

## PNCS School Council Meeting Minutes

May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 10:00 AM

1. Meeting called to Order at 10:00 AM. In Attendance: Jessica Seatter, Keeara King, Rob Weiss, Lisa Lawrence, Cayleen Royea, Candice Higgins, Nick McCann, Angela Boelman
2. Jessica appoints Keeara as secretary as Tina was unable to attend meeting.
3. Jessica asks if there are any changes to the agenda. Keeara accepts agenda. Cayleen seconds.
4. Jessica reads minutes from previous meeting on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Keeara adopts minutes as read. Cayleen seconds.
5. PHSSAM- Lauren Wylie came into the meeting to give an update on PHSSAM happening May 28<sup>th</sup> at Pembina North. Everything is planned, organized and ready to go. Junior High students will once again be helping during the day at different events and concession. There will be pre-orders happening for concession this year and Andrea will organize the food. Contact Andrea Gibson if you are interested in helping with concession. PHSSAM will run from 10:00 AM - 2:30 PM.
6. School Council Goals reminder- Jessica attended the ASCA Conference and took away some key points. A reminder that as School Council, legally we are to have constructive dialogue about the school's budget and clarify priorities with the Principal. School Council has a voice and we are always searching for ways on how parents can support the school. Bill 25 has passed but not in legislation yet. The bill is linked with sight-based decision making and will essentially give administration more say into their own school as to how to allocate funds.
7. Trustee Report- presented by Nick McCann  
The co-op budget and allocation were approved at the initial stage. In May, they should approve the final budget. With new leadership coming in, there are still unknowns and how the leadership wants to proceed. Nick said he did some digging and compared other school divisions to ours, in terms of budget. Many divisions are running deficits. Pembina Hills is in a healthy, financial position and is hopeful to maintain a balanced budget.

Jessica brought up the large funds being allocated to student services. The division is planning to spend over 4.5 million on student services (speech pathologists, occupational therapists, psychologists, etc.). However, the province is allocating just over \$722,000 for student services. The projected co-op pool budget is over six times the amount that is allocated to us. While the amount that we are projected to spend for teachers and EA's is less than one times the amount of these instruction given to us by the government. There was discussion about how beneficial it could be to take some of those funds in the division and be put towards hiring more EA's within the schools. For the limited amount

of time that students see speech pathologists, occupational therapists etc. It was largely agreed upon that funds should be used to fund EA's that are in the schools everyday. Everyone wants to see more "feet on the ground" and this could be a way to do it. Nick understood the concerns and would bring them forward. He also thanked parent council for the questions and encouraged everyone to reach out to him anytime.

To be clear, the projected budget allocates less than 1x the amount for staff in schools than the government sends our way. We are being sent \$32,421,432 and the budget for staff is set for \$30,261,583. The difference is \$100,000 towards Superintendent's contingency, \$75,500 towards discretionary top ups for small schools, \$1,477,141 amount remaining to allocate to students. This still leaves over \$507,000 that is currently being directed to up the student services, education service, IT and central resources budget. Therefore, there is still money there that can be allocated to schools that is not (over \$2.1 million).

8. Principal Report- presented by Rob Weiss

Rob shared many upcoming events for May and June. Open House will take place on June 4<sup>th</sup>. There will be learning portfolios set up in the gym, activities outside along with a bbq. Fee schedule was presented and not much has changed. Rob is considering trying a different approach to Chromebooks in junior high. It has been hectic this year with students grabbing Chromebooks if they do not have one. Chromebooks will find a "home" where they can be accessible but also monitored.

Highway Cleanup was postponed due to wet conditions. They are hopeful it will be able to happen this Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>. Funding from highway cleanup will go towards new sporting equipment that all students can use and benefit from.

Rob said the budget looks like it will be similar to last year but they are still waiting to finalize staffing. As of right now, there will be no librarian. Jessica mentioned that the Library Committee is advocating for a school librarian and that if hired, it could cost \$10,000/year for a once a week commitment. Rob said that he didn't think we could hire someone not employed by Pembina Hills and that it would have to be a volunteer role. Mrs. Meunier is expecting and therefore, not returning this fall.

Rob would like to make some adjustments to the timetable\ daily schedule for next year. It is still in the works but he would like a balance between the AM and PM.

He is also considering a change in cell phone policy and toying with the idea of having a designating spot and time to use cell phones in junior high.

175 Projected student numbers for next school year:

Kindergarten- 19, Gr 1- 19, Gr 2- 19, Gr 3- 13, Gr 4- 13, Gr 5- 14, Gr 6- 13, Gr 7- 23, Gr 8- 16, Gr 9- 26)

Keeara and Jessica brought up the limited CTF classes that were provided this year in junior high. Because of the lack of staffing, CTF decreased from 5 semesters with 3 options each semester down to 3 semesters of two options each semester. There is concern that students will leave to other schools because of the lack of options provided. Nick suggested that other schools have the fundraising committee hire/ pay a volunteer to come teach a CTF class.

Rob went over the results from the school survey that was completed by parents and students.

9. Fundraising Report- presented by Keeara King

Account Balances:

Casino \$7785.97

General \$17,628.53

Rink \$6508.89

We were looking into getting new headsets for the Christmas concert production, but Michelle adjusted some settings and found out we actually don't need new headsets. She will be making a manual on how to set them up properly.

Fundraising will be planting some trees in the schoolyard this spring.

Our next casino date is coming up this fall. Please keep a lookout for volunteer sign up over the next few months.

Fundraising will once again pay \$30/student for fieldtrips this year.

Fundraising Association's AGM is tonight, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 PM with a general meeting to follow.

10. School Council- presented by Jessica Seatter

ASCA Conference- previously discussed

Library Committee- a library survey was sent out with 21 parents completing. Jessica also applied for the Westlock Community Foundation Literacy Grant. She should hear back soon on if we were awarded the grant.

PHSSAM- previously discussed

Open House-previously discussed

Rob also mentioned the idea of having a welcome back breakfast, perhaps instead of the open house. A discussion was had, and it was agreed upon that the open house is wonderful to have at the end of the year to celebrate student learning. Rob will look more into hosting a welcome back breakfast of some kind.

11. AGM set for Sept. 14, 2026 at 10:00 AM.

12. Meeting Adjourned at 12:12 PM.