

# Minutes

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Neerlandia Public Christian School Council  
Monday, January 25, 2021 @ 6:30PM

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

Attendance: Sheri Strydorst, Katherine Nanninga, Amanda Batty, Annemiek Elzinga, Charlene Fleming, Geraldine Wierenga, Kym Peters, Jennifer Tuininga, Kim Sybesma (on behalf of Brett)  
Absent (with notice): Brett Seatter and Laura Braucht

1. **Call to Order** at 6:32pm
2. **Devotions** – Beauty Creating (p23) - Geraldine
3. **Adopt Agenda** - Approved as circulated
4. **Review and Approve NPCSC Minutes** – November 30, 2020 - Approved as circulated
5. **Business from Minutes**
  - a. **PCCE Services/Benefits Overview** – see attached
    - i. Geraldine shared with us many benefits of PCCE. Overall PCCE benefits the staff tremendously with the TFT, Christian Teacher Conference and many additional staff resources.
6. **Reports**
  - a. **Principal/Student Council** – Brett/Kim Sybesma
    - See attached
  - b. **2021-22 Calendar Review**
    - i. 2021/2022 will start with a staggered entry again. August 31 gr. 1,3,5,9; September 1 gr. 2,4,6,8.  
*Katherine made a motion that we are in favour of draft #2 that include the following highlights. Kym 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, all in favour. Carried.*
    - ii. Oct 21 & 22, 2021 Christian Teachers Convention, make them teacher directed alternate days giving the teachers an opportunity to go.
    - iii. 5 day weeks proposed for December, January and June
    - iv. The calendar will be presented to the Pembina Hills school board for final approval.
  - c. **School Trustee** - Jennifer
    - See attached
    - Jennifer is encouraging people interested in education to run
7. **ASCA. School Council Engagement Task Force** – Amanda
  - a. Answered survey questions regarding teacher competence/conduct.
8. **New Business**
  - a. AB Council of School Councils AGM – April 23-25, 2021
    - i. meeting will be held virtually this year  
**ACTION:** Sheri will send out a link with meeting details. At next meeting NPCSC will consider sending a representative.
9. **Adjournment** at 7:18pm

## Upcoming Meetings:

- February 22, 2021 @ 6:30pm - Amanda devotions
- March 22, 2021 @ 6:30pm - Charlene devotions

- April 23-25, 2021 – AB Council of School Councils AGM
- April 26, 2021 @ 6:30pm - Kym devotions
- May 11, 2021 @ 5:00pm - Council of School Councils
- May 17, 2021 @ 6:30pm - Laura devotions
- May 25, 2021 AGM @ 6:30pm - Katherine devotions
- June 14, 2021 @ 6:30pm - Annemiek devotions

## **The Prairie Centre for Christian Education (PCCE) Summary – Prepared by Geraldine Wierenga**

**The mission** of The Prairie Centre for Christian Education (PCCE) is to provide leadership and support to Christian education communities in the Canadian Prairie Region that will:

- Lead, enhance, and promote transformational Christian education in a changing world.
- Develop resources, tools and learning opportunities for Christian education communities (comprised of board members, administrators, teachers, parents, and students) to understand and implement transformational Christian education in a changing world.

### **PCCE values:**

- the Biblical story of God’s unrelenting love for the work of his hands. This story inspires our transformational worldview of Creation, the Fall, Redemption, and Restoration.
- each unique Christian educational community and support them.
- the God-given abilities and talents of each child.
- the role and responsibility parents have in educating their children within the Christian educational community.
- the role and responsibility of educational professionals within the Christian educational community.
- our family of Christian educational communities and how we can learn from each other and hold each other accountable to the vision, mission, and values of Christian education.
- the roots and history of Christian education.
- partnerships with other organizations in the broader Christian community that will support the work, mission, and vision of the PCCE.

**History:** The Prairie Centre for Christian Education (PCCE) opened its doors in August of 2011. Formerly known as the Prairie Association of Christian Schools (PACS), PCCE is a community of 19 Christian school communities in Alberta and Manitoba. PCCE represents approximately 6460 students from K-12, 350 teachers and 40 administrators. PCCE is the joining together of Christian School Societies (PACS), teachers (Christian Educators Association), and administrators (Prairie Christian Principals Association).

**Slack** will be a primary collaboration and sharing space to support our work as Christian school teachers.

## TFT Resources for Families

[Week One \(Community Building\)](#)

[Week Two \(Beauty Creating\)](#)

[Week Three \(God Worshipping\)](#)

[Week Four \(Servant Working\)](#)

[Deep Hope](#)

[Week Five \(Creation Enjoying\)](#)

[Week Six \(Justice Seeking\)](#)

[Week Seven \(Order Discovering\)](#)

[Week Eight \(Idolatry Discerning\)](#)

[Week Nine \(Earth Keeping\)](#)

[Week Ten \(Image Reflecting\)](#)

## Teaching for Transformation

The biblical truth that resounds in our Christian school's curriculum is that all things in the world belong to God. It is important that we not presume that this truth is obvious or apparent to all. The task of a Christian schoolteacher is to help reveal God's grand story in all things. Thus, a teacher's task is one of Christian-story telling, of seeking out and helping students to "See The Story" in all areas of study.

We do this by teaching under the principle of all things. God created all things. It is into this story The Teaching for Transformation Throughlines, as developed by The Prairie Centre for Christian Education (PCCE) region, provides a framework for the development of authentic and integral Christian learning experiences that are grounded in a transformational worldview with a focus on the Biblical story.

### Membership in the PCCE includes:

- Access to all PCCE services, resources, and staff expertise.
- Access to the PCCE Member Portal for resources and collaboration.
- Access to conferences and workshops at member pricing.
- Access to mediation, legal, and consultation services.
- Partnership with Christian Stewardship Services.
- A subscription to the Christian Educators' Journal

### PCCE Member Schools

School Name	Location	Est.	Students
<a href="#">Calgary Christian School</a>	Calgary, AB	1963	840
<a href="#">Calvin Christian School</a>	Winnipeg, MB	1960	474
<a href="#">Central Alberta Christian High School</a>	Lacombe, AB	1989	75
<a href="#">Covenant Christian School</a>	Leduc, AB	1983	370
<a href="#">Drayton Christian School</a>	Drayton Valley, AB	1994	171
<a href="#">Edmonton Christian Schools</a>	Edmonton, AB	1949	1481

<a href="#"><u>Fort McMurray Christian School</u></a>	Fort McMurray, AB	1993	204
<a href="#"><u>Gateway Christian School</u></a>	Red Deer, AB	1968	840
<a href="#"><u>Immanuel Christian Schools</u></a>	Lethbridge, AB	1962	620
<a href="#"><u>Lacombe Christian School</u></a>	Lacombe, AB	1945	376
<a href="#"><u>Medicine Hat Christian School</u></a>	Medicine Hat, AB	1982	265
<a href="#"><u>Neerlandia Public Christian School</u></a>	Neerlandia, AB	1917	203
<a href="#"><u>Ponoka Christian School</u></a>	Ponoka, AB		
<a href="#"><u>Providence Christian School</u></a>	Monarch, AB	1994	152
<a href="#"><u>Rimbey Christian School</u></a>	Rimby, AB	1986	53
<a href="#"><u>Rocky Christian School</u></a>	Rocky Mountain House, AB	1970	131
<a href="#"><u>Taber Christian School</u></a>	Taber, AB	1984	391
<a href="#"><u>Taber Christian High School</u></a>	Taber, AB	2020	
<a href="#"><u>Trinity Christian School</u></a>	Calgary, AB	1993	429
<a href="#"><u>Westpark School</u></a>	Portage la Prairie, MB		232

## January 25, 2021 Principal Report

- We are happy to have all of the students back in school after the online learning before and after Christmas. Overall, the elementary students did a good job of their work during the first week in January (some had to catch up when they returned to school). The Jr. Highs were amazing for their 4 weeks of online learning. We had nearly 100% attendance and all of the students took the classes and assignments seriously. We were able to keep the lessons and units moving more or less on schedule. We appreciate the parental support we had with making sure this was achieved.
- The bus we bought has died again - after replacing the engine (with a used one), this engine is also dead. After talking to the transportation department about the unfortunate costs and lack of performance from the bus, they are able to give us a bus they were intending to replace. It still runs and passed inspection, so we're hoping this one works out better. This is essentially going to be free to us.
- The school purchased another 20 chromebooks as we have some resource funds available and found that it is getting harder and harder for teachers to book a class set. This should help the grade 4-9 classes alleviate some scheduling issues.
- For PD this Friday, we have a session in the gym (so we can maintain distance) with guest speaker Harold Roscher. Harold is Indigenous and is also an ordained minister. He will be guiding us through the differences and similarities between Christian and Indigenous cultures.

## School Council Trustee Report - January 25, 2021

### Approval for additional supports

The board approved the division's request to seek Ministerial approval to use \$150K to hire three additional support staff for this school year:

- One full-time Speech Language Pathologist
- One full-time Behaviour Therapist
- One half-time Occupational Therapist

### Partnering to Support Mental Health

Through funding from the Alberta Government, Pembina Hills has partnered with the Barrhead Association for Community Living and the Barrhead Anglican Church to create Together Talk — an initiative to support mental health concerns related to the pandemic. Together Talk will focus on providing on-site and virtual counselling, as well as group activities to promote mental well-being.

Their goal is to provide extra support to local communities and help bridge the gap between existing services such as local FCSS services, physicians, AHS addictions and mental health services. Read more at [www.togethertalk.ca](http://www.togethertalk.ca).

## 2021 Public School Trustee Election

The election for Public School Trustees will take place on October 18, 2021. Nominations are being accepted until 12:00 p.m. on September 20, 2021.

There are six (6) trustee vacancies in the following wards:

- Pembina Hills East Ward 1 (Rural)
- Pembina Hills East Ward 2 (Rural)
- Pembina Hills East Ward 3 (Town – Westlock)
- Pembina Hills West Ward 1 (Rural)
- Pembina Hills West Ward 2 (Rural)
- Pembina Hills West Ward 3 (Town – Barrhead)

Visit the [Election 2021 page](#) on our website for more information including:

- [Candidate package](#)
- [Electoral ward map](#)
- Electoral ward descriptions
- Trustee handbook

Nomination packages can be picked up at Regional Office at 5310 – 49 Street in Barrhead.

## COVID-19 Language Update

Effective January 18th the government has updated the language describing case numbers of COVID-19 in schools.

- Alert: 1- 4 cases  
*Schools with 2 or more cases are reported on the map*
- Outbreak: 5-9 cases, 10+ cases  
*These terms will be used for map reporting*

The term 'watch' will no longer be used.

Public health support provided to students, staff and families remains unchanged. Parents will continue to be notified when there is a single case in their child's school, and an investigation will be initiated when there are two or more cases in school. Two or more cases will continue to be reported and reflected on the [COVID-19 school map](#).

Report submitted by Jennifer Tuininga, Board Chair  
Follow me on Facebook or Twitter, [www.pembinahills.ca](http://www.pembinahills.ca)  
Jennifer.Tuininga@pembinahills.ca 780-674-6579 H 780-284-0971 C