

November 6 2017 – NPCSC/NCES AGM

Attendance: Steve DeVries, Lisa Gehring, Kim Sybesma, Randy Strydhorst, Julius Wierenga, Adam Crabbe, Heidi Magus, Annemiek Elzinga, Leanne Schmidt, Charlene Nanninga, Brenda Strydhorst, Sherri Strydhorst, Jennifer Tuininga, Char Nanninga, Lorna Strydhorst

Welcome by Steve DeVries

Devotions by Brenda Strydhorst

Adopt Agenda

Review and Approve NCES AGM Minutes– November 7 2016

Annemiek Elzinga read the minutes from last year.

Motion: the NPCSC & NCES board moves that the minutes of the November 7 2016 AGM be accepted as presented. Motion carried

New board Candidates:

Open the floor to nominations – no nominations from floor

NCES nominates Leanne Schmidt, Charlene Nanninga and Janice Wierenga (community rep)

Steve thanked Heidi Magus, Char Nanninga and Brenda Strydhorst.

Reports

NCES Report was presented by chair, Steve DeVries. Please see attached report

Principal Report was presented by Lisa Gehring. Lisa presented us with a slide show of events through out the year. It was pointed out that it was the first full year in the new school. The school year started with a fantastic grand opening; which showed generational support.

Extended support for literacy in Jr. High

Some of the events that were highlighted

Food Studies hosted a High Tea, this gave the class an opportunity to make invites, bake and serve.

Grade 3 Rock Play, entertainment. We celebrated 100yrs Christian Education in Neerlandia, Drive Away Hunger campaign

School Trustee Report was presented by Jennifer Tuininga. Please see attached

Financial Report was presented by treasurer, Randy Strydhorst.

It was mentioned that our membership donations are lower than the previous year.

Motion: the NCES board moves that the 2018 NCES budget be accepted as presented.

Motion was carried

New Board Candidates – Second Call – No new nominations

NCES Bylaw Review

Please see attached

The NCES board moves that all the changes to the NCES bylaws be accepted as presented. Motion was carried

New Board Candidates– Final Call – No new nominations

We welcome Leanne, Charlene and Janice to NCES

Questions/Comments

Closing by Steve DeVries

Adjournment

CHAIRPERSON REPORT – November 2017

This year our school community celebrated 100 years of the Lord's faithfulness. We have so much to be thankful for; engaged parents and a greater community that continues to support us, excellent staff that put students first, and beautiful facilities. There are things we can continue to improve on, but we take comfort in the fact that we are in God's hands and trust that He will continue to guide us.

2017 has been a busy year filled with many events we participate in every year; pancake breakfast, chicken nugget lunch and the winter walk to name a few. We also presented bibles to grade nine grads, sponsored the leader of the band award, helped the electronics class purchase projects and replaced some damaged playground toys and equipment. Now I'd like to go into a bit more detail on a few highlights of this past year, events and projects that took up a considerable amount of our time and effort:

1. Alberta School Council Association – Parent Engagement Taskforce

The ASCA is a board run organization made up of member school councils that lobbies Alberta Education on behalf of its members. PHPS pays the membership fees for all schools in our division. For the past three years we've participated on the Parent Engagement Taskforce, giving feedback to the executive when requested.

2. Bylaw Review

We conducted a comprehensive review of our bylaws and made some proposed changes that we'll be addressing later on in this meeting.

3. Fundraiser

A big portion of our year was taken up planning our fundraiser, which was held in conjunction with the 100th anniversary open house planned and hosted by the school. On March 10 almost 200 people from within our school community came together to enjoy an excellent meal prepared by the Neerlandia CRC catering committee, some fun entertainment from Howie, Jimmy and Frankie, and support the NCES financially through silent and live auctions. These events are a lot of work to organize but always a lot of fun and a good opportunity to build community. The fundraiser was a huge success; we surpassed expectations and raised over \$44,000. A huge thank you to everyone that helped make it a success.

4. Outdoor Classroom

The main project we were raising funds for was an outdoor classroom. We wanted to build something to replace the gazebo that had to be taken down during the construction of our new school and we were inspired by the Dunstable school council that had just recently built outdoor classrooms as well. Some of the funds raised, along with grant money we received from TD Friends of the Environment is currently being used on our outdoor classroom and landscaping project. The main structure of the classroom is up, we now want to work with students to decide what kind of furniture to put in it. The plan is

to also replant a lot of trees around the school grounds to replace the ones that were removed during construction.

5. Bussing

Making the Christian education at NPCCS accessible to families within PHPS is important to the NCES. In the past we did this by operating the Neerlandia Express Bus which was becoming quite expensive and a large burden on our budget. Since PHPS has taken over the express bus to Neerlandia we continue to have bussing expenses as we subsidize the fees families outside the NPCCS boundary have to pay. You'll notice in our financial report that these expenses are now significantly less.

6. Prairie Centre for Christian Education

The Prairie Centre for Christian Education membership is another fairly large expense the NCES has each year. PCCE is a valuable resource for our school; they provide a Christian curriculum framework and support materials for teachers plus excellent training and networking opportunities for administration, staff and the NCES. In the past there has been some concern that this expense was too large and possibly not worth it. This year we surveyed teachers for the third time in four years; we've seen an increase in positive response toward PCCE and what it has to offer. It is an easy decision to continue purchasing a PCCE membership and I feel strongly that we need to continue to do so. I hope through this report that concerns from members and Neerlandia Public Christian School staff about this expense are lessened. We feel the PCCE membership is a great way for our community to support the Christian aspect of education at NPCCS.

Thank you for your support this past year! We praise God from whom all blessing flow and look forward to what He has in store for us in 2018!

There is one last thing to bring up. Tomorrow the Pembina Hills Public School Council of School Councils will be meeting. We invited Minister of Education David Eggen to attend our meeting and were excited to hear that he accepted our invitation. Each school council chairperson will have two minutes to address Minister Eggen with "what education issue matters most to our school". I am open to suggestions as to what I should talk about during my two minutes and will also answer any questions you might have about my report. Feel free to talk to me later on this evening if you think of something between now and then as well.