

MINUTES

Neerlandia Public Christian School Council
Thursday, April 22, 2021 @ 7:30PM

Virtual Google Meeting

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

1. Call to Order

2. Devotions - Creation – Earth Keeping (p41) – Kym

3. Adopt Agenda - motion to approve as circulated, all in favor

4. Review and Approve NPCSC Minutes – February 22, 2021- approved as circulated

5. Business from Minutes

a. n/a

6. Reports

a. Principal/Student Council – Brett

i. see attached

b. School Trustee - Jennifer (please see attached)

i. April 28 the board will meet to decide if PHPS will be piloting the new curriculum. Staff from various schools are reviewing the curriculum and will give feedback to the board

ii. It was asked if the speed limit change for the school busses, was approved. The information has not been released yet.

iii. NPCSC may be getting a modular classroom addition due to proposed 2021-22 enrollment of 254 students. This will not interfere with land use for the proposed playground.

c. ASCA. School Council Engagement Task Force - Amanda

i. nothing to report

7. New Business

a. Virtual AGM agenda items and meeting link

i. Jennifer was asked to do a presentation at the AGM, and to also raise awareness of the upcoming election for school board trustees.

ii. Brett will do a principal report and will send a link to the AGM to all families at NPCSC.

8. Adjournment

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.

Upcoming Meetings:

- 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
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April 22, 2021 Principal Report

- We're looking into putting a fence on the north side of the yard (between the staff parking lot and the bus lane) to better direct pedestrian traffic across the road. The county agreed to put in a marked crosswalk to designate a defined space for in-town students to walk across the main road.
- We did the Easter Assembly virtually this year, filming one class at a time. Although the format was different, the message was still as important as ever. We have a risen God, Hallelujah.
- Last year we received a grant from Fortis to contribute to us setting up a paper recycling program. We recently finished purchasing all the necessary bins and items and began paper recycling all throughout the school. Our grade 5 students did the first gathering of paper and loaded it to go to the recycle centre. This will reduce our waste and help the environment.
- The biggest challenge has been working through the recent COVID-19 cases, identifying close contacts, contacting parents, dealing with AHS paperwork and phone calls. We are being extremely diligent as a school to ensure there is no spread of the virus in the building.

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School Council Trustee Report - April 22, 2021

Education Plan Priorities

The priorities for the 2021-2022 school year remain the same with one small change to #1:

1. Student-Staff Relationships (Staff instead of Teachers)

Positive relationships between students and staff are the foundation upon which we build students' resilience, confidence and mental well-being.

1. Literacy and Numeracy

Literacy and Numeracy are critical for Student Achievement in all areas of the curriculum.

1. Support for Staff

A collaborative environment enables staff to teach a diverse student population through purposeful inclusion and supports the implementation of effective practices.

Co-op Pool

Funding from the Co-op pool will provide the following additional student learning staff supports that were added by a board motion in December 2020: 2.0 FTE Behavior Specialist, 2.0 FTE Speech Language Pathologist, 0.5 FTE Occupational Therapist and 1.0 FTE SLP Aide. System administration will utilize \$757,000 to cover expenses related to instruction due to the loss of the ADLC management fee.

Allocation Formula

A distribution of \$900,000 of reserves will result in an increase of discretionary funds available at each school for the upcoming school year. The division is also able to maintain or increase certificated staff at most schools. NPCS will see a 2.15% increase in certificated staff and a net increase of \$82,721 in discretionary funds. Support staff hours for program assistants, success coaches, office and library are maintained at 2020-2021 levels in the allocation formula.

There is also a substantial increase in average teacher cost for 2021-2022 due to the August 31, 2021 closure of Alberta Distance Learning Centre. The closure will result in fewer less experienced teachers within the division as 97% of certificated staff fall within the mid to highest range of the salary grid, with 78% at the top of the grid.

Board sets Capital Plan Priorities

The Board adopted the following priorities for the 2021-2024 Three-Year Capital Plan:

1. Barrhead Composite High School - Full Modernization and Right Sizing
 - Previously we had asked for a \$44 million replacement school, but with the cost of a full modernization at \$29 million and the current economy we felt we had a better opportunity of securing a modernization
2. Westlock Elementary School - Partial Modernization

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Other Facility Updates

Pembina Hills has received approval from Alberta Education to use \$1.5 million of Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal (IMR) and Capital Maintenance and Renewal (CMR) funding to build a replacement gym and modernize the exterior of Busby School. The current gym has a slanted roof and is only 188sqm, the new gym will be 450sqm.

A modular classroom request was made to Alberta Infrastructure for Neerlandia Public Christian School as the projected enrolment for 2021-2022 is 254 students, which would be an 89% utilization rate. Not including the cost of the modular the project cost is \$155,498.00.

Transportation Information

Between September 2020 and February 2021, drivers reported 42 fly-bys

- o Pembina Hills installed exterior cameras on two of our buses at \$950 per bus
 - RCMP still can't seem to get clear enough information to issue fines
- o Extended stop arm is being piloted in other provinces
 - Our cost to participate in the pilot project would be \$5,000 per unit

The Neerlandia area has the shortest average route times across the division at 59min. Parents are now able to submit transportation forms and payments online

Superintendent Recruitment

Superintendent David Garbutt has announced his plans to retire this fall. The board has begun the process for the recruitment of a new superintendent for the upcoming school year. We encourage you to provide your feedback through the online parent survey as the board develops an ideal candidate profile.

2021 Public School Trustee Election

School trustee elections are on October 18, 2021. Please speak to me for more details or to suggest someone 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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