fees. Brett gave the board a tour of the school. Teacher relationships with students were highlighted and that sets the school apart. Mr Garbutt appreciated what he saw.

## **Reports**

### **a. Principal/ Student Council- Brett**

- i. See attached
- ii. Input on NPCCS purchasing a sound system for the gym
  - Questions were asked about the lifespan of the system (10 yrs estimated); there may be an option to pay for this over a 10 year period; current system provides poor sound and we have had complaints; questions were asked about local businesses or volunteers installing the system - however liability concerns were noted; concern was noted that this funding could be perceived as taking away budget from staff.

[ACTION: Brett to get additional quotes for a sound system and board can discuss at next meeting](#)

### **b. School Trustee Report**

- i. September 2019-see attached
- ii. October 2019- see attached

## **New Business**

### **a. Volunteer to attend Nov 12, 2019- Council of School Council Meeting**

- i. Katherine will attend

### **b. AB School Council Association- online engagement- Nov 23, 1-4pm with guest Minister Adriana LaGrange. Funding likely a topic.**

[ACTION: Sheri to have Debbie circulate this to any interested parents.](#)

### **c. Set 2020 meeting dates**

- A post-AGM meeting was set for Monday, Dec 2
- 2020 meetings will be set once new board members can have input

## **Correspondence**

### **Future Items**

#### **a. At November 2019 AGM**

- Vote to approve change of year end to June 30
- Vote on proposed by-law amendments re: objective 4b

- Approve new budget

## **Adjournment**

### **Upcoming Meetings**

November 12 2019 Council of School Councils

November 18 2019 AGM

December 2 2019 post AGM meeting

### October 21, 2019 Principal Report

- Strong start to the year with our newly hired staff. Teachers are very happy and impressed with the new PAs in their room. Lots of skill and love!
- Moved assemblies to the end of the week instead of the start of the week. This was for a few reasons - helps those in charge of assemblies not have to text and scramble on Sundays, we can work throughout the week. More of a focus on singing and worshipping together as a group with some scripture readings and prayer. Have had some beautiful singing time together. This also allows kindergarten to join more often this year as they couldn't join in the past.
- We were blessed to have part-time teachers on staff take on bigger roles to help fill the upcoming grade 3 maternity leave teacher position.
  - Between Oct. 28 and December 12th, Megan Ferster and Bonita Raju will team teach 0.5 FTE each.
  - From December 13th to end of the school year, Dallas Lee and Bonita Raju will team teach 0.5 FTE each.
  - Megan Ferster will continue to do her grade 3-6 music and 7-9 band in addition to her temporary grade 3 role
  - Lorna Strydhorst will teach full-time in grade 2 for the remainder of the school year.
  - We worked with Human Resources personnel to make this work. They helped push for this method of staffing as we were much more comfortable having experienced Christian teachers from this school rather than hire a brand new unknown who is possibly completely unfamiliar with our community and school culture. God is good!
- Volleyball has started and is going very well. The boys and girls 8/9 teams had their first tournament last weekend. Boys got bronze, girls got silver. We are very happy with the coaching as we have lots of help and they are doing a fantastic job. There have been few losses this year and I am impressed by how well they've gotten the teams to play together. Many have commented the girls players have exceeded people's expectations. The coaches put in many long hours of volunteer time and their efforts are truly appreciated.
- The Jr. High lunch recess in the gym is *very* different this year. We have basketball games being played just for fun, chosen by the students, almost every day. Today we had too many for one court, so we had two games going at the same time. We're ahead of schedule for converting this school to a basketball school!
- Teachers are registered and excited for the Christian Educators convention this week. Thank you to NCES for supporting this with calendar decisions and registration fees. Much appreciated.
- PAT results were great this year.

## **School Council Report - September 2019**

### **School Cash Online**

This is a great option to pay for school fees without the need for cash or cheques. It's fast, simple and secure. It takes less than 5 minutes to register. Once you have registered your child, you will be able to see when they have a new item posted online for purchase. You can also ask the school office to add an item, such as a field trip or team fees, if you do not see it listed. School Fees no longer need Ministerial approval. The 2019-2020 budget has been prepared under the assumption that the fee reduction grant will continue to be in place (\$405,000).

### **Legal Name Change Brought Opportunity to Synchronize Names**

Recently the province changed our division's legal name from "Pembina Hills Regional Division No. 7" to "Pembina Hills School Division". Trustees passed a motion to change the division's communication name "Pembina Hills Public Schools" to the new legal name "Pembina Hills School Division" with an objective of removing confusion caused by having two names. Our communication and legal names are now in sync. Our branded items will be changed over as they are replaced.

Board News in Local Newspapers! We are excited to share school board news with our local communities. To reach out to our families and communities, we will continue to publish a summary of each board meeting in the Barrhead Leader, Westlock News, and Swan Hills Grizzly Gazette. We welcome your feedback on the board news.

The Board adopted the following areas of focus for the 2019-2020 school year:

- Align policies and procedures with the new Education Act
- Secure a service agreement for Alberta Distance Learning Centre
- Consider the reality of shrinking reserves and declining enrolment as we await the provincial budget
- Review of the number of trustees on the board

### **Provincial Update**

- The Alberta School Boards Association hosted a Board Chairs meeting on September 12th where we gathered with Minister LaGrange and her staff to talk about the Assurance and Funding Review, MacKinnon Report, Choice in Education Act and Ministerial Order on school division name changes.
- The Board met with our two UCP MLAs - Mr. Glenn van Dijken, and Mr. Shane Getson on September 13th to talk about our Division, the funding formula, MacKinnon report, transportation, and changes in education.
- September 18th - Provincial Assurance and Funding Review session - a new funding formula will be released in March with implementation for the 2020-2021 school year.
- The "Choice in Education Act" will be released in the spring.
- The fall session of the legislature begins October 8th, budget to be released October 24

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Jennifer.Tuininga@phpschools.ca 780-674-6579 H, 780-284-0971 C

## **School Council Report - October 2019**

### **Buses will not run in -40°C or colder**

The division has added temperature as a condition for cancellation of bus runs — a bus run will not operate when the temperature is minus 40 degrees Celsius (-40°C) or colder at the start of a route. Windchill will not be considered as a factor.

Because weather conditions vary across the division, individual drivers are required to monitor temperatures and communicate with the Transportation Director when the temperature reaches -40°C or colder. Individual bus drivers will continue to make the decision on whether their bus will run during other inclement weather.

As always, bus drivers will contact parents when runs are cancelled. [School bus route reports](#) are also updated daily on the division website. For more information, parents may refer to [Administrative Procedure 70-101 Emergency School Closing](#).

### **Board appoints interim representative following Swan Hills Trustee resignation**

Trustee Nancy Keough recently resigned from her position as trustee for the Swan Hills Ward. The board discussed whether to fill the vacancy with a by-election. As part of the 2019-2020 school year, the board has also committed to a review of the electoral wards, which could reduce the number of trustees that represent the division.

Therefore, the board has decided not to hold a by-election to fill the vacancy, pending the results of the ward review. What does this mean? First, the board will hold the ward review, which will include consultations with our communities. Following the decisions of the ward review, the board will revisit the trustee vacancy that currently exists.

In the interim, Trustee Kerry McElroy will be the board representative for school council meetings and events associated with Swan Hills School. Representation on the other committees that former Trustee Keough was appointed to will be decided at the October 23, 2019 Regular Board Meeting.

### **Aligning board policies with the new Education Act**

The Education Act came into force on September 1, 2019. The board is engaging in a fulsome review of all board policies to ensure they align with the new Education Act. The division will also be updating our administrative procedures based on the Education Act and board policies. Once completed, the updated policies and administrative procedures will be available on [the division website](#).

### **Student Citizenship Awards - Kindergarten to Grade 12**

Monthly nominations are received from parents, students, teachers, and community members for our student Citizenship Awards. The nomination must include at least three of the identified criteria, and contain supporting statements or examples of how the student meets those criteria. A list of the criteria, instructions, and the nomination form can be found on the Pembina Hills website.

### **Provincial Budget to be released October 24th**

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