

Minutes

Neerlandia Public Christian School Council
Monday, February 22, 2021 @ 6:30PM

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

Attendance: Sheri Strydhorst, Katherine Nanninga (late with notice), Charlene Fleming, Geraldine Wierenga, Kym Peters (late with notice), Jennifer Tuininga, Kim Sybesma, Brett Seatter, Laura Braucht (late with notice), Jill Olthuis
Absent (with notice): Annemieke Elzinga, Amanda Batty

1. **Call to Order** at 6:32pm
2. **Devotions** – Community Building (pg. 30) Charlene in place of Amanda
3. **Adopt Agenda** - Approved as circulated
4. **Review and Approve NPCSC Minutes** – November 30, 2020 - Approved as circulated
5. **Business from Minutes**
 - a. AB Council of School Councils AGM – table for March meeting
6. **Reports**
 - a. **Principal** – Brett
 - See attached
 - b. **School Trustee** - Jennifer
 - See attached
7. **ASCA. School Council Engagement Task Force**

Amanda's email report indicated there was no ASCA survey for this month
8. **New Business**
 - a. no new business
9. **Adjournment** at 7:04pm

Upcoming Meetings:

- 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

February 22, 2021 Principal Report

- We now have a replacement bus as the first bus had engine problems again. This one did not cost us anything as it was going to be retired. It has fairly high kms, but still runs well. We're hoping to get as much life out of it as possible.
- We continue to try bi-weekly assemblies with live streaming or pre-recording. This has been difficult due to the sound quality being an ongoing issue. We've tried several devices and microphones with limited success. We will continue to tinker with the technology for the rest of the year as we believe the whole school time of worship and scripture reading is important, but it will be nice when we can have live assemblies in person again someday.
- For the first half of February we did the letter writing campaign as part of the Language Arts programming. This was successful again as many students wrote to multiple people in many different grades in the school and allows students to work on their writing skills and connect with new people.
- After school badminton practices have begun for grades 5-9. This has to be done with many protocols in place, but our coaches have come up with plans to be within the guidelines and ensure safety is a priority.
- Lockers are being installed in the boys and girls change rooms to help keep the rooms organized and the personal belongings protected.
- Happy to have warm weather again after a week of indoor recess due to the extreme cold weather. The staff and students were great throughout that week.
- Currently doing a Band fundraiser to raise money for uniforms for performances
- We have an approved plan for grade one when we need to temporarily replace Mrs. Rentz for her upcoming leave.

School Council Trustee Report - February 22, 2021

Minister approves request to access reserves

In October 2020, the board submitted a request to Education Minister Adriana LaGrange asking for approval to use \$1.7 Million in reserves. These funds are required to cover the additional costs related to increased enrolment in the online program at Vista Virtual School. Treasurer Tracy Leigh reported that the division has received approval for this request.

Trustees continue to advocate for changes to school bus speed limit

In February 2020, the board submitted a letter to Transportation Minister Ric McIver requesting a meeting to discuss changes to speed limits for school buses. Current regulations require school buses to travel 90 km/hour or the posted speed limit, whichever is less. The board's decision to pursue the speed limit change is supported by local data, feedback from bus drivers, division administration and other school divisions across the province. The board also collected supporting data from other provinces and Alberta transportation partners.

Having received no response, Trustees submitted a follow-up letter to the Transportation Minister on February 4, 2021. Trustees also agreed to reach out to the Minister and local MLAs

by phone regarding the request. I am pleased to report we have a meeting scheduled with Minister McIver on March 3rd!

Transportation Fees Rates Annex 2021-2022

The Board annually establishes in-town transportation fees, rural transportation fees for students accessing transportation to a school of choice other than their designated school, and alternate site transportation fees for students accessing more than one bus stop. The fees charged for the rural transportation and alternate sites cover the cost to provide the service because the routes are funded by Alberta Education. In-town transportation isn't funded by Alberta Education because students live within 2.4 kilometers of their designated school. Historically, in-town transportation routes have always been subsidized, but an analysis was done to determine whether fees or routes could be adjusted in order to cover the cost of providing the service. In 2019-2020 the division would have subsidized the in-town transportation \$53,187. Based on a reduction of riders this year due to COVID-19 in-town transportation is costing \$71,807. Administration will be providing some analysis and options for the board to consider in setting the in-town transportation fee at this week's board meeting.

Community Engagement Surveys

During the month of February trustees conducted 54 phone interviews with our community partners to explore an external point of view about our schools. The information gathered will be used as part of our education planning process. Trustees spoke with community representatives, businesses, work experience partners, school council chairs, and mayors/reeves. As a rural school division we value the connections and partnerships we have in our communities.

2021 Public School Trustee Election

Consider serving your community and running for school trustee on October 18, 2021. Please speak to me for more details or to suggest someone else who you think might need a little encouragement!

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.

Report submitted by Jennifer Tuininga, Board Chair
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