

Minutes

Neerlandia Public Christian School Council
Monday, November 30, 2020 @ 6:30PM

****Google Meet****

Attendance: Sheri Strydhorst, Katherine Nanninga, Geraldine Wierenga, Charlene Fleming, Amanda Batty, Kym Peters, Laura Braucht, Annemiek Elzinga, Brett Seatter, Jennifer Tuininga

1. Call to Order

2. Devotions – God-worshipping - Katherine Nanninga

3. Adopt Agenda - Approved as circulated

4. Review and Approve NPCSC Minutes – October 26, 2020 - Approved as circulated

5. Business from Minutes

- a. Report on Nov 3, Council of School Council's Meeting - Sheri
 - It was mentioned that the School Council meeting minutes must be available for the public. Carrying forward the NPCSC minutes will be posted on the school website by Debbie. Note: the NCES minutes will be available to NCES members as requested but not posted publically.
 - It was reminded that all volunteers need criminal record checks

6. Reports

- a. Principal/Student Council - Brett
 - i. NCES input/feedback to principal
 - see attached
- b. School Trustee - Jennifer
 - see attached
- c. ASCA. School Council Engagement Task Force - Amanda
 - Nothing to report

7. New Business

- a. PCCE Board survey
 - We were asked various questions about the services and resources that PCCE offers
 - **ACTION: Due to our lack of awareness re: many PCCE survey questions, Geraldine will prepare a list of PCCE services/benefits for the next meeting**

8. Adjournment @ 7:25pm

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.

November 2020 Principal Report

- We are very fortunate to keep all of our teaching staff, for next year, who were on continuous contracts. Amanda Smith is the new teacher joining us from BCHS. She attended Bible college. She's very excited to join our staff next year

- Obviously many changes have been made in the last week with the announcement. Overall things went fairly well getting all of the students ready. The staff again were amazing about all of this with people supporting one another and helping out wherever possible.

- We sent home over 45 devices for 59 students so far.

- St. Nick's day was postponed for Jr. High as it would've been too scrambled and chaotic to pull it off early. We will still have the elementary St. Nick party this week as planned.

- CTF and Options are temporarily cancelled due to online schooling. If students have an incomplete project we can schedule them for 1-on-1 appointments. This has to be done carefully.

- We are running some elementary sports for grades 5 & 6 (separate) during noon-hour since the gym is open with JH gone.

- Christmas Concert: every elementary class will video their contribution and we will send out a list of links for each grade so people can watch the concert on youtube. Jr. High were going to contribute, but with their schooling halted, that won't be possible.

- Finally, we are working as a staff and with Senior Admin (from Regional Office) to finalize how the January 4th-7th online week will work for all of k-9. We are aware that some households do not have adequate internet access for full days of online google meets with multiple children. Details will come out in the next couple of weeks.

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School Council Trustee Report - November 30, 2020

On November 24th, Alberta announced enhanced restrictions as part of the Public Health Emergency. Mandatory restrictions – Provincewide – Starting Nov. 30

Grades 7-12 students

- Move to at-home learning Nov. 30 to Jan. 8, except during winter break
- Resume in-person classes Jan. 11
- Diploma exams are optional for the rest of the school year. Students and families can choose to write an exam or receive an exemption for the January, April, June and August 2021 exams.

Grades K-6 students (including Early Childhood Services)

- Continue in-person learning until their scheduled winter break
- Move to at-home learning after the winter break until Jan. 8
- Resume in-person classes Jan. 11

Christmas Break in PHSD

The Pembina Hills Christmas Break is scheduled to begin on December 19 and runs until January 3. The last day of instruction will continue to be December 18, 2020. Instruction will resume on January 4, 2021. The Pembina Hills Christmas break lines up with the new restrictions.

Annual Education Results Report

The Annual Education Results Report provides an analysis of the division's four outcomes defined by the province:

- Alberta students are successful
- First Nations, Métis and Inuit students in Alberta are successful
- Alberta has excellent teachers, school leaders and school authority leaders
- Alberta's K-12 education system is well governed and managed

Results are measured and given an evaluation of excellent, good, acceptable, issue or concern.

Of the 16 accountability pillar measures, the division had excellent results in providing a safe and caring environment, quality of education, parental involvement, preparing students for work and citizenship.

*Only one area was identified as an issue - Diploma Exam Participation Rate (4+ Exams). The numbers are impacted by the population of Vista Virtual students who only access a few courses to support their high school completion.

See full details in the [2019-2020 Annual Education Results Report](#).

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No schools considered for closure

The board reviewed the criteria to determine if any schools should be considered for closure for the 2021-22 school year. Schools are assessed annually against the [closure criteria](#), which includes the following factors:

- Are there factors related to the school building?
- Is the school meeting the critical minimum enrolment?
- How many students are we expecting to attend in the future?
- Are fewer than 60 per cent of the students in the attendance area attending the school?
- Does operating the school create excessive costs for the division?

Fort Assiniboine School is the only school that didn't meet the criteria for critical minimum enrolment. However, they would have met the criteria if students who normally attend the school had chosen to continue to attend school in person during the pandemic. Fort Assiniboine School also creates an excessive cost for the division in the amount of \$122,127. After careful consideration of the criteria presented, the board decided not to consider any schools for closure in 2021-22.

[See details in the 2020-2021 School Viability Report.](#)

Division finishes the year with a surplus

The cancellation of in-school classes last year from March-June, and the addition of a very successful summer program at Vista Virtual School left the division with a \$2M surplus at the end of the 2019-2020 school year. While the Accumulated Surplus from Operations is almost \$6.2M, the board has already sent a request to the Minister of Education to use \$1.7M to cover the additional costs at Vista Virtual School due to increased enrolment this year.

The Alberta Distance Learning Centre also finished the year with a surplus of \$708K, leaving them with an Accumulated Surplus from Operations of \$6.2M.

[Read the Audited Financial Statements here.](#)

Fun fact: *During the school closures from March - June 2020, Pembina Hills lent out 981 Chromebooks to students to continue their learning at home.*

Report submitted by Jennifer Tuininga, Board Chair
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November 2020 Principal Report

- We are very fortunate to keep all of our teaching staff, for next year, who were on continuous contracts. Miss Loewen is on a probationary contract until the end of June and therefore was not part of the reduction pool for next year. She was aware of this going into the process and is the only teacher we will lose for next year. Amanda Smith is the new teacher joining us from BCHS. She has a great reputation as a teacher. She attended Bible college and continues to attend church with her young family. She's very excited to join our staff next year and many colleagues have informed me she will be a great fit as she brings many skills.
- Obviously many changes have been made in the last week with the announcement. Overall things went fairly well getting all of the students ready. The staff again were amazing about all of this with people supporting one another and helping out wherever possible.
- We sent home over 45 devices for 59 students so far.
- St. Nick's day was postponed for Jr. High as it would've been too scrambled and chaotic to pull it off early. We will still have the elementary St. Nick party this week as planned.
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