

# MINUTES

---

Neerlandia Public Christian School  
Monday, September 25, 2017 @ 7:30PM

Present: Trenton Wierenga (teacher rep), Randy Strydhorst, Lisa Gehring (principal), Jennifer Tuininga (school trustee), Annemiek Elzinga, Char Nanninga, Amanda Batty, Adam Crabbe, Brenda Strydhorst, Steve DeVries.

Absent: Heidi Magus

## 1. Call to Order

## 2. Devotions—Lisa Gehring

## 3. Adopt Agenda

## 4. Review and Approve Minutes— Minutes approved with no changes requested

## 5. Business from Minutes

### a. NPCSC/NCES AGM—November 6, 2017 @ 7pm

- i. Promote- **ACTION- Char** will put on facebook. **ACTION—Steve** will text, and also get bylaw adjustments out as required, and put notice in newsletter as well.
- ii. Reports- **ACTION—Steve, Randy, Lisa** and **Jennifer** will all report
- iii. Devotions- **ACTION—Brenda** will take care of devotions
- iv. Baking- **ACTION—Amanda** and **Annemiek** will bring baking. **Lisa** will handle coffee.

## 6. Reports

- a. Student Council—as attached
- b. Principal—as attached
- c. School Trustee— as attached

## 7. New Business

- a. Superintendent Garbutt—Steve reports that the new superintendent is planning to attend October meeting as he would like more direct contact with local boards.
- b. Council of School Councils—November 7, 2017 from 5:30-8:00pm. Steve and Annemiek stated they are both planning to attend.

## 8. Correspondence

## 9. Adjournment

**Next Meeting: October 30, 2017 @ 7:30PM**

**Devotions: Randy Strydhorst**

**Closing: Annemiek Elzinga**

## MINUTES

---

Neerlandia Christian Education Society  
Monday, September 25, 2017 @9:00PM

Present: Randy Strydhorst, Lisa Gehring (principal), Annemiek Elzinga, Char Nanninga, Amanda Batty, Adam Crabbe, Brenda Strydhorst, Steve DeVries.

Absent: Heidi Magus

### 1. Call to Order

### 2. Adopt Agenda—Added 4G- New Board Members

### 3. Review and Approve Minutes— Minutes approved with no changes required

### 4. Business from Minutes

a. Pancake Breakfast Review—The board felt overall the event went well, but several suggestions were made for improvement. Only have syrup bottles on table with pancakes, not where people sit as we had too many that were opened and not used. Suggested we possibly don't need as much bacon next year. It was mentioned that contacting Coutts River Logging personally to ask them to cook is appreciated and a good idea. Also, helpful to have a contact person for Coutts in case of issues. **ACTION-Brenda** will make pies to thank the cooks from Coutts and contact board members when finished to drop off same.

b. Playground Equipment—Char and Annemiek report that they have purchased new equipment for the school grounds and that it is already in the toy bins. **ACTION-Lisa** willing to mention that the board purchased same.

c. Board Governance Meeting—Steve reports that this meeting is scheduled for November 20th @ 7PM, but has not had an answer from Gail at present regarding confirmation.

d. Bussing Fee Reimbursement—Char reports that 49 students have been reimbursed for a total of \$7050. She estimates that ten more children will apply for reimbursement and estimates a total payout of \$8550 with a total of 59 students being reimbursed. She also mentioned that there are 4 families that the board has created special agreements with and that only one family has provided post dated cheques. Char reports there was also a cheque not cashed before expiry deadline. **ACTION- Randy** will return cheque to owner and determine if they are interested in rewriting a cheque.

e. Bylaw Review—Steve reads the proposed bylaw changes made by the board. No dissenting opinions noted. Bylaws will be presented at AGM

f. Parent Volunteer Checklist—Amanda shows new checklist. Several changes suggested. **ACTION—Amanda** will update and ensure copies printed for parent/teacher interviews on Oct 3/4. **ACTION-Steve** will email interview times to ascertain if board members are able to be present to hand out volunteer sheets.

g. New Board Members—Randy reports that Shane and Sherri declined at this time. Steve reports that Janice Wierenga willing to be community rep. Several other names suggested for people to approach who might be interested. **ACTION-Amanda** to contact names on list and if all decline then send email to board looking for more suggestions.

## **5. Reports**

a. Financial—Randy reports that audit still needs to be done. **ACTION-Randy** will have complete prior to AGM

b. Preschool—Steve reports that Jill indicated there are 12 students enrolled and the class will start on October 4th.

c. Outdoor Classroom—Annemiek reports that it is being painted currently and then the structure will go up, followed by the roof. Estimates should be completed in October.

## **6. New Business**

a. Membership Letters—Steve prepared a letter that was sent to board previously (on file). **ACTION-Brenda** willing to mail out to all families with children in our school.

b. PCCE Report from Staff—Tabled

## **7. Correspondence**

**8. Closing**— Randy Strydhorst

## **9. Adjournment**

**Next Meeting: October 30, 2017 @ 9:00 PM**

**Devotions—Randy Strydhorst**

**Closing —Annemiek Elzinga**

## School Council Trustee Report – September 25, 2017

**Alberta Education Consultations on September 27 and 28** Trustees Jackie Comeau, Judy Lefebvre, Superintendent Garbutt, Secretary Treasurer Meunier and Summer Halliday (Chair of the Council of School Councils) will be attending. I will be going as a provincial director.

*What's on the table for discussion?*

1. Should access to an education program be extended from age 19 to age 21 as of Sept. 1st?
2. Should there be a common age of entry before entering kindergarten?
3. Education Services agreements (tuition agreement) between school jurisdictions and either a First Nation or the Federal government on behalf of a First Nation
4. School fees - a discussion on the potential next steps regarding the government's approach to school fee reductions.
5. Busing - a discussion on school transportation issues, such as board and parent responsibility, the 2.4 kilometre walk limit), and transportation for students attending programs such as French Immersion.

**Facilities projects** To see pictures of some of the work our facilities crew was doing over the summer please go to the PHPS website and check out the August 28<sup>th</sup> board meeting agenda/ highlights. The fountains at which you can fill your water bottle are a popular fundraising item at many of our schools. All of our playground surfacing has been completed with timbers and pea gravel, the pea gravel continues to displace even in winter allowing for a safer landing surface.

**Staff reductions at regional office provide more support for schools** Superintendent Garbutt has created a new organizational chart for regional services, in which administration will focus on supporting the work of schools and the Alberta Distance Learning Centre. This reorganization has resulted in the elimination of almost 3 full time positions, representing an annual savings of \$394,518; these savings has been transferred to schools.

**Division doing more business electronically** Assistant Secretary Treasurer Grant Widdup provided an update to the board on the transition to more electronic processes as part of the internal audit accountability report.

- A total of \$263,000 was collected in online payments at schools in 2016-17 – a \$100,000 increase from the previous year. The division hopes this upward trend continues.
- 85% of payments to vendors were submitted electronically

**New Board of Trustees after October 16, 2017** Nomination day on September 18 resulted in 5 Trustees being 'acclaimed,' and 2 wards, Westlock Town and Westlock South hosting an election. Continuing in their roles as trustees are Jennifer Tuininga (Barrhead North), Jackie Comeau (Westlock North) and Judy Lefebvre (Town of Barrhead.). Newly acclaimed include Kerry McElroy (Barrhead South) and Nancy Keough (Swan Hills).

**Alberta School Boards' Association** In my role as a provincial director the association is preparing for a 40% turnover of trustees in October. Professional development at the fall general meeting is the first major event boards will be attending and key to trustees' learning and understanding of their roles. The association serves all 61 public, separate, and francophone school boards.

Follow me on Facebook or Twitter!  
Jennifer.Tuininga@phpschools.ca 780-674-6579 H, 780-284-0971 C

## Student Council

1. They are in the midst of planning events for the year.
2. The concession will be reopened. Cokee and Mrs. Sybesma will be approaching Coop to see if they can match some of our Costco prices. This will allow us to shop locally.

## Principal's Report

1. The grand opening and pancake breakfast got our year off to another great start. Thank you for all that you did to make this happen. This event really helps to deepen the already strong sense of community with our parents and is a wonderful way to introduce new families to our school.
2. Our enrolment is 184 students. When we began the planning process in February it was projected at around 175 students so we have done very well.
3. We have small numbers in grade six and seven, but have made changes to our schedules so that they are not together as much as in previous years and are having the opportunity to mix with other students. We followed through on our commitment, in the spring, to meet with the parents of these grades, and had a strong showing at our meeting. It seems to be working well.
4. We are continuing to provide leadership opportunities for our junior high students and to build community. At the end of the first week, the grade 9s planned an activity afternoon where we divided into our homegroups and had the opportunity to play together. It was a great afternoon.
5. Next week we have our goal setting conferences with our parents. Our second set of conferences will be in March and will be student led. We will also be attempting to have one evening and the morning of the Friday for our conferences. If our parents are not able to make it on Friday, we will revert to a two evening schedule.
6. Teachers will be continuing to work on Teaching for Transformation, literacy and numeracy as we go through the year. This year, after having attended the TFT Leadership Tour in Red Deer last Thursday evening and all day on Friday, we will be working on the core practice of "Storyline." We will begin our work on this as a staff on Wednesday.
7. We also have five teachers going to the Christian Educator's conference in Calgary this year. They will probably be asking you for support. I know that they are carpooling as much as possible.
8. Also next week, the teachers will be analyzing our results from last year. We hope to have PAT results available for our grade 6 parents by goal-setting conferences, but they are released from the province- not by us. I will talk more about our results at our next meeting. We are just starting to get some of them in.