

Minutes

Neerlandia Public Christian School Council
Monday, October 18, 2021 @ 6:30PM

In-person: NPCSC – Science Room following masking and distancing guidelines.

Attendance: Sheri Strydhorst, Laura Braucht, Charlene Fleming, Amanda Batty, Geraldine Wierenga, Kym Peters, Annemiek Elzinga, Brett Seatter, Jennifer Tuininga, Victoria Kane, Michael Borgfjord, Lise Wruk (teacher rep), Amanda Smith (teacher rep)

Absent (with notice): Nicole Wierenga

1. **Call to Order** – we welcomed new Superintendent Michael Borgfjord and incoming Trustee Victoria Kane
2. **Devotions** – Servant Working (pg. 9) – Annemiek
3. **Adopt Agenda** – motion to approve agenda with the correction of approving the NPCSC rather than the NCES minutes, all in favor.
4. **Approve NPCSC Minutes** – August 23, 2021 – motion to approve as circulated, all in favor.
5. **Business from Minutes**
 - a. Some action items were related to PCCE and NCES governance session (re: group norms and updating the vision, mission, etc) and were covered in NCES meetings.
 - b. The Alberta School Council Engagement Grant provides each school council with \$500 to better support individual school councils and strengthen engagement with parents. More info can be found here:
<https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/education-in-alberta/the-education-ministry/alberta-school-council-engagement-asce-grant>
ACTION: NPCSC will have to consider ways to use these funds.
6. **Reports**
 - a. Principal/Student Council – Brett - See attached
 - b. School Trustee - Jennifer - See attached
 - c. ASCA. School Council Engagement Task Force
- Amanda led us through a survey about Assurance Framework. i.e. Satisfaction surveys.
7. **New Business**
 - a. Council of School Council’s Meeting – Nov 30, 2021; 5-6pm
Virtual meeting, Sheri will attend
 - b. We thanked Jennifer Tuininga for being our school trustee over the past several years. Jennifer’s last day will be October 24.

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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.

8. Future Items

- a. Alberta School Council's Association Annual Conference – April 22-24 – board members are asked to think about attending this conference.

7. Adjournment at 7:05pm

Upcoming Meetings:

- November 16, 2021 – NCES – Update NCES and NPCSC Mission, Vision, Objectives
- January 17, 2022 – NPCSC & NCES
- February 22, 2022 – NCES – Will Clinic Planning and Brainstorm new Board members
- March 21, 2022 – NPCSC & NCES
- April 19, 2022 – Update NCES and NPCSC Bylaws
- May 9, 2022 – NPCSC & NCES – AGM Planning
- May 24, 2022 – AGM
- June 13, 2022 – NCES

October '21 Principal Report

- We have had many adjustments to the school year as the covid protocols changed.
 - We were an outbreak school due to over 10% absent in September, but when the outbreak status rules changed to 10 positive cases within 2 weeks, we were no longer considered an outbreak school.
- Junior high volleyball has been able to proceed this year and we have a junior and senior team for both the boys and girls.
- We had a gr. 4-9 cross country team that participated in divisionals at the Westlock Golf Course, but had to miss Zones due to being an outbreak school at that time.
- Gr. 4-6 soccer has been happening after school. We hosted Fort Assiniboine after school at the end of September and are returning to visit them this week.
- Chapel (assemblies) has continued most weeks at the school, with each elementary grade cohort maintaining physical distancing from each other to maintain safety. It is wonderful to be able to worship together as a community in-person again.
- We have purchased some equipment to live-stream home sporting events. This has been a steep learning curve but we have had decent success overall and continue to try to find improvements. The tech department has been supportive as we work on this.
- The modular has arrived and the work to have it completed continues to happen. We are still unsure when it will be ready, but are looking forward to having it.
 - Grade 6 has temporarily moved into the staff room as their classroom became inaccessible during the construction.

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- The staff room has temporarily been moved into a section of the library
- We have hired a temporary Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Liber, to cover a leave for Mrs. K. Wierenga
- Our school participated in Orange Shirt Day on September 30, 2021
- We did the Terry Fox run on September 29, raising over \$700
- Students and families contributed food for the Food Bank and had over 500 pounds of food and cash donated
- Ordered new soccer nets, which will be delivered to the school this week. These will be somewhat portable, if ever necessary to move, and will have proper netting installed.
- We have ordered and will soon be receiving over \$8000 of musical instruments for both the Elementary music program and the Junior High Band program. Some of this was to update instruments and some was to bring in new instruments to continue to expand and improve the music program.

School Trustee Report - October 18, 2021

Board approves proof of vaccination procedure

On October 5th, the board received a joint letter from the Ministers of Health and Education encouraging school boards to require staff to either provide proof of vaccination against COVID-19 or provide negative screening tests. The board received several comments from staff and community members, and reviewed current year statistics on lost time for staff as well as infection rates for staff and students.

The board unanimously supported the development of an administrative procedure that will require staff, volunteers and contractors to either provide proof of their vaccination status, or provide periodic negative screening tests. The board agrees that these measures will help to protect the health of staff and students, and will lead to better educational outcomes.

The administrative procedure will be finalized and released in the coming weeks. [Read more about it in this news story.](#)

Facilities Information Update

Director of Facilities Tracy Tyreman presented an overview of the capital and maintenance projects that have been completed in the past year, as well as discussed upcoming projects underway. Air conditioner units were installed in the NPCS modulars, and the new modular has arrived and should be ready by mid-November. [See pictures and a list of the projects completed in the facilities information update.](#)

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Board meetings will be recorded

In December 2020, the board passed a motion to livestream regular board meetings held at Regional Office for the 2020-2021 school year. Given the beginning of the new school year, the board reviewed this practice and debated the best path forward. Rather than continuing with livestream, the board decided to record meetings where possible and will then post the recordings to the division website. Board meeting minutes and news can also be found on the [Pembina Hills website](#)

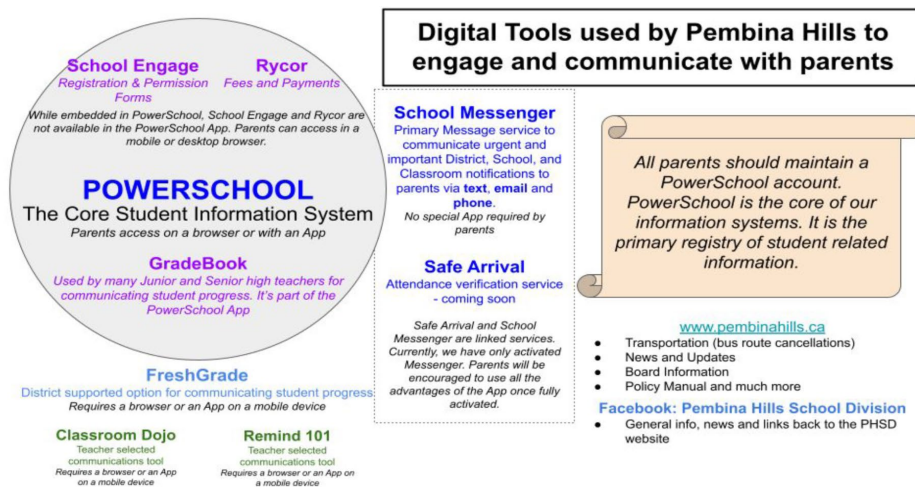
School Council Administrative Procedure

The following procedure has been revised and provides information about the role of school councils in Pembina Hills schools: [AP20-15 School Councils](#).

Communications Assurance Report

Pembina Hills uses a number of digital tools to engage and communicate with parents. PowerSchool is the centre of our Student Information System and so far 73% of our families have set up a parent account. We want to encourage parents to sign up for PowerSchool as it links to our online payment and forms system, Rycor, as well as our online student registration system, SchoolEngage.

School Messenger has also been a very valuable tool to get messaging to parents and guardians quickly, especially as messages regarding COVID-19 have changed frequently and at times suddenly. Safe Arrival will be piloted before rolling out as a tool for parents to communicate student absences. Following is a picture of the various digital tools being used in Pembina Hills to communicate effectively with parents.



Report submitted by Jennifer Tuininga, Board Chair

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