

MINUTES

Neerlandia Public Christian School
Tuesday, February 27, 2018 @7:30pm

Present—Steve DeVries, Renee Rentz (Teacher Rep), Randy Strydhorst, Jennifer Tuininga (School Trustee), Kim Sybesma (Vice Principal), Annemiek Elzinga, Amanda Batty, Charlene Nanninga, Adam Crabbe, Lisa Gehring (Principal) , Superintendent Dave Garbutt
Absent-Lee Anne Schmidt, Janice Wierenga

1. Call to Order

2. Devotions—Steve DeVries

3. Adopt Agenda

4. Review and Approve Minutes—Minutes approved

5. Business from Minutes

a. Drug Information Evening—Jennifer reports that evening was poorly attended. No board members able to attend. Jennifer reports that there was a lot of good information. Topics ranged from cannabis to other drugs present in Barrhead, and ideas for how to keep your child away from drug use. Jennifer had resource book available for everyone present.

6. Reports

a. Principal/Student Council Report—As attached.
b. School Trustee—As attached
c. Superintendent Garbutt—Stated that he wants to attend school council meetings to get a feel for how meetings are run at each individual site. In his previous work experience as a principal he never had an opportunity to hear regional concerns, and he wants to give each board a chance to directly convey to him any concerns they might have. His philosophy is that if in the future the board feels that there is an issue we are really concerned about he is willing to attend our meetings—“If you invite me, I will come.” Randy mentions three concerns surrounding transportation, and his concerns are that he feels it is getting less and less useful to parents. His concerns are, 1-Items on bus, 2. Kids can't be dropped off at other locations, 3. Concerns around weekend class trips. Dave spoke regarding legislation around items on the bus. He stated that drivers have discretion for items on the bus, as they will know whether their bus has the capacity to secure the item, or if the item is safe etc. He also addressed alternate drop offs. He expressed that since bussing is a government run enterprise it is accountable for the costs of bussing, and that each bus has the most cost effective route figured out and that they are only funded for getting a child to school and then back. When busses deviate from their assigned routes the costs add up quickly. However, he did mention that since most people have a relationship with their bus drivers if the stop is ON the route already then if the driver is ok with it, this would be deemed reasonable. One of the main concerns is safety of the children and accountability of the bus drivers. He also mentioned that in order to keep bussing fees reasonable their needs to be a charge for dropping off kids at other locations as there is time involved for front line staff to coordinate. The concerns around weekend trips were found to be inaccurate. Steve brought up a comment about communication and wanted to thank the superintendent for opportunity for open communication and appreciated that he had come to the meeting. Dave responded that he believes his job is to support schools —to come and talk and get suggestions and feedback. Annemiek asks about the Express Bus, and that if a second bus were needed in future to transport children from Barrhead who are interested in Neerlandia's Christian Education she

wondered if that bus also be funded by Pembina Hills. Superintendent Garbutt responded the decision would have to go to the board and that if the students want to attend NPCS then he is unable to think of a reason why it wouldn't be funded. He mentioned several times that in most situations the goal is to be reasonable, and that if in future we have situations we feel strongly about, or would like a review of a decision we are welcome to approach him.

7. New Business

8. Correspondence

9. Adjournment

Next Meeting—March 19, 2018 at 7:30pm

Devotions—Lee Anne Schmidt

Closing —Annemiek Elzinga

Student Council Report

1. The student council has been planning and organizing special days as well as intramurals.
2. The concession is running with junior high volunteers
3. They are in the process of planning a 24 Hour Famine Event on April 18th and 19th, under the guidance and supervision of Mrs. Lorna Strydhorst and Mrs. Lise Wruk
4. The student council has written a thank you letter to Grizzly Trail Motors on behalf of the school for their generous donation of \$500 to support the acquisition of new dodge balls for our gym.
5. Just a reminder that there is around \$2000 that is in the student's union funds to go towards our outdoor classroom

Principal's Report

1. Thank you to everyone for your understanding when I was unable to attend January's meeting because of my uncle's funeral.
2. It is planning season again. Kim and I have already attended two planning meetings where we revisit Division priorities and strategies with the goal of making recommendations to the Board. There will be a third meeting on March 13th. After

that, the Board meets and will decide on our official priorities. On April 13th, we have our school-based planning day where we once again take a look at the school division priorities as well as our priorities and beliefs. We will be focusing on this important work in the morning and would love to have as many of you as can make it attend and be part of this important work. We usually follow it up with a shared lunch. During the afternoon the staff will be revisiting our current year's priorities and assessments to make any adjustments necessary to support student success and excellence.

3. We have one new student in kindergarten and are expecting another one after Spring Break. As a result, we have increased program assistant time in the mornings to support while pull out programming occurs. There is also the possibility of another family joining us with elementary aged students.
4. We just finished up a letter writing program with all of our students. It was a great opportunity to practice an art which is no longer commonly seen.
5. Thank you to the NCES for the chicken nugget lunch and free ice cream It was very well received.
6. Basketball teams are winding up their seasons this weeks with a 7/8 tournament today and zones (for the 8/9 teams) on the weekend in Edson. A huge thank you to our coaches and parents. Elem. Basketball is also finished on Mar.1.
7. On March 12, our elementary choir, and several individual students, will be performing at the Rotary Music Festival in Barrhead under the direction of Mrs. Kathi Hellinga
8. On March 21, students from Pembina North Community School will be visiting NPCS for a joint band concert. Then our band will travel to their school to perform. This is our second year of doing this.
9. On March 19th, Kim and I will be at a session in Calgary sponsored by the PCCE. It is a Discussion on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity.
10. We will be having our Easter Assembly prior to the Spring Break this year, since we come back after Easter. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.
11. Our Open house is scheduled for Tuesday, April 10. We will be running it as an opportunity to meet our teachers and get to know a bit about our program for around half an hour prior to starting the actual Kindergarten Registration process. We were thinking about running our Ad on April 3rd, with a reminder in the 10th. We are wondering if you are willing to continue to support us by putting in an ad either over Spring Break or right before so that we give several opportunities for people to know about it.
- 12.

School Trustee Report – February 27, 2018

When do we cancel school buses?

Transportation Director Shantelle Haitel provided a summary of bus cancellations that occurred in January 2018. Due to the geographic size and diversity of the school division, weather and road conditions can vary substantially. The division believes that decisions about bus cancellations should be made as close to the local community as possible. Since our drivers are most familiar with their buses and routes, we empower them to make those

decisions. On rare occasions, when conditions are severe and widespread, division administration will issue a division-wide bus cancellation.

Parents have the right to keep their child at home, even when buses are running. It's important to note that when buses are cancelled, schools will be open for students for safety reasons.

Improving building access at Regional Office

Facilities Director Tracy Tyreman presented a work plan and cost estimate to provide barrier free access at Busby School and Regional Office. The work required at Regional Office includes renovations to the front doors, foyer entrance doors and washrooms to remove the barriers and increase accessibility. As our partners the County of Barrhead applied and received a \$21,000 grant to support this project.

Principals' Planning & Board Planning

During the month of February and March the Board joins our principals for two and a half days of planning for the 2018-19 school year. Having all of our schools together to discuss the division priorities, strategies, and budget items provides for rich discussion and enables informed decision making. The Board also holds an additional two days of planning as we anticipate the provincial budget in March and look to prepare our budget accordingly.

Provincially

- Alberta Legislature spring session begins March 8th
- We received an email from the Minister saying they are going to do further consultation around transportation over the next year so the current regulations will remain in place.
- ASBA Superintendent Compensation Report – was an internal document for boards providing trending data and comparisons on Superintendent salaries. A correction was printed in the Town and County this week as to the data they provided regarding Pembina Hills.

Nationally

School boards in Nova Scotia will be finished the end of March. In Ontario and Manitoba they have said they will review the role of boards after the provincial elections. The English boards in Quebec are also in jeopardy again. As elected trustees, school boards bring the voice of the community to education and are able to advocate for local concerns.

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MINUTES

Neerlandia Christian Education Society
February 27, 2018 @9:00pm

Present—Steve DeVries, Randy Strydhorst, Kim Sybesma (Vice Principal), Annemiek Elzinga, Amanda Batty, Charlene Nanninga, Adam Crabbe, Lisa Gehring (Principal)
Absent—Lee Anne Schmidt, Janice Wierenga

1. Call to Order

2. **Adopt Agenda**—New Business has added 6D- Staff Lunch, and 6E—Principal’s TFT

3. Review and Approve Minutes

4. Business from Minutes

a. Movie Night—Annemiek reports that it is planned for March 10, free admission, popcorn and snacks sold at cost. Kim mentions that if we have less than 55 people coming we could host in band room. Unsure about numbers coming, but determined we will hope that over 55 come and have it in the gym. Amanda motions to spend max \$400 on food and drink for movie night. Annemiek seconds. Motion carried.

b. Chicken Nugget Lunch Review—Amanda reports that it went well. Several changes suggested include having a couple extra helpers right at serving time to serve more quickly. Also, having several small ketchups and plum sauce to go around with servers.

c. Membership Letters—Steve reports that he is still working on completing.

d. PHSSAM—Tabled as reminder of upcoming event.

5. Reports

a. Financial

i. Tax Receipts and Audit—Randy reports that tax receipts are completed. Also stated we are up to date with Revenue Canada. Audit was completed by Miranda Strydhorst and Zach Olthuis.

ii. Bussing Contracts—Randy reports that no further payments received on same. Adam spoke with or left messages with all the families currently in contract. One family indicated intent to pay.

b. Preschool—Steve reads report—Teacher reports that new student that was supposed to attend ended up not attending. Also that she attended PD session about playing with everyday items that she found both informative and inspiring. Two students continue to receive individual programs and attention. A family in Barrhead is interested in sending their child to the preschool program at Neerlandia and wondering if it would be possible to get them on the bus one way. Lisa suggested talking to Shirley Craig about same. Amanda motions to pay the cost of PD course and an hourly wage for the time at the course. Motion approved.

ACTION—Charlene will tell Jill that our board will investigate transportation question, and will also find out cost of PD day course and how long course went for. **ACTION—Steve** will call Shirley Craig regarding if transportation one way is an option. Steve reports that he did ensure Natasha was paid for her hours prior to being employed by Pembina Hills. Also stated that new preschool bylaws are not necessary as they have been developed by the preschool teachers. **ACTION—Steve** will email current preschool bylaws to board to have on file.

c. Outdoor Classroom—Annemiek reports that they have done some research on seating and have various options they think would be a good fit, including picnic benches, a wheelchair accessible table, two tables. The library had some money from a grant, and was

wondering if would would order a bench on their behalf. It would also require approx \$65 extra contributed from NCES. Annemiek motions that we spend \$6,000 on benches, picnic tables and the bench for the library. Motion seconded and approved. Thanks are expressed to the Outdoor Classroom Committee.

6. New Business

a. Parent/Teacher Meetings—March 15 (pm) and March 16 (am)—Determined NCES does not need to be involved this year.

b. April 10th—Open House —Lisa stated open house will likely start at 7pm-approx 7:30pm. **ACTION—Amanda and Steve** can attend to introduce NCES to any new families. It was discussed that the board place an ad in the Barrhead Leader advertising open house as we have in the past. Amanda motions to pay for half page, colour ad in the Leader for March 27, 2018. Motion approved. **ACTION-Kim** will contact Heidi to see if she has ad from last year. **ACTION-Amanda** will make sure ad is in the paper for March 27.

c. Christian Education Week—April 23-27. Tabled idea for cultivating community. Possibly all classes could compete with proposal for how to cultivate community. NCES will provide money for winning idea, and all classes that compete could get ice cream.

d. Staff Lunch—April 13—ACTION-Amanda will bring sign up list for NCES members for staff lunch.

e. Principal's TFT question—Tabled.

7. Correspondence—Several cheques received and given to those with signing authority.

8. Closing—Randy Strydhorst

9. Adjournment

Next Meeting—March 19, 2018 @ 9:00pm

Devotions—Lee Anne Schmidt

Closing—Annemiek Elzinga