

# Minutes

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Neerlandia Public Christian School Council

Monday, October 26, 2020 @ 6:00PM

NPCS - Science Room - Please social distance and sit at separate desks

Attendance: Brett Seatter, Sheri Strydhorst, Annemiek Elzinga, Amanda Batty, Laura Braucht, Katherine Nanninga, Charlene Fleming, Geraldine Wierenga, Jennifer Tuininga, Lise Wruk (teacher rep)

## 1. Call to Order

2. Devotions – Servant-Working - Sheri Strydhorst

3. Adopt Agenda - Approved as circulated

4. Review and Approve NPCSC Minutes – September 28, 2020 - Approved as circulated

## 5. Business from Minutes

a. Exemplary Award Presentation to Randy Strydhorst. NPCSC nominated Randy for this Pembina Hills School Division award.

## 6. Reports

a. Principal Report - Brett

i. October report - See attached

b. School Trustee Report - Jennifer - See attached

c. ASCA. School Council Engagement Task Force - Amanda

- We replied to a survey regarding the Weighted Average Funding Model

## 7. New Business

a. Discuss meeting start times and book 2021 meetings

## 8. Adjournment @ 6:50 pm

## Upcoming Meetings:

- November 3 @ 5:00pm - Council of School Councils - Sheri

- November 30 @ 6:30pm - Devotions: Katherine

- January 25 @ 6:30pm - Devotions: Geraldine

- February 22 @ 6:30pm - Devotions: Amanda

- March 22 @ 6:30pm - Devotions: Charlene

- April 26 @ 6:30pm - Devotions: Kym

- May 17 @ 6:30pm - Devotions: Laura

- May 25 AGM Devotions: Katherine

- June 14 @ 6:30pm - Devotions: Annemiek

MISSION - The Neerlandia Public Christian School Council and Neerlandia Christian Education Society provides advisory support to the principal to further our children's Christian education and understanding of God's presence in all aspects of life.

## VISION

1. Encourage excellence in learning, holding the Bible as the infallible Word of God.

2. Provide a strong support network of parents, guardians and community members who care about the students, staff, and school.

3. Actively participate in school life and discuss current issues pertaining to the school.

## October Principal Report

- October had much better student attendance than September as the cold and flu symptoms were much lower this month. This has been good. There are still a few missing a couple of days here and there, but overall this has settled down for now.
- Definitely noticing less extra-curricular activities this year. There has been jr. high volleyball up until this week, but even that took longer than normal to get up and running; there are also no tournaments.
- Assemblies: Now that we've settled into the "normal" for this year for some of the new ways of doing things, we're able to turn our focus back to how to do assemblies. Mrs. Seatter wants to lead an assembly with me every 2 weeks. This will be one grade in the gym singing along while the other grades are in their classroom, watching on a live google meet. There will be songs, scripture reading, prayer.
- Otherwise things continue to go well and the protocols aren't too cumbersome as we continue to aim for "near normal" within the health and safety guidelines. Feedback from kids is that it's not that different when you really think about it.
- I see in the Trustee report that Trustee Tuininga will be bringing up the ADLC closure and how that affects all Pembina Hills schools. We as a staff are working with HR and Senior Admin to ensure that our alternative programming status will be recognized and considered within the transfer process. There are many moving parts and organizations involved, so I respect that this is a difficult process for everyone. What we request is prayer from the community that God would lead the right people to fill the vacancies in **our building**.
- Finally, our teachers were all able to participate in the Christian Educators Convention. Although the format was significantly different this year, it was an amazing time of rejuvenation and learning. The keynote speakers were very inspirational and all of the teachers said their breakout sessions were also informative and helped teachers grow in their practice and understanding. A sincere thank you to NCES for making this PD event possible!!

### **School Council Trustee Report - October 26, 2020**

#### **[COVID cases within our schools](#)**

Between October 19-25 we were informed of 9 positive cases of COVID identified within our community schools: 1 at BCHS (now resolved), 7 at RF Staples, 2 at Westlock Elementary, and 1 at Eleanor Hall School. Due to the contact tracing and isolation requirements of Alberta Health Services we have many students, teachers, substitutes and support staff isolating for various lengths of time depending on when the last day the child attended school was. Please continue to follow AHS guidelines as they relate to school attendance.

#### **COVID-19 Occupational Health & Safety Inspections**

An Occupational Health & Safety Officer conducted inspections at Busby, Dunstable, Barrhead Elementary and Neerlandia schools. The inspections focused on proactive measures in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic. The inspections were successful, with no issues to be addressed.

## **Employee Reductions**

Pembina Hills is preparing to close Alberta Distance Learning Centre (ADLC) after the end of the 2020-2021 school year. While ADLC continues to provide student instruction and teacher support services to Alberta this year, the scheduled termination of the Service Agreement with the province is expected to impact 24% of the Pembina Hills teaching staff and 11% of the support staff. Pembina Hills is taking steps to mitigate the effects on our employees, our students, and our communities. Teaching staff assigned to ADLC are Pembina Hills employees and like all teachers, they belong to the local chapter of the Alberta Teachers Association (ATA). Similarly, ADLC support staff are also Pembina Hills employees. This means that the closure will impact more than just the employees assigned to ADLC. All our schools will be directly or indirectly impacted by the need for staff reductions caused by the closure of ADLC. Division leaders will manage staff reductions through a transparent, multi step process. Staff reduction procedures are described in [AP 40-19 – Employee Reduction](#).

## **Student enrolment update**

As of September 30th, enrolment in our community schools is down 368 students — 10% lower than projected. Of those students, 202 have chosen distance learning through the division's online school, Vista Virtual School. Including Vista Virtual School's current registrations, the division's total Kindergarten to Grade 12 enrolment is 5,775 students — an increase of 192. This is the first enrolment increase the division has seen in years.

Pembina Hills will be advocating to the Minister of Education that divisions be funded on actual enrolments for 2020-2021 where there has been an enrolment increase. Some school boards are asking for a change to the funding due to COVID-19 and their declining numbers.

## **Capital maintenance priorities**

In preparation for Budget 2021, Alberta Education has requested a list of capital projects for 2021-2022. It's not clear whether this will replace the Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal (IMR) program for next year. If CMR replaces IMR then boards lose the autonomy to choose which projects to complete each year and there could be maintenance items that could come up that aren't approved projects. Boards would potentially have to cover the cost for the additional maintenance for unforeseen projects. Pembina Hills will submit the following projects as priorities in the order listed:

- Busby – New gymnasium; Convert existing gym into Library/Music room
- Barrhead Composite – Replacement sewer lift station, Junior High HVAC, Two Science lab renovations
- Swan Hills – New roof membrane
- Westlock Elementary – Six washroom renovations
- Barrhead Elementary – New exterior doors and hardware
- All Sites – Security alarm update, Upgrade emergency lighting, Exit fixtures and P.A. systems

Report submitted by Jennifer Tuininga, Board Chair

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