

# Neerlandia Public Christian School Council

January 20, 2020

**Attendance:** Sheri Strydhorst, Katherine Nanninga, Kym Peters, Annemiek Elzinga, Brett Seatter, Kim Sybesma, Jennifer Tuininga  
Parents/ Community Members: Charlene Fleming, Linda West, Brian Strydhorst, Barrhead Leader

## **Call to Order**

**Devotions:** Katherine

## **Adopt Agenda**

**Review and Approve Minutes** - December 2 2019

## **Business from Minutes**

### **a. PCCE AGM April 25 - Calgary ~9:45am-3pm.**

We need to send one teacher and one NCES representative to attend. We will ask Janice if she is willing to attend, because she is our PCCE representative. If not Katherine may considering going.

Sheri suggested that we will reimburse one teacher and one board member up to \$600 for travel expenses and we request that the 2 Neerlandia reps travel together.

### **b. Alberta School Council Association Conference and AGM April 24-26 - Edmonton**

This falls on the same weekend as the PCCE AGM, depending on who goes to the PCCE AGM, will determine if someone is going to the ASCA AGM. Katherine expressed interest in attending.

### **c. Board governance training session- September 21 or October 5**

Will table for next meeting, not enough board members present to pick a date

## **Reports**

### **a. Principal Report – Brett**

#### **i. See attached**

**ACTION:** The school Easter performance will be Wednesday, April 8th. NPCSC supports having a "tea" following the afternoon performance which the Home Ec class may be involved with. There will also be an evening performance.

#### **ii. Update on SRO – see attached. There maybe more info after Brett's Jan 21 meeting.**

#### **iii. Update on mounting sound system - see principal report**

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

#### **a. See attached**

## **New Business**

### **a. Pembina Hills- Ward Review- Jennifer Tuininga**

- i. The school board is looking for input from the public as they review the division's electoral wards. This may impact the number of trustees on the board and the area that each trustee represents. Members of the public are invited to attend school council meetings in January and February and participate in an online survey before Feb 10, 2020.

**ACTION:** Sheri to send an email to all NCES members encouraging them to complete the survey.

### **b. 2020/2021 NPCSC calendar approval**

- i. Brett presented us with 3 options, that the teachers had already discussed and provided input.
  1. Option 1- Oct 22/23 Christian Teachers convention, make those alternate days to reduce substitute teacher costs. School council would like to see goal setting (parent teacher meetings) early in October instead of late October.
  - Option 2 - Oct 22 no alternate day and make the week of Dec 18 a 5 day week.  
Sounds like majority of teachers would like to go to conference the sub costs would be high and having a 5 day week before Christmas doesn't sound to appealing.
  - Option 3 - Nov 11 is on Wednesday, make the Thursday and Friday alternate days.  
Not a good option to only have a 2 day school week and this is unlikely to be supported by Pembina Hills.

**ACTION:** Overall the board was in favour of option 1 ensuring that parent teacher meetings are as early in October as possible and Oct 22/23 are off for Christian teacher's conventions. NPCSC also supported having Dec 19 as an alternate day.

### **c. Proposed Easter Play for April 8**

- a. See attached information about the play. Additional skits and songs will be included to make it a little longer. Content all looked good and was approved by school council.

## **Correspondence**

-n/a

## **Future Items**

May 2020 AGM preparation. Sheri has reviewed the by-laws to reflect some of the necessary changes. Sheri would like additional reviewers to confirm that the changes will be in compliance with the new Education act.

**ACTION:** Sheri to send proposed NPCSC by-laws to Brett and Kim and Kym Peters for review.

**Adjournment at 8:55pm.**

### **Upcoming Meetings**

Feb 10, March 9, April 20 @ 7:30pm

April 2 - NCES open house and pre-school registration

May 12 Council of School Council's Meeting

May 19 AGM

### **January 20, 2020 Principal Report**

- Had a wonderful Christmas Assembly on December 19th. All elementary classes were involved as well as the Jr. High Band.
  - Some key Jr. High students will have more of an acting role at the April Easter Concert

Our weekly assemblies continue to go really well this year with a focus on singing, reading from the Bible, and prayer.

- Our sound system is starting to fail (it's the mixing board). Mr. Gelderman has another one he got at a garage sale that we will be trying out. May have to upgrade our mixing board if this garage sale item doesn't work out. We are hopeful it will though.

Basketball and Running Club are in full swing with league basketball games and running practice events in Barrhead and Edmonton. Very appreciative of the work our coaches do to volunteer for these events - it's a lot of paperwork and co-ordination to pull it all together.

- The weather was the storyline last week, but we are overall pretty happy with how everything went. The clarity of the -40 rule made it much easier for parents and staff to know what the process would be for the busing. Many parents mentioned on Thursday that they appreciated the clear policy this year and knowing it was division wide instead of case-by-case.

Much less confusion.

- We are wondering about Christian Education week. Our committee has some ideas and wants to know if you (as NCES or School Council) want to be involved or not. Mrs. Sybesma will speak to this.

## School Resource Officer

### **Information from Brett:**

I had a discussion with Dave Garbutt this morning about the SRO. I need to clarify a few things, which you can pass along to the school council:

- Our school budget is not paying \$9000 for the SRO this year. It has not been settled how the school division will pay for the SRO as schools have already submitted their budgets. The \$9000 was a historical number (before my time here).
- Pembina Hills is in a funding agreement with the town and county of Barrhead (and possible other funding partners which I am not aware) and all sides need to work together for the funding model to work
- There should not be any assumptions about how the SRO position will be funded next year. One should not assume that Neerlandia school will automatically pay \$9000 or any amount. We are a long ways from figuring out how to fund the position going forward.

### **Information from Jennifer:**

School Resource Officers play an important role in facilitating crime prevention and fostering positive relations between the police and youth. The overall major duties of the School Resource Officer can be broken down into three required areas:

1. Provide a positive role-model and mentor for youth and promote positive interaction between youth, the police and the school's neighbours.
2. Educate and counsel youth and their families on law related matters including bullying and anti-gang initiatives through classroom lessons, school presentations, individual counselling and parent meetings.
3. Enforce the law by responding to calls at schools and taking on pro-active initiatives as well as gathering police intelligence.

Long lasting crime prevention begins with children and youth. A School Resource Officer program has successfully operated in Pembina Hills schools (on the Barrhead side of the division) since 2008. Division article on our past School Resource Officer Constable Hynes: <https://www.phpschools.ca/our-division/news/sro-constable-hynes-builds-relationships-keeps-schools-safe/>

The SRO agreement between the Town of Barrhead, County of Barrhead, Woodlands County and our community schools on the Barrhead side is a three year agreement that runs until June 2021, with our municipal partners covering 50% of the cost.

As stated at the last school council meeting we have just welcomed Constable Karen Vicente to Pembina Hills and she began her role on December 2nd. The SRO position has been vacant for almost a year and a half and we look forward to having her work with and support our students and staff.

## **School Council Report - January 2020**

### **School Board approves community consultation process for Electoral Ward Review**

Trustees will be consulting with the public, as part of local school council meetings, to review the current electoral ward structure to ensure that it effectively represents community and school populations. The online survey will close on February 10th.

**Budget update projects \$2.2 M deficit** The board approved the updated 2019-2020 budget for Pembina Hills, projecting a deficit of \$2.2 million. The Alberta Distance Learning Centre is projecting a deficit of \$165,000.

The Pembina Hills deficit is a result of reduced education funding and unprecedented increases in insurance premiums. While the school division had earlier planned to draw down reserves in 2019-2020, the draw-down rate will be accelerated. As a result, it is estimated that the division will be left with reserves of 3% of operating expenses.

**Results for coded students significantly higher than the province** As part of the Student Services Assurance Report to the board, Director Rob McGarva reported that the graduation rate for Pembina Hills students with Alberta Education special education codes is 75% versus 68% for the province. Provincial Achievement Test acceptable results are 55% versus 47% for the province.

**Awaiting the new provincial funding framework for education** Possible changes to Program Unit Funding (PUF) and Regional Collaborative Service Delivery (RCSD) provide funding for a significant amount of support students requiring a specialized support. Through RCSD,

Pembina Hills receives \$510,000 to hire staff. This is in addition to supports hired by other districts that Pembina Hills accesses, such as a vision consultant, trauma psychologist, audiologist, deaf and hard of hearing consultant, and an occupational therapist. PUF funding last year was \$2.7 million in supports for early education students with severe needs. This could mean less staff or different demands on staff.

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## **Proposed Easter Play - April 8, 2020 - It's All Because of Jesus**

**Simple Plus Series Easter for Kids / Arrangers: Gina Boe, Sue C. Smith, Brian Green**

### Songs

- Victory Chant with You're Worthy of My Praise
- Who Am I? with Friend of God
- Worship the Lamb
- I'll Come
- Were You There? with What He's Done for Me
- All Because of Jesus
- All Because of Jesus (Reprise)

**It's All Because of Jesus**, a 25-minute, fun-infused, imagination-filled, Bible-characters-come-alive Easter musical adventure for kids! Created by Dove-Award winning writers, Sue C. Smith, Gina Boe and Brian Green, **It's All Because of Jesus** is an easy-to-learn, easy-to-perform Easter story perfect for churches desiring a simple, yet powerful, presentation to enrich the lives of their children and community.

Join our lead character, Annie, on a remarkable adventure as a kid who happens to be watching a DVD at home about the true story of Easter. Suddenly, Annie finds herself inside the video, meeting and talking with several Bible characters whose lives were impacted by their encounters with Jesus. Annie talks with Gideon, Ruth, Johnathan, Sarah, and Rufus about their miraculous experiences with Jesus and how He changed their lives. As Annie learns more about the amazing true story of Easter, she realizes that Easter is just as important today as it was 2,000 years ago!

Through kid-friendly, *Simple-Plus-Series-style* drama and fun-to-sing songs, your Kids Choir will learn and share the truth that Jesus came and lived and died—and then He rose again. When we believe that, and when we give our lives to follow Him, it changes everything! We're alive forever—**It's All Because of Jesus!** The unique story and singable songs are enhanced with exceptional production notes and movements, along with an optional simplified speaker script making this *Simple PLUS Easter Musical for Kids* both flexible and fun