

Minutes

Neerlandia Public Christian School Council
Monday, March 9, 2020

Attendance: Sheri Strydhorst, Katherine Nanninga, Charlene Nanninga, Annemiek Elzinga, Kym Peters, Charlene Fleming, Brett Seatter, Kim Sybesma, Brent Wierenga, Laura Mast, Jennifer Tuininga

Absent (with notice): Janice Wierenga, Lee Anne Schmidt

1. Call to Order

2. Devotions – Charlene

3. Adopt Agenda

4. Review and Approve Minutes – February 10, 2020

5. Business from Minutes

- a. PCCE AGM - Apr 25 - Calgary –
 - Lorna Strydhorst and Katherine Nanninga will attend.
 - Charlene made a motion that we cover the mileage, hotel up to \$1200. Annemiek 2nd the motion, all in favour. Carried
- b. School Council Association Conference and AGM - April 24-25, 26
 - No one will attend
- c. ASCA. School Council Engagement Task Force. 6-8 surveys/yr. Rep needed.
 - We will wait until we have a new board.
- d. NPCSC - Proposed By-law Changes in prep for AGM
 - By-laws currently state that we meet 9-11 times during the school year. Proposed change : Meet 6-11 times during the school year.
 - Clarify that the NPCSC and NCES AGMs are jointly held as one meeting. NPCSC and NCES agenda items will be clearly labelled. NPCSC agenda items can be voted on by parents and guardians of NPCSC students and NCES agenda items can be voted on by NCES associate and family members who have paid their annual membership fees.
 - The Correspondence person (who is now responsible for the day-to-day financial transactions) - position description was added to the list of officer duties in the NCES by-laws.
- e. Update on AGM Guest speaker
 - Dave Garbutt will be our guest speaker at the AGM. This is not going to be an opportunity for members to criticize the education system. This will be an opportunity for us to get a better understanding of the implications of the budget.

6. Reports

- a. Principal/Student Council - Brett
 - i. NCES input/feedback to principal (see attached report)
- b. School Trustee - Jennifer
 - i. Ward review update - fourth option (see attached report)

7. New Business

- a. ATA Letter writing campaign in support of public education
 - Laura Mast our local ATA rep, would like the parents of the school to participate in the letter writing campaign to advocate for additional school resources. These letters will be sent to our local MLA. Some

- things to focus on are class sizes, and some of the challenges and benefits that rural school face, what does the school need.
 - **ACTION:** Sheri will circulate the scanned letter writing template to the NCES email list. Completed letters need to be handwritten and submitted by June 30th to Debbie at the office.
 - b. ASCA - Proposed Advocacy Resolutions - support or disapproval due Mar 27
 - The board discussed the ASCA advocacy resolutions that would be voted on at the ASCS AGM. There was strong agreement with most resolutions. We had in-depth discussion about resolution P20-04 *Achieving Equitable Public Education*. It was agreed that NPCSC would not pursue supporting or disapproving any of the proposed advocacy resolutions. These are challenging discussions and it is necessary to view these resolutions through the lens of a NPCSC board member.
 - c. Exemplary Awards Nomination Form - due May 23, 2020
 - We will nominate a long serving NPCSC and NCES board member for volunteering their time and talents.
- 8. **Correspondence**
- 9. **Future Items**
 - a. May 2020 AGM: specify NCES and NPCSC agenda items and who can vote on what; draft by-laws for approval; approve budget; Charlene Nanninga, Lee Anne Schmidt, Janice Wierenga (Randy Strydhorst completed term in Nov 2019) terms completed. Need 4 new board members.
 - b. Board governance training session - September 21 or October 5, 2020.
- 10. **Adjournment**

March 9, 2020 Principal's Report

- Basketball is over - double gold for Jr. High!
- Running team wraps up this weekend
- Bus is fixed (again). Neerlandia Co-op was amazing and only charged for the supplies and parts. They donated their labour - what an amazing blessing that was!
- Music festival tomorrow, many band concerts coming up.
- Easter concert preparation is well underway
- Badminton is starting
- Kindergarten had their field trip last week touring services in Barrhead area
- Skiing this week; gr. 9 in Jasper, 7/8 at Misty Ridge
- 2nd trimester of Options and CTF is about to end next week, final trimester starts afterwards
- Tornado Hunter presentation for whole school today
- Had winter walk and snow festival - thank you to NCES for the hot chocolate and cookies.
- Parent teacher interviews seemed to go well. Had a very high percentage again for k-6 and significantly higher percentage for jr high with the scheduled drop in (as opposed to random drop in).
- Waiting for budget details to come out and see how that impacts next year
- New students in k, 1, 2, 4, 5 at end of February. Getting new students in May. Kindergarten is going to be at 30 once that happens. Looking very seriously at how to do grade one next year.
- Jeremy from PCCE is coming Friday to do storyline PD for teachers

School Council Report - March 2020

New Education Funding Model - Budget 2020-2021

After fifteen years, the government has released a new funding model for education. Funding will no longer follow the student, but will instead fund the system through a weighted moving average based on enrolment. They have reduced the number of grants from 36 to 15.

The Division is working through the provincial budget numbers to determine where there are shortfalls and questions on the new funding model. Senior administration and I will meet with Ministry representatives on March 12 to seek further clarification on the funding being provided to Pembina Hills. Our final commitment letter from the province will be given to us mid April.

The government has also introduced a bill that requires school boards to seek the Minister's approval before using money in reserves. This is in direct contradiction to local autonomy and a board's ability to use its resources in the best interest of students.

Alberta Distance Learning Centre Service Agreement to be concluded

On February 27, ADLC was informed by Deputy Minister Andre Corbould that the service agreement with Alberta Education will be renewed for 2 more school years; 2020-2021 and 2021-2022. Next year's funding will be \$14 million and in the year following it will be \$7 million. ADLC is a provincial resource and supports students and teachers in their local schools. Pembina Hills will continue to advocate to Education Minister LaGrange about how ADLC fills critical gaps in programming by providing student instruction and teacher resources to 888 schools.

COVID-19 Coronavirus Information

Pembina Hills School Division is asking parents, staff and community members to refer to the [Alberta Health Services website](#) for the most up to date information on the disease caused by this strain of coronavirus (COVID-19).

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Electoral Ward Review - Option 4

At the February 26th board meeting the school board released the Electoral Ward Review [‘What We Heard’ report](#). Based on the input received, the board is considering another option, with six (6) wards and six (6) trustees.

In option 4, wards have been created using existing municipal and council divisions. This will create a better representation by population between municipal and student numbers, while taking into account that some areas are more sparsely populated. Since school board elections are held in conjunction with municipal elections, this structure will also create a simplified experience for both voters and trustee candidates by clearly defining electoral lines.

Electoral Ward	Municipal Divisions located in ward	Schools located in ward	Municipal Population (est)	Student Population
Pembina Hills East - Ward 1	Westlock County - Div 1, 2, 4, 5 Village of Clyde	Busby, Eleanor Hall	4,040	375
Pembina Hills East - Ward 2	Westlock County - Div 3, 6, 7 MD of Lesser Slave River*	Pembina North Community, Colony Schools	3,610	258
Town of Westlock	Town of Westlock	R.F. Staples, Westlock Outreach, Westlock Elementary	5,101	1,184
Pembina Hills West - Ward 1	County of Barrhead - Div 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7	Neerlandia Public Christian, Dunstable	5,389	252
Pembina Hills West - Ward 2	County of Barrhead - Div 6 Woodlands County - Div 5*, 6, 7 Town of Swan Hills Big Lakes County*	Fort Assiniboine, Swan Hills	3,752	300
Town of Barrhead	Town of Barrhead	Barrhead Composite, Barrhead Outreach, Barrhead Elementary	4,579	1,410

* Indicates only the portion that is within Pembina Hills School Division

Although specific schools are located within each ward, it's important to note that trustees do not represent any one school or community. They make decisions based on the entire needs of the division.

Responsibilities at school sites, and board representatives for ADLC and VVS can still be assigned at the board table as student populations fluctuate.