

**Neerlandia Public Christian School Council
Neerlandia Christian Education Society
Annual General Meeting
Monday, November 18, 2019 @ 7:00PM**

Attendance: Sheri Strydhorst, Katherine Nanninga, Jeff & Lee Anne Schmidt, Charlene Nanninga, Annemiek Elzinga, Janice Wierenga, Randy Strydhorst, Brett Seatter, Kim Sybesma, Lorna Strydhorst, Debbie Fisher, Randy & Juanita Heschel, Larry & Ramona DeVries, Jill Olthuis, Marjorie Tuininga, Charlene Fleming, Lindy Wiart, Reta Strydhorst, Bruce Vandijk, Steve DeVries

1. Welcome

2. Devotions - Katherine Nanninga

3. Adopt Agenda

4. Review and Approve 2018 NPCSC/NCES AGM Minutes – Annemiek Elzinga

MOTION: The NPCSC & NCES board moves that the minutes of the Nov 5, 2018 AGM be accepted as presented. Carried.

5. Nomination for Board Members – First Call

NOMINATION: The NCES accepts nominations from the floor for 3 board positions.

Annemiek Elzinga is nominated for a second term

Kym Peters is nominated

6. Reports

a. NCES/NPCSC Report – Sheri Strydhorst- see attached

comment was made about NCES purchasing popsicles for Terry Fox. Was mentioned that the CO-OP actually donates them, this will be clarified.

b. Principal Report - Brett Seatter- see attached

7. Nomination for Board Members – Second Call

No further nominations were made

8. Guest Speaker - Jack Adkins from AADAC on Vaping

Jack made a very informative presentation about vaping.

9. Reports

a. School Trustee – prepared by Jennifer Tuininga, read by Sheri Strydhorst

b. Financial Report – Randy Strydhorst

- discussion on allocating the \$28,390.98 from the NCES money market fund to our playground fund, is it a wise idea to take that all out? Maybe we should keep some money as a safety net. It was noted that NCES has an additional \$51,697.24 in the chequing account, so the NCES still has sufficient operating funds.

MOTION: Katherine Nanninga moved to allocate the \$28,390.98 in the NCES mutual funds into the playground account. Debbie Fisher 2nd. Motion carried.

10. NCES Board Motions

a. Proposed change of NCES year end from Dec 31 to June 30

MOTION: Randy Strydhorst made a motion to change the NCES year end from Dec 31 to June 30. Katherine Nanninga 2nd. Carried

b. Approval of 2019-20 NCES budget, balance sheet

Discussion band/music program budget line has been enfolded into the NPCSC miscellaneous request line. Preschool fees will probably be increased next year.

MOTION: Randy Strydhorst made a motion to approve the NCES budget and balance sheet as presented, Charlene 2nd. Carried

c. Proposed NCES and NPCSC by-law amendments

Discussion: Is it a guarantee that the superintendent will meet with NCES, when hiring a new principal? The board met with the superintendent May 2019 to discuss division matters and we feel that he will uphold his promise.

NEERLANDIA PUBLIC CHRISTIAN SCHOOL COUNCIL BY-LAWS Amendments

OBJECTIVES

4. The objectives of the school council are to work together with the school to support and enhance student learning through:

a. Upholding Christian moral and religious values.

~~b. Assisting the principal with interviewing prospective teachers~~

b. The NPCSC Council will advise the principal on the knowledge, skills and attributes that they are looking for in a prospective teacher. In hiring a new principal, the Pembina Hills Public Schools Superintendent will have a face-to-face meeting with the NPCSC Council and any interested NPCSC parents or guardians so they can provide input into what knowledge, skills and attributes they would like to see in a new principal.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

12. a. The annual meeting of the school council will be held during the first three weeks of ~~November~~ May.

NEERLANDIA CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SOCIETY BYLAW Amendments

4. OBJECTIVES

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7. OFFICERS

- a. The board members will divide the executive functions among themselves. These include the positions of: Chairperson, Vice-chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer.
 - iii. The Treasurer's duty is to ensure that an accurate account of the finances of the society is kept.
 - The board will appoint a qualified accountant or two members to audit the books of the fiscal year, who will bring their report to the next annual meeting. The fiscal year of the society shall be from ~~January 1—December 30~~ July 1 - June 30.

NOTE: Assisting the principal with interviews is in direct contradiction to Pembina Hills policy that only senior administrative staff and HR can be present at interviews as there are FOIP concerns with having school council members attend interviews.

MOTION: Steve DeVries made a motion to accept the revised by-laws as presented, Janice Wierenga 2nd, carried.

11. Nomination for Board Members – Third Call – no further nominations were made

12. Election of New Board Members

MOTION: Katherine Nanninga made a motion to accept Annemiek Elzinga and Kym Peters as the new NPCSC and NCES board members, Charlene Nanninga 2nd. Carried.

NCES welcomes Annemiek and Kym on the board.

13. Questions/Comments

- a. NPCSC and NCES is still looking for one more board member, preferably one with accounting experience.

14. Closing - Janice Wierenga

15. Adjournment

MOTION: Katherine Nanninga moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:05pm. Carried

Join us for our next AGM in late May 2020

November 2019 NCES AGM Principal Report

Assemblies:

Morning assemblies - our theme was "Living the Story". We had staff take turns sharing their story, sang some songs, and had prayer together.

We also had assemblies for significant dates like Thanksgiving, Remembrance Day, Easter.

Last year we had a Christmas concert at the church with all students participating.

We have agreed as a staff with the NCES to alternate between a Christmas concert and an Easter concert each year, with a significant assembly for the holiday when we don't do a concert.

Sports:

- Running Club was new last year. Great participation from the elementary level. Thank you to Mr. B Wierenga for initiating this and taking over the elementary sports program - we participated in the elementary volleyball and basketball tournaments for the first time last year.
- Volleyball was successful with boy girls and boys winning gold at Zones and Divisionals
- Basketball was also successful. The girls nearly brought home a couple banners (had to settle for some well earned silvers). The 7/8 boys won the divisional banner for the 7/8 tournament.

Service Projects:

- Terry Fox
- Orange Shirt Day
Pink Shirt Day
Drive away hunger raised over 2000 pounds of food donations
- The LAMP donation service project went extremely well, filling the trailer right up with donations.

Fun Days:

- Family group opening day
- Winter fun walk
- PHSSAM
- St. Nick's day

Citizenship Awards:

- New format from Pembina Hills last year. Can have many winners from many grades. We had 3 winners from gr. 3, 6, and 9 (just the way the grades worked out).

Change:

New staffing for this year. Alvina Nanninga and Marion Rayment announced their retirements and Mr. Ferster took a more stable job position at Sunny Bend. With that and some enrollment increases (182 to 203), we added several staff members for the 2019-20 school year. We hired a total of two part-time and two full-time PAs, as well as two part-time teachers.

Grad:

- Finished the year with our grade 9 grad. It was a beautiful ceremony and a nice send-off for our students as they leave here to a new school community.

CHAIRPERSON REPORT – November 2019

Welcome to the Neerlandia Public Christian School Council and Neerlandia Christian Education Society AGM. Our 2018-2019 School Council and Education Society board of directors includes: Sheri Strydhorst as chair; Katherine Nanninga as vice chair, Annemiek Elzinga as Secretary, Randy Strydhorst as treasurer, Charlene Nanninga in charge of correspondence, Janice Wierenga as the community rep, Lee Anne Schmidt, and Adam Crabbe.

Our School Council advises Brett Seater, our principal, to further Christian education in our public school. We encourage excellence in learning, provide a support network to the students and teachers, and actively participate in the school community. Over the past year, our school council:

- looked into the pros and cons of moving our Preschool program under Pembina Hills. At this point, we decided to maintain the NCES run Preschool program as we were not sure the program could maintain the same level of Christian content.
- provided guidance to Mr. Seater. If the budget allowed, we would have liked to see a "Success Coach" in the school to help our students deal with bullying and to support grade 4-6 students socially and emotionally. However, we recognize there is a lot of financial uncertainty right now, but want to keep this on the radar.
- We supported the teacher's/Principal's decision to hold alternating Christmas/Easter concerts, so there will be one major concert each school year.
- We had Mr. Garbutt attend our May 27th meeting and discussed the future of the associate principal role, the benefits of the Alternate Calendar, and reviewed our by-laws and altered them to be in compliance with the Pembina Hills policy on NPC's council's role in the Principal hiring and teacher interview process.
- We have a great relationship with our school board trustee. Jennifer Tuininga attends all our school council meetings, is very good at keeping us in the loop as to what is going on at the school board level and is open to questions, concerns and comments.

Through our Education Society, we have undertaken a number of fundraising events and spend the funds to support and enhance student learning:

- We raise funds through a voluntary family membership fee (\$300/year) and through associate membership fees (\$150/year). For the 2018-19 school year, we received payment of 47 family and 38 associate membership fees.
- Every second year, we hold a very large fundraising event with a community dinner, silent auction, live auction and evening with entertainment. In March 2019, our fundraiser theme was "Building His Kingdom". We held a large community banquet with live entertainment from comedian, Sharron Widdup, and we raised \$38,378. The profits were allocated for the purchase of tools for the new woodworking program, bussing reimbursement and playground equipment.
- On the spending side of things, we provide financial support to equip our teachers with Christian curriculum material and support through an annual membership in the Prairie

Center for Christian Education. We also cover registration costs for teachers to attend the Prairie Center for Christian Education convention to support teacher's Christian professional development.

- In the school, we organize and fund: the welcome pancake breakfast, chicken nugget lunches, hot chocolate for the snow walk, bibles to the graduating grade 9 students, the art award, leader of the band award, instruments for band, power tools for the woodworking class, and new this year we are organizing an ADAC vaping information session to educate our junior high students and families with facts about the dangers of vaping.

- One of our most pricy items (\$8,325) is the bussing reimbursement for out of boundary families. For the 2018-19 school year, we have reimbursed families for 57 children (\$150/child reimbursement for grade 1-9 students and \$75/child reimbursement for kindergarten students). Our board feels this is an important initiative to maintain student numbers.

- We also manage the Neerlandia Christian preschool. Last year there were 2 classes, a morning class of 12 and an afternoon class of 12 students. The 2018-19 program was taught by Jill Olthuis.

- This past year, we looked at the feasibility of running a before/after school program (for kindergarten to age 12 students) in collaboration with Westlock daycare. We received some positive feedback, but at this point, there was not sufficient interest to make the program financially feasible. Our plan is to re-survey the school community in the next couple years as family circumstances change and new families come into the school.

- On an administrative note, we have put in place liability insurance and will be moving our fiscal year end from December to June, starting June 30, 2020. This year end change will need to be approved at our AGM.

- We will be looking for 2 new board members for the 2019-20 school year. Annemiek has kindly agreed to stay on for a 2nd, 3 year term. We would like to thank retiring members, Randy Strydhorst for all his time and hard work as our treasurer, and Adam Crabbe.

The 2018-19 year has been busy. I want to thank all the teachers, administrators, support staff parents and board members for making our school a great place for our children. We are so fortunate to have these supports and the opportunity to provide Christian Education to our children through the public school system.

Sincerely

Sheri Strydhorst

2018-19 NPCSC and NCES Chair

NCES/NPCS Annual General Meeting Nov. 18, 2019 - School Trustee Report

During the 2018-2019 school year, Pembina Hills served 3,816 students in 11 local community schools, 2 Hutterite colony schools and 2 outreach schools. The grade 1-12 enrolment continues to decline about 40 students or 1% each year. 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.

The school board is accountable to the provincial government both fiscally and legislatively. The board ensures that the division complies with all provincial laws, regulations and policies. The majority of education funding is provided by the province and based on school enrolment. As locally elected officials, trustees are accountable to their communities and public. Trustees bring their knowledge of the communities and schools they represent to the board table in order to make decisions in the best interest of all students.

Political advocacy that speaks to local concerns is an ongoing area of focus for the board. Trustees respond to surveys from the province or the provincial association, sit on committees and attend consultations. The board continuously tries to voice concerns and broaden the understanding of those who do not live in rural Alberta. Pembina Hills is a member of the Rural Caucus of Alberta School Boards, knowing that many voices are more likely to be heard in joint advocacy. The board has written letters to Ministers on important issues, and meets with our local MLA(s) to inform them of division concerns. In advance of the April provincial election the board advocated for a fair funding formula for rural education. Students in rural Alberta should have a similar education to those in urban centers. The election of a new party, significant changes in legislation, and the delay of the provincial budget until October 2019 has resulted in a lot of changes in education over a short period of time.

Here are some examples of other decisions that the board made in the 2018-2019 school year:

- The board engaged our communities in a revamping of the Student Citizenship awards to include two types of division awards: Ongoing Kindergarten – Grade 12 awards (by nomination) and Annual Grade 12 awards (by application).
- The division received approval from Alberta Education to expand our geographic area to include 278 km² between the division's west boundary and Swan Hills, joining Swan Hills with the rest of the division. This area was formerly part of Northland School Division.
- The school board approved the request from the Swan Hills Preschool Society to establish a school based Early Learning program for children ages 3-5 at Swan Hills School starting in the 2019-2020 school year. This brings the number of Pembina Hills Early Learning programs to seven.

As a locally elected body, our meetings are open to the public. Our local papers and website (www.phpschools.ca) also publish the 'Board News'. For further information on the work of the board over the last year, please review the "ANNUAL BOARD SELF-EVALUATION 2018-2019 Summary Report" on the Pembina Hills website. The board's ongoing commitment is to continue supporting staff in delivering an excellent education to Pembina Hills' students.