

MINUTES

Neerlandia Public Christian School
Monday, May 9, 2022 @ 6:30pm

Present—Amanda Batty, Brett Seatter (principal), Geraldine Wierenga, Kirstie Schatz (parent), Charlene Fleming, Laura Braucht, Victoria Kane (school trustee), Kym Peters. Annemiek Elzinga joins midway.

Regrets (with notice) – Sheri Strydhorst, Nicole Wierenga

1. Call to Order

2. Devotions- Brett Seatter opens with devotions from PCCE devotional

3. Adopt Agenda—Agenda adopted with no changes required.

4. Approve NPCSC Minutes—March 21, 2022—No changes required

5. Business from Minutes

a. Constructive feedback to Ministry of Education regarding new curriculum— Brett speaks to this. Discusses timeline included in his report for curriculum rollout. Mentions that PD days are being given for K-6 teachers. Resources have been released to support teachers. Specifically, Mathology is a beneficial resource. Suggests we remove this item off of future agenda topics.

b. PCCE Truth and Reconciliation Acknowledgement Statement—Brett speaks to this. States that FNMI are working on new acknowledgment statement. Meeting to happen shortly, but no changes to statement happening at present. Geraldine attended virtual PCCE meeting, and mentions that statement was too wordy.

c. NPCSC staff to host possible meal for NCES board—Brett speaks to this. States will not be hosting anything the night of the AGM. Something is being planned, but wants to keep under wraps for now.

6. Reports

a. Principal/ Student Council—See Attached. Brett also reviewed fee schedule for next year. Laura suggested an increase to camp nak fees as she has noticed an increase in camp nak fees with youth summer camps.

b. Victoria Kane—School Trustee Report—attached

c. ASCA—Amanda reports no survey requests at present.

7. New Business

a. Dates for White Hatter Presentation—Brett will discuss dates with Laura and then let us know when works.

8. Future Items

a. May 10th Council of School Council Meeting—Sheri willing to attend.

9. Adjournment.

May '22 Principal Report

- Had a very successful Christian Education Week with several homegroup activities, a grandparents' tea, and a couple of whole school assemblies. Was nice to have so many people from the community come to the school for the grandparents' tea and to see some performances by the kids.
- Badminton is now over. We hosted an elementary tournament with Fort Assiniboine and our Jr. Highs won divisionals.
- Swim lessons were completed for grades 4, 5, & 6 (to catch up from missing the last few years)
- Fundraisers - Pizza sales, plants, purdys, chicken catching, highway ditch cleanup
 - Teachers are all planning one or two field trips for this spring
- Mrs. Ferster is now on leave and has been replaced by Mrs. Hellinga
- We have new Program Assistant (PA) on staff now, Mrs. Nicole Wierenga, and Mrs. Gelderman took on some PA time in addition to her library work
- Grade 2 and 3 did pysanky eggs at Easter
- Grade 3s did a cookbook fundraiser for a boys orphanage in Columbia and raised over \$2800!



TRUSTEE REPORT

May 9, 2022

NEERLANDIA

CHANGES TO LONG TERM SERVICE AWARDS:

The Board of Trustees of Pembina Hills School Division believe that staff are the division's greatest asset. At their April 13th regular meeting, the board considered the several ways to recognize the division's long serving staff.

Following a thorough review of historical practices and a comparison to other school jurisdictions, the board approved some important changes to Policy 21 Long Service Awards and Recognition:

- Staff will continue to be recognized for every 5 years of service
- The recipient will be awarded a cash value to choose an item from an online store.
- Award amounts have been increased — \$10 per year of service up to a maximum of \$350.

FINANCIAL UPDATE PROJECTS SMALL SURPLUS:

The board received a report outlining the financial operations of the division for the first six months of the school year. Overall, the school division's finances are on budget, and the current projection is for a small surplus.

SATISFACTION RATES:

-maintain same levels as last year.

Director of Education Services Raime Drake presented the 2021-2022 Pembina Hills Satisfaction Survey Summary to the Board of Trustees. Each year, the school division surveys parents, staff and students in Grades 4-12 on their satisfaction level in a variety of areas. The results are used by schools and the division to develop their annual education plans and find ways to improve the educational experience of students.

The data is collected and organized into four themes. The overall satisfaction rate for each theme is unchanged from prior years:

1. Safe and Welcoming Learning Environment – 89%
Even though COVID-19 threatened our health and safety, the survey questions in this theme have maintained relatively the same level.
2. Satisfaction with Leadership – 86%
After several years of slight decline, satisfaction has improved significantly over the last three years with a balanced percentage rate this year.
3. Instruction, Assessment and Inclusion – 91%
Despite the downward pull of this year's reduced satisfaction with extracurricular opportunities, this theme continues to progress in a positive direction mostly on the strength of increased student satisfaction with other related elements.
4. Overall Quality of Education – 94%
All groups surveyed continue to convey very high levels of satisfaction with the overall quality of education in Pembina Hills.

CURRICULUM

Education Minister Adriana LaGrange announced the province would first apply the new English and math curriculum for K-3 students and phys-ed for all of K-6, but delayed everything else.

“these three subjects in Alberta’s new K-6 curriculum are critical starting points that will set students on the best path for success,” LaGrange said

Timeline (as of now):

- English Language Arts and Literature: Grades 4 to 6 in September 2023
- Math: Grades 4 to 6 in September 2023
- Science: K-3 in September 2023; grades 4 to 6 in September 2024
- Social studies: K-6 in September 2024
- Fine arts: K-3 in September 2023; grades 4 to 6 in September 2024
- French: K-3 in September 2023; grades 4 to 6 in September 2024

The timeline is based on recommendations from the Curriculum Implementation Advisory Group, a group created to help guide the rollout.

According to the province, changes made to the draft curriculum addressed content load, age appropriateness, wording clarity and First Nations, Metis and Inuit content.

In 2022-23, the province is also investing \$59 million in teacher professional learning and teaching resources to make sure educators and students are prepared for the updated curriculum.

What we are doing now:

Education Services will be hosting opportunities for grade groups to unpack the new curriculum. Participants will explore the curriculum framework and familiarize themselves with the online platform. Teachers will then have time to dive deeper into a curriculum of choice and work together with colleagues to identify old to new gaps, look for connections between curricula, plan purposeful instruction and/or consider balanced assessments.

EARLY LEARNING PROGRAM:

Coming to Neerlandia! Trustees passed a motion at our April 27 meeting to establish a school-based Early Learning Program at Neerlandia Public Christian School (NPCS) in the 2022-2023 school year, which will effectively replace the preschool program currently operated by the Neerlandia Christian Education Society.