

MINUTES

Neerlandia Public Christian School Council
Monday, April 24, 2017 @ 7:30pm

Present: Lisa Gehring (Principal), Heidi Magus, Jennifer Tuininga (School Trustee), Annemiek Elzinga, Amanda Batty, Char Nanninga, Brenda Strydhorst, Randy Strydhorst, Steve De Vries
Absent—Adam Crabbe

1. Call to Order
2. Devotions— Steve led devotions
3. Adopt Agenda
4. Review and Approve Minutes—No changes required
5. Business from Minutes
 - a. ASCA AGM—No board members attending this year.
 - b. Brochure for New Family Package—Steve thanks Heidi for completing same.
6. Reports
 - a. Student Council—Lisa reports that student council has approximately \$3,000 that is meant for outdoor classroom.
 - b. Principal's Report—Lisa reported that Constable Hynes has spoken to Junior High students regarding the risks and concerns surrounding internet access. Lisa has also spoken to these students herself. She stated that concerns surrounding safety for the students and inappropriate websites are legitimate, but that she is also grateful NPCCS has not had any incidents regarding these issues at present time. New policy is that students are allowed on their devices only in foyers, not in classrooms, for easier supervision. Stated that policy will be worked on further. Lisa also updated the board on Mrs. Vold. Stated that Mrs. O and Mrs. R are doing a fantastic job on filling in. Numbers for next year's incoming students sound really strong. New family that joined mid-year is in Ontario now, but hoping to be back for fall. Christian Education Week is this week. Lisa talked briefly about the difficulty of following Jesus. Used the disciples as example. Reported that Evergreen Theatre is Thursday afternoon.
 - c. School Trustee—As attached
7. New Business
 - a. Council of School Councils—Steve reports that it is May 2nd, at 5pm in Barrhead. Simone (previous board member and current chair of council of school councils) is requesting a replacement chair. Steve stated he might be willing to chair depending on work obligations. Annemiek is willing to attend meeting.
8. Correspondence—Several consents to disclose cellphone and emails, were received from kindergarten parents.
9. Adjournment

Next Meeting—May 29, 2017 @ 7:30pm
Devotions—Brenda Strydhorst
Closing —Heidi Magus

School Trustee Report – April 24, 2017

School board launches superintendent recruitment process

The school board moved to issue a request for proposals regarding the recruitment of a superintendent. Pembina Hills Public Schools has strong and committed staff who work hard every day to provide high quality education to students within our geographic area and across the province. Our division is more complex than most, with 3,900 students in community schools, 7,800 students with Vista Virtual School and another 44,000 students who count on the Alberta Distance Learning Centre. The board is committed to ensuring that everyone in the division has the support and leadership they need. That's why having a superintendent in place this August before the beginning of the new school year is in the best interests of our communities, students and staff. As a first step in this process, the board will be hiring a recruitment firm to work with us. We hope to have them in place this spring and then quickly move forward with the process. The current five-year contract for the position of superintendent expires July 31, 2017 and the board has decided not to renew it.

Priorities for 2017-2018

Literacy, Numeracy, Supporting Student Diversity, Student – Teacher relationships

Allocation formula changes after 22 years The formula allots money to schools that the board receives as a result of the provincial budget. The formula includes an equalization allocation which ensures that each school has a level playing field and we don't end up with 'have' and 'have not' schools. Each school is unique and manages their own site based budget, but some are smaller, some have bigger reserves, and some have students with a higher level of need. The equalization allocation allows for flexibility in the system to offer help where it is needed.

Supporting leaders and building capacity In order to ensure that our schools have strong leadership through their principal and associate principal the board has approved a minimum amount of administration time that must be budgeted for at each school. Our principals and associate principals are the leaders in their buildings and will have increased expectations this coming school year in leading the professional development of staff. With approximately 90% of school budgets allocated to staffing, the tendency is to add more teaching time to the leadership positions to balance the budget. Strong leadership at the school level means that we have to ensure staff have time to lead.

Provincial budget The budget had a neutral effect on Pembina Hills – changes were the result of our decline in enrolment resulting in a loss of funding. PHPS numbers are declining in the higher grade levels, but seem to be increasing in lower elementary which is a positive sign for the future!

Transportation Professional development opportunities in transportation will cover all drivers including spares, volunteers and teacher drivers. To ensure visibility of our buses PHPS operators will have their strobe lights on at all times. This is becoming common practice across Alberta.

An interesting statistic from transportation: 12.3% of students ride the bus one hour one way, down from 15.8% last year

Submitted by: Jennifer Tuininga

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MINUTES

Neerlandia Christian Education Society
Monday, May 24, 2017 at 9:00pm

Present: Lisa Gehring (Principal), Heidi Magus, Annemiek Elzinga, Amanda Batty, Char Nanninga, Brenda Strydhorst, Randy Strydhorst, Steve DeVries
Absent—Adam Crabbe

1. Call to Order
2. Adopt Agenda—Move Outdoor classroom to Item 5C.
3. Minutes—No changes required.
4. Business from Minutes
 - a. Bussing Letters—Steve reports that letter regarding amount bussing reimbursed this year was sent out to bussing families. Letter filed.
 - b. Chicken Nugget Lunch—Amanda reports lunch is organized. Char, Brenda, Amanda, Annemiek and two other volunteers to help with same.
 - c. PCCE AGM—Report attached. Heidi motions to cover mileage at 50c/km for both Steve and Kim, who attended, and two hotels rooms. Annemiek seconds. Motion approved.
 - d. Bylaw Review—Board reviewed the bylaw regarding what would the grounds be for removing someone from NCES. Decided harassment, convicted of sexual offence. ACTION-Steve will look into how other Christian schools handle this type of bylaw.
5. Reports
 - a. Financial—Randy provided budget and profit statement. Randy reports that Al Stahl stated \$20-30 would be fair price for using his software. Randy reports that several changes had to be made to the software before it would work for our fundraiser. Brenda motions to give Al Stahl \$50 for use of computer program. Amanda seconded. Motion approved. ACTION- Randy will take care of.
 - b. Preschool Report—As attached. The board had a long discussion about potentially raising the cost of the program as well as raising the preschool teacher's wage. It was discussed what other similar programs charge, and also compared the cost to other programs such as dance etc. Brenda motions to increase fees from \$400 to \$500 per student. Amanda seconds. Motion approved. Brenda motions to increase the preschool teacher's wage to \$25 an hour. Randy seconds. Motion approved. The board would like it noted that based on excellent reviews and experience of teacher, that for this teacher, and this year the board determined it was acceptable to run a deficit of \$500. ACTION- Amanda will contact preschool teacher to inform of same.
 - c. Outdoor Classroom—Annemiek reports that Jim Bosma, Alvina Nanninga, Jo Nanninga, and Tris Nanninga are on committee with her. They have come up with a metal structure gazebo idea as this will require less maintenance. NCES excited about design, but wondered if the budget we have would work. ACTION—Annemiek will get price for metal structure and price for comparable wood structure, if possible. Annemiek questioned whether her committee was responsible for both design and construction or just design. It was determined only design.
6. New Business
 - a. PCCE teacher survey—Steve has added survey with same questions as asked previously onto website survey monkey.

- b. Grad Bibles—ACTION- Heidi will contact Barrhead Flower Shoppe to order soft cover leather bibles with grad's names engraved on them. Brenda, Steve, Randy and Annemiek are hoping to attend grad at this point.
 - c. Leader of the Band Award— ACTION-Char will contact Kathi regarding same.
 - d. Playground Equipment—ACTION- Char will assess equipment to determine if anything needs to be replaced. Annemiek is willing to help with this as well.
 - e. Discuss new ideas—Lisa mentioned that there is a speaker who speaks about the challenges of being a thalidomide baby who the Fort School was willing to share the cost of getting him in to speak and was hoping we could contribute. Amanda motions to pay \$500 to support costs of speaker. Char seconds. Motion approved. Annemiek had other suggestions to improve school—snowshoes for all the older students, artist in residence program, fidget toys. ACTION- Steve will present ideas to teachers, and also mention we are open to suggestions from teachers for ways we can help better the student's learning experience.
- 7. Correspondence—None received.
 - 8. Closing —Brenda Strydhorst
 - 9. Adjournment

Next Meeting—May 29, 2017 at 9:00pm
Devotions —Brenda Strydhorst
Closing —Heidi Magus

Prairie Centre for Christian Education AGM – April 22, 2017

Calgary, AB

- NPCCS teacher rep Kim Sybesma and I drove in to Calgary together Friday afternoon.
- Operational Report from Gayle Monsma – highlights:
 - Increase of 143 students enrolled in PCCE schools this year, large part due to addition of Drayton Christian School to membership
 - Started “New to Tft” sessions for newly hired teachers in existing member schools to help get up to speed.
 - Partnership with Cardus has started to produce high quality data to help determine if and how Christian students graduating from Christian schools are different from Christian and non-Christian graduates from non-Christian schools. Specifically relating to their level of involvement in their communities as adults. Pretty interesting stuff and a report is [available online](#) if you’re interested.
 - Interesting how they are finding a lot of organizations from around the world are coming to PCCE for Tft information and training because they love the framework for Christian education it provides, while within the PCCE member schools they’re finding it difficult to maintain excitement (Gayle called it a Tft hangover). Looking at ways to do a reboot within PCCE schools.
- Financials looked a lot better this year (surplus of \$34,000) than last (deficit o \$30,000). Membership fees will stay the same.
- A number of written liaison reports; PCCE Leadership Cohort, TKU, Christian Schools Canada, Edu Deo Ministries and Christian Schools International. Available from me via email if interested.
- Two reports given in person; Christian Stewardship Services regarding helping organizations such as ours fundraise (from forming foundations to understanding tax implications for donors), and the Association of Independent Schools & Colleges in Alberta which gave a very interesting perspective on the importance of advocating for choice in education in Alberta.
- Ended the day with a number of group activities meant to get us to get to know each other better, to start discussions as to where we would like to see PCCE go from here and to guide us in prayer. I expect more opportunity for us as a board to give input in the future.
- Overall, I was very pleased with how the meeting went and am glad I was able to participate.

Submitted by Steve DeVries

Pre-school Report – April 26, 2017

A quick report for April...

-Our last day is this Wednesday, we are having an art show which will include a few other activities for the students to engage in with their families. You are welcome to stop in and check it out - morning art show will be from 11:00 until 11:30, afternoon will be 2:15-2:45.

-I will be having families fill out a pre-school evaluation and will forward these to you upon completion.

-I am (finally) submitting my receipts for the year. The total is \$525.67.

-Registration is set to happen on May 10, 2017 from 11:00 until 12:00 in the kindergarten room.

Date	Store / Items	Amount	GST
April 17/2017	Costco – graduation pictures	7.41	0.37
April 9/2017	Dollar Tree – art boards, misc activity supplies	13.75	0.69
Feb 16/2017	Dollar Store – stickers, letters, pipe cleaners	5.50	0.28
Dec 20/2016	Dollar Store – Christmas craft supplies, glue	21.25	1.06
Feb 15/2017	Teachers pay Teachers – online pdf files	1.00	0
Aug 3/2016	Education Station (online) – craft tissue paper – hearts	6.99	0.35
Sept 13/2016	Education Station (online) – Alphabet readers	29.99	1.50
Sept 17/2016	Education Station – stickers, misc classroom supplies	28.87	1.44
Oct 18/2017	Teachers pay Teachers – pdf files	8.00	0
Oct 3/2017	Scholar's Choice – apple cut outs, owl cut outs	16.09	0.80
Dec 8/2016	Scholar's Choice – stickers	11.96	0.60
Aug 3/2016	Education Station - start up supplies (nametags, name magnets, paint pucks and holders, stickers, etc.)	68.70	3.44
Oct 17/2016	Dollar Store – paper plates, spider rings	6.50	0.33
Oct 4/2016	Fyfe's – glue	6.87	0.34
Sept. 17/2016	Dollar Tree – art presentation boards, journals	15.00	0.75
Aug 1/2016	Wal-Mart – bingo daubers	19.92	1.00
Aug 3/2016	Michaels – washable paint	13.18	0.66
Sept 17/2016	Education Station – shakers	23.88	1.19
Oct 1/2016	Dollarama – tape, Velcro, paper bags	6.75	0.34
Sept 24/2016	Michaels – wood sticks, pipe cleaners	7.98	0.40
Oct 18/2016	Neerlandia Co-op – foam cups, goodie rings	12.96	0.65
Oct 24/2016	Neerlandia Co-op – m&ms, plates	9.18	0.46
Dec 6/2016	Dollar Store – stickers, buttons, misc supplies	21.50	1.08
Dec 6/2016	Barrhead IGA – plates, cups	9.48	0.47
Jan 10/2017	Dollar Store – stickers, letter 'o' candies	13.00	0.65
Jan 21/2017	Michaels – finger lights	9.00	0.45
Feb 6/2017	Dollar Tree – tablecloths	2.50	0.13
Feb 3/2017	Dollar Store – finger lights, fly swatters, foam boards	16.00	0.8
Jan 16/2017	Dollar Store – stickers, tape	13.25	0.66
Feb 10/2017	Superstore – glue	12.12	0.61
Feb 14/2017	Dollar Store – tape, eye droppers, scissors	11.00	0.55
Feb 24/2017	Dollar Tree – art boards (collecting them as I need 19!)	5.00	0.25
April 22/2016	Canada Post – Xpress post to send license info away	13.20	0.66
May 24/2016	Fyfe's – envelopes and file folders	7.76	0.39
Sept 14/2016	Fyfe's – stamps for welcome letters	25.50	1.28
	Totals	501.04	24.63
	Total receipts including GST		525.67