

Neerlandia Public Christian School Council

February 10 2020

Attendance: Sheri Strydhorst, Katherine Nanninga, Annemiek Elzinga, Charlene Nanninga, Lee Anne Schmidt, Brett Seatter, Kim Sybesma, Charlene Flemming, Jennifer Tuininga

Absent (with notice): Kym Peters, Janice Wierenga

Devotions - Lee Anne

Adopt Agenda

- item 7d- table for next meeting, Laura Mast unable to attend
- item 9a- We are actually in need of 4 (not 3) new board members

Review and Approve Minutes- January 20 2020

Business from Minutes

- a. PCCE AGM April 25
 - i. Katherine can attend, NPCSC staff still discussing who should attend. May need separate travel budget depending on which teacher attends
- b. ASCA Conference AGM April 24-26
 - i. Table for next meeting
- c. Board governance training session- Sept 21 or Oct 5
 - i. We will wait for until we have our new board members before we pick a date
- d. NPCSC- proposed by-law changes in prep for AGM
 - i. Kym Peters reviewed and approved the draft
 - ii. Brett and or Kim to review and we will discuss at March meeting

Reports

- a. Principal Report
 - i. see attached
 - ii. SRO, she is in the division, has stopped by the school
 - iii. gym sound system - the garage sale unit is a bit shaky. The Copper Coins will donate there mixing board. Will have to wait until spring.
 - iv. The school bus is up and running and was used for a field trip to Edmonton
 - v. School council provided feedback on the Education Plan priorities. Specific feedback was given on helping transition grade 9 students to BCHS. Good dialogue was held and school council approved the plan presented by Brett and Kim.
 - vi. The school is planning a blanket exercise. However, with the very small number of parents attending the ADAC presentation, school administrators are wondering if it would be worthwhile to have a blanket exercise for the parents. Parent members of school council suggested the school should send a letter home to parents about

the blanket exercise and then do the blanket exercise just for the students.

- b. School Trustee
 - i. See attached
 - ii. Jennifer noted that some of the items on the agenda for the next board meeting would be an increase in transportation costs of \$10/student and that the board is looking into different insurance options for 2020.

New Business

- a. Invitation to Dave Garbutt
 - i. should we invite Dave to another meeting, just to keep the relationship up with him? Due to the uncertainty of the budget and since we don't have any real concerns, it was felt that maybe we could invite him to be a guest speaker at the AGM. Dave could maybe answer some questions about the newly released budget and give parents an opportunity to meet him.
- b. AGM guest speaker
 - i. see note about Dave Garbutt
 - ii. Colleen Teske has a great presentation about social media, we could ask her as our 2021AGM guest speaker
- c. Elementary Reading Challenge
 - i. Not happening this year. The library has some great things going on to promote reading.
- d. ASCA. School Council Engagement Task Force. 6-8 surveys/year.
 - i. we need a representative for this. We will wait until we have some new board members and see if any of them are interested.
- e. ATA Letter Writing Campaign
 - i. Laura unable to attend meeting to give us details, will table for next meeting

Correspondence - n/a

Future Items

May 2020 AGM: draft by-laws approval; approve budget; Charlene Nanninga, Janice Wierenga, Lee Anne Schmidt and Randy Strydhorst terms are completed. Need 4 new board members.

Discussion was held on recruiting new board members. Clyde has one parent rep from: K-3; 4-6; 7-9. We discussed approaching parents who have students in grades K-2 who are new families to the school. Lee Ann will talk to some incoming families. It was suggested that Neerlandia school council has lots going on. Other schools have one meeting every two months. If we cannot recruit a full board we will have to consider reducing school council's workload.

Adjournment

February 2020 Principal Report

Literacy & Numeracy

- Continue to use the RRST, BAS literacy assessment, and the MIPI to gauge student learning and information instruction.
- Discuss the results on these tests as a staff to help set direction within our school.
- Continue to take advantage of PD on literacy and numeracy assessments, such as the DRT.
- Work with the PHRD Lead Teacher to implement literacy and numeracy assessments and instructional supports.
 - Ensure the school literacy lead and school numeracy lead attend all workshops and meetings to develop capacity within our school teaching community
- Complete our implementation of Reading and Writing Workshops (Lucy Calkins).
- Continue to have elementary classrooms use Words Their Way or equivalent word work program for consistency and fidelity of Language Arts programming
- Continue our focus on "math fact fluency" and use the MIPI to inform instruction and target areas of need with our students.
- Continue to focus on math and vocabulary while working to make use of number talks, and other instructional strategies as introduced by our PHRD Lead Teacher.
- Continue to take advantage of PD that supports literacy and numeracy assessment and instruction.
- Begin using a daily math program that reviews all concepts in a 2 week period to maintain consistency and ongoing development of students' number sense and non-calculator skills

Student Staff Relationships

- Work with BCHS to transition our students to grade 10
- Continue to provide counselling services through our teacher counsellor
- Utilize district counselling supports for students who need more intensified supports
 - Send appropriate staff to Mental Health PD to build capacity
- Continue to use FCSS counselling services
- Run intramural programs where staff are encouraged to play with students
- Set up intentional supervision schedules to allow staff to connect with students during breaks
- Daily morning devotions in homeroom

Support For Staff

- Continue to work with district staff to meet the needs of our students. This includes the division Inclusive Ed specialist and the PA mentor, which our school is helping to fund the position.
- Host parent sessions in the evening to do a blanket exercise and work with the district FNMI lead for our school to inform parents and help bridge levels of understanding. We will work with the district FNMI lead to educate students.
- Continue to support Reconciliation work within our school
- The principal and associate principal will monitor and support RTI and FNMI students, in collaboration with the classroom teachers
- Provide release time for teachers to work with the PHPS Inclusive Ed Specialist to plan lessons and units that provide access and opportunity for all learners within the classroom (UDL)
- Encourage staff to attend appropriate ERLC and PHPS sessions to gain further skills and understanding
- Continue to attend or provide PD for concept based instruction
- Send appropriate staff on field trips to ensure access and success for all students in each grade group

School Council Report - February 2020

Pembina Hills Website Our division website has all the up-to-date information on Pembina Hills policies, procedures, bus route reports, profiles of our schools, division maps, upcoming events, school calendars and more. If you are interested in receiving the Pembina Hills News by email you can subscribe on the home page in the bottom left corner - www.pembinahills.ca

Exemplary Achievement Awards Our school division's motto *Together We Learn* comes to life when the people, who work for and with our students and schools, go the extra mile and take initiative to contribute to the overall vitality of our schools and school division. The Pembina Hills Board of Trustees honors these outstanding individuals with Exemplary Achievement Awards.

Nominate an employee, parent volunteer, contractor or community partner who is making a big difference for our students, schools and school division today!

<https://www.pembinahills.ca/our-division/exemplary-achievement-awards/>

Division Citizenship Awards The school board's mission is to deliver an excellent education to our students so they become ethical and responsible citizens. The Board therefore recognizes students who make positive contributions to their school and community throughout the school year. A student can be nominated by a staff member, community member, or other student. <https://www.pembinahills.ca/schools-programs/student-citizenship-awards/>

Education Plan and Annual Report Summary

About Pembina Hills School Division

Pembina Hills School Division has 16 schools. Barrhead Composite High School has four feeder schools—Fort Assiniboine, Neerlandia Public Christian, École Barrhead Elementary and Dunstable. R. F. Staples Secondary School in Westlock also has four feeder schools: Pembina North Community School, École Westlock Elementary, Busby and Eleanor Hall. The Barrhead and Westlock high schools also operate off-site Outreach Schools. Swan Hills is a stand-alone K-12 school. Sunny Bend Colony and Pibroch Colony have Hutterite schools. Neerlandia's school has an alternate public program focusing on nondenominational Christian Education. Vista Virtual School provides direct teacher instruction from a distance using online and print services.

Alberta Distance Learning Centre (ADLC)

On behalf of the provincial government, ADLC supports Alberta schools and their students by providing Grade 1-12 course instruction and teaching resources. Governed by the Pembina Hills school board, ADLC is accountable to both the board and Alberta Education. The current service agreement expires August 31, 2020.

Our Priorities

Our results provide reasons for continued focus on three main priorities:

- Student-Teacher Relationships
- Literacy and Numeracy
- Support for Staff

Community Partners are Key

Our schools are the heart of our communities and we count on the partnerships that have been forged. In 2018-19 we collaborated with 136 partners! This is in addition to the 670 volunteers who help in our schools. They coach, read with kids, support classrooms, help out with special events, and lend us their experience in so many ways. For that we are forever thankful!

Safe and Caring Places to Learn

Our schools have excellent learning cultures where children and staff feel safe to learn and grow. PHSD achieved a high rating on this provincial measure. Although we have declined from last year's 'excellent' rating, the results of the local survey showed that 97% of parents agree that their child's school is safe and caring.

School Councils Have a Role

The board has focused on developing effectiveness and collaboration by hosting Council of School Council meetings twice a year. Almost 90% of parents who responded to our annual survey agreed that School Councils have a meaningful role. The value of School Councils is in their ability to translate the needs of the community into actions possible in the schools. Our school principals rely on their School Councils as the ears, eyes and voice of the community.

Results that Matter

Provincial Achievement Tests

Our student results:

- are lower than the province in Social Studies 6
- are on par with the province in ELA 6, Math 6, Science 6, ELA 9, Science 9 And Social Studies 9
- have exceeded the province in Math 9 and each of the 4 K&E subjects (ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies)

Over the past three years, our PAT results have:

- remained stable in Science 6, Social Studies 6, ELA 9, Math 9, Science 9, Social Studies 9, K&E ELA and K&E Science
- improved in ELA 6, Math 6, K&E Math and K&E Social Studies

Diploma Exams

Compared to the province, our students' average final course marks in Diploma Exam subjects:

- are on par with the province in ELA 30-1, ELA 30-2, Social Studies 30-1, Social Studies 30-2, Math 30-1, Biology, Chemistry and Physics
- have exceeded the province in Math 30-2 and Science 30

Over the past three years, average final course marks have:

- declined in Math 30-1
- remained stable in ELA 30-1, ELA 30-2, Social Studies 30-1, Social Studies 30-2, Math 30-2 and Chemistry
- have improved in Biology, Physics and Science 30

Low Drop Out Rate

We can celebrate maintaining a very low drop out rate — less than 2% of students aged 14-18 drop out of our community schools. And we can be very proud of the continuous improvement of our high school completion rate — on average, 83% and 90% of the students in our two largest high schools graduate within three years.



Read the full Education Plan and Annual Report at www.pembinahills.ca/education-plans/
Read the Financial Statements at www.pembinahills.ca/financial-reports/

December 2019

Accountability Pillar Overall Summary

The Ministry of Education provides a summary of 16 measures. Seven of these are based on survey results—with blue letters—and the others are based on specific data gathered from student information systems—with black letters.

The Achievement Evaluation and Improvement Evaluation in the table below are combined for an Overall Rating as follows.

Overall Evaluation Rating Scale	Excellent	Good	Acceptable	Issue	Concern
Measure	Achievement	Improvement	Overall		
Safe and Caring	High	Maintained	Good		
Program of Studies	Intermediate	Declined	Issue		
Education Quality	High	Maintained	Good		
Drop Out Rate	High	Improved	Good		
High School Completion Rate (3yr)	High	Maintained	Good		
PAI: Acceptable	Intermediate	Improved	Good		
PAT: Excellence	Intermediate	Maintained	Acceptable		
Diploma: Acceptable	Intermediate	Maintained	Acceptable		
Diploma: Excellence	Very High	Improved Significantly	Excellent		
Diploma Exam (4+ Exams)	Low	Maintained	Issue		
Rutherford Eligibility Rate	Intermediate	Maintained	Acceptable		
Transition Rate (6yr)	Intermediate	Maintained	Acceptable		
Work Preparation	High	Maintained	Good		
Citizenship	High	Declined	Acceptable		
Parental Involvement	Low	Declined	Issue		
School Involvement	High	Maintained	Good		

Addressing Our Challenges

The overall summary pictured above reveals an area of concern related to "Program of Studies". Within this theme, questions of satisfaction with opportunity for access to language programs, drama and music and health declined while most other results were reasonably similar to previous years.

Another issue area is under "Parental Involvement". The questions that impacted the declined rating are those that asked about parents' involvement in decisions about their child's education, and their opportunities for involvement in those decisions. This was most pronounced in the responses from parents of grade 7-9 and 10-12 students. In contrast, PHSD survey data showed consistency on a similar question regarding parent's opportunity for involvement in decision making - about 86% satisfaction.

PHSD administration and staff will continue to focus on the Education Plan priorities trusting that efforts in these areas will have a positive impact on the broad items of our 'report card'.

The Pembina Hills audited financial statements for 2018-19 include:

- Revenue of \$60.17 Million
- Expenses of \$62.22 Million
- Operating deficit of \$2.05 Million

Together with the Alberta Distance Learning Centre, the division manages a combined operating budget of over \$80 Million.

