

Minutes

Neerlandia Public Christian School Council
March 19, 2024 @ 7:00PM

Location: NPCSC Staff Room

Present: Kirstie Schatz, Sandra Olthuis, Laura Braucht, Shawna Sotnikow, Sheri Strydhorst,
Victoria Kane, Brett Seatter, Amanda Smith, Trenton Wierenga
Regrets with Notice: Diane Thiessen, Charlene Fleming, Char Nanninga

1. Call to Order – 6:59 pm
2. Devotions - Laura: Creation-Enjoying
3. Adopt Agenda - approved
4. Approve NPCSC Minutes – January 22, 2024 - approved
5. Business from Minutes – n/a
6. Reports
 - a. Principal Report – Brett, see attached
 - Mrs. Smith’s Food class was also thanked for their service project of providing food to Barrhead community members in need
 - b. School Trustee – Victoria, see attached
 - There are only 25 spots available for the Career camp
 - If the career camp is successful, it would be great to offer this in other careers such as accounting, bookkeeping, health services
 - On May 8th, there will be an MLA event at the Legislature with 22 school boards and the theme of “Understanding Diverse Perspectives”. Victoria is chairing the committee that is planning this event and extended an invite for NPCSC members to attend. NPCSC will most certainly pray for a successful event.
7. New Business
 - a. Dress Code
 - Brett circulated the attached document with copies of the NPCSC dress code, and dress codes from BCHS, RF Staples, Swan Hills, PNCS and the Education Act (see attached)
 - While no changes to school policy can be made mid way through a school year, Brett will consider the NPCSC feedback when preparing a memo to clarify NPCSC’s policy around ‘modesty’ and will draft a new dress code policy for the 2024-25 school year
 - NPCSC provided the following feedback:
 - o it was felt that the NPCSC policy is vague and not helpful for students/staff/parents as everyone has different definitions of modesty
 - o there was an appreciation for the specific guidance provided in the other school policies
 - o A school council member stated, it could be summed up as clothing should not show the 6 - no bum, back, belly, boobs, bras or boxers

- the clarification document will indicate that this applies to students and staff
 - Accepted by all in attendance.
 - b. NCES Involvement in Christian Education Week
 - Brett will check with the staff committee working on plans for the week and will let NCES know if any assistance is required one week before the NCES April 15th meeting. However, it is not anticipated that help will be required (Brett confirmed no assistance is needed - March 20, 2024)
 - c. AGM Pre-planning
 - Brett will prepare his principal's report
 - Victoria will prepare a 5 minute report about the highlights from the 2023-24 school year
 - The AGM will be held in the NPCSC Science Room
 - NCES does not plan to have a guest speaker as this can make the meeting too long and attendance is a struggle with competing activities such as seeding, hockey and county ball
 - More detailed planning for the AGM will occur at the May 13th NPCSC/NCES meeting
 - The AGM is scheduled for Tuesday, May 21st at 7pm
8. Adjournment – 8:09pm

Next Meeting: May 13, 2024

March 19, 2024 Principal Report

General:

- We're finishing the second term and report cards are going home this week, with parent teacher interviews on April 10th.
- Teachers had PD with Jeremy Horlings from PCCE on March 1st to dig in deeper on their Tft practice. Jeremy will be back for another half day on April 19th.
 - Mrs. Sybesma and Mrs. Henschel went to Surrey, BC for a Tft conference on March 7/8th. Between Jeremy's visit March 1st and the Tft conference in Surrey, we are working on a school plan with goals, deadlines, and common understandings to enhance the integration of Tft into all of the classrooms. Many of the practices align with PHSD's PD focus as well, so it integrates well (it's not an add-on).

Service Projects:

- The grade ones collected approximately 350 cans of food for the foodbank, which worked out to 336 pounds of food donated! This was their project to celebrate the 100th day of school.
- Gr 3s went to Hillcrest to play cribbage with the seniors. It went very well and Hillcrest has asked if we'd consider coming back again this year.
- Other classrooms are working towards a FLEX project to be completed this Spring

Music Festival:

- All of our entrants received high silver! (grades 4, 5, 6, 4-7 choir, and JH Band)

Sports:

- Basketball ended well for both junior high and elementary. The JH girls tier 1 team won both the Regional and Zone tournaments, bringing home another 2 banners for our gymnasium.
- The running team had great success with the mixed 8x100 relay team winning gold (in a come from behind finish) and a gr 9 student won the individual event by 1/10th of a second. This is the highest finish our teams have had.
- Badminton has started for JH, with a tournament happening with CCRS and NPCCS in the first week of April.

School Trustee Report – Victoria Kane

We have hired a new Superintendent, Brett Cooper!

Brett started working with Pembina Hills at Fort Assiniboine as an associate Principal in 2002. From there, he spent seven years as the Principal at R. F. Staples and the following six years at ADLC. In 2016, he has been in the role of the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, and named Deputy Superintendent for the past 5 years.

We have a VERY strong Admin Team – and together with Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, Dr. Rob McGarva, and Deputy Superintendent and Director of Education Services, Ramie Drake, the division is staying the course and committed with the direction we have set on with our previous Superintendent.

ASCA conference:

The Board has approved an increase of funding available to school councils to attend the ASCA conference. It has been raised from \$2000 to \$5000. Hoping that the increase of support will encourage you to attend.

Alternate School Calendars:

Neerlandia's 2024-25 Alternate School Year Calendar has been approved and will be posted on your school and divisions website.

Approval in Principle:

BCHS trip to Greece and Turkey from March 19 - April 2nd, 2025 was approved in principle. While field trips, excursions, national and international tours have positive educational value, care must be taken to ensure that all off-site activities are organized in a manner that maximizes educational benefits and ensures the protection and safety of students.

Career Camp:

With Careers Next Generation, Pembina Hills is offering a 5 day Career Camp from July 2-6th!

Students will learn about automotive, welding, heavy equipment operating, construction trades, aviation and agriculture! The completion of the camp will earn the student 3 credits. Including 1 credit towards the completion of HCS 3000 – a mandatory course if interested in any RAP programs or work experience.

We are sooo excited about offering this great, hands on learning experience for students. There will be site visits, guest speakers, a mental health & addictions presentation and resume writing!

There is no cost to students to attend. It will be held at RF Staples – bussing will be available from Barrhead Comp, everyday.

Apply before April 15! We have had a lot of interest, please get your application in, as we only have 25 spots. (I have provided a link below for you to visit with all the details)

<https://www.pembinahills.ca/schools-programs/programs/career-education-development/>

Marketer in the Making Competition

Grades 7-12 Students! Alberta Student Transportation Advisory Council (ASTAC) has announced the launch of their “Marketer in the Making” School Bus Driver Hiring Campaign. They are inviting students to showcase their talent in creating captivation hiring advertisements. Deadline is May 15th. (I have provided a link below for all rules and regulations.)

<https://Astac.ca/safety-week/>

Dress Codes

This is from our NPCCS handbook - Dress Code

Students should dress appropriately for school and school-sponsored functions, with an emphasis on neatness, cleanliness and modesty, as is becoming a Christian. The cooperation of all parents, teachers and students will mean having a minimum of rules within the following guideline, particularly for our pre-teen and teenage students: While dress need not be formal, it should not be recreation or beachwear casual. We suggest that shorts have a minimum 3-inch inseam.

Keep it comfortable and appropriate to a Christian school setting. Students dressed inappropriately will be spoken to privately and either warned or sent home to change, depending on the situation. Hats, baseball caps and hoodie hoods are not to be worn inside, especially not in the classroom.

Footwear - Students need to wear a pair of indoor shoes with non-marking soles whenever they are in the school. For safety and health reasons, bare or stocking feet are not allowed. Outdoor footwear goes on the shelves when you enter the building. When you leave, your indoor shoes stay inside. You need at least one set of each.

BCHS dress code

Every student attending BCHS must dress appropriately and respectfully for a learning/work environment.

1. Students may not wear clothing that displays offensive material such as; Profanity, Obscene Gestures, Discrimination, Sexual Reference, Anti-social Values, or Promotion of Alcohol or Drugs.
2. It is important for students to be comfortable; however, clothing must cover the torso appropriately regardless of gender or activity. Transparent clothing is not acceptable and underwear should not be shown.
3. Teachers and administrators are responsible for carrying out this policy at school.

Students may be asked to reverse, cover or change clothing or may be sent home to change if necessary. Parents may also be notified of inappropriate dress.

4. Parents are responsible for monitoring what their children are wearing to school, ensuring that it is appropriate and providing alternate clothing when requested by the school.

RF Staples:

Dress Code A dress code is a set of written and more often unwritten rules regarding clothing. Society has identified several different dress codes, the common ones including: formal, semi-formal, business, business-casual, casual and street-wear. Many places of employment require their employees to follow a certain dress code, or wear a specific uniform, depending on the type of business. The purpose of instituting a dress code in the workplace is to present a certain level of professionalism and to help patrons/customers/clients easily identify staff members. The purpose of considering a dress code at RF Staples, is to provide a means of helping students learn a skill which is often required for getting and keeping employment, and to support a learning environment. With respect to individuality and self-expression, students at RF Staples are asked to be mindful of what they wear to school such that their clothing meets the following criteria:

- Clothing provides adequate coverage of the body and/or undergarments ie: avoid see-through garments, bare midriff tops, backless or strapless tops
 - Clothing does not display profane, obscene or offensive language or symbols (ie: drugs, alcohol, race or sexual preferences)
 - Clothing is not a distraction to one's own learning or the learning/teaching of others.
- Students may be approached by staff members to discuss their attire if the above criteria are not being met.

Swan Hills

Dress Code – All students are expected to dress in a way that does not offend or intentionally distract others. Clothing that promotes alcohol, smoking, drugs, profanity, or other inappropriate behaviours is prohibited. Tank tops with very thin or spaghetti straps or bare midriffs are unacceptable, as is clothing that may be too intentionally or unintentionally revealing. Dresses, skirts, and shorts, must be of an acceptable length. If there is any dispute, administration will make the final call. Underwear must not be visible. Appropriate footwear is essential at all times and sunglasses or items that obscure the eyes and/or face are not to be worn in school. Students will be asked to change into gym gear or be sent home to change if the dress code is not adhered to.

This is from PNCS handbook

Dress Code: Students, staff and parent volunteers are expected to dress appropriately in a manner that is respectful of the learning environment (e.g. sleeved shirt/wide strapped tank tops, mid-thigh shorts, modest neckline, t-shirts free of foul language, graphics and innuendo, underclothes not visible). Clothing should be neat and clean and shoes must be worn at all times.

All students must have a separate pair of indoor shoes which can also be their gym runners.

The school reserves the right to require changes in any manner of dress that is deemed inappropriate at school. Hats and hoods are to be removed upon entry to the school for security/identification purposes.

Education Act:

Student responsibilities

31 A student, as a partner in education, has the responsibility to

- (a) attend school regularly and punctually,
- (b) be ready to learn and actively engage in and diligently pursue the student's education,
- (c) ensure that the student's conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging,
- (d) respect the rights of others in the school,
- (e) refrain from, report and not tolerate bullying or bullying behaviour directed toward others in the school, whether or not it occurs within the school building, during the school day or by electronic means,
- (f) comply with the rules of the school and the policies of the board,
- (g) co-operate with everyone authorized by the board to provide education programs and other services,
- (h) be accountable to the student's teachers and other school staff for the student's conduct, and
- (i) positively contribute to the student's school and community.

Parent responsibilities

32 A parent has the prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be provided to the parent's child, and as a partner in education, has the responsibility to 2012 Section 33 Chapter E-0.3 EDUCATION ACT 47

- (a) act as the primary guide and decision-maker with respect to the child's education,
- (b) take an active role in the child's educational success, including assisting the child in complying with section 31,
- (c) ensure that the child attends school regularly,
- (d) ensure that the parent's conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment,
- (e) co-operate and collaborate with school staff to support the delivery of supports and services to the child,
- (f) encourage, foster and advance collaborative, positive and respectful relationships with teachers, principals, other school staff and professionals providing supports and services in the school, and
- (g) engage in the child's school community