PNCS School Council Meeting Minutes

Date: November 2, 2026, **Time:** 4:00 PM, **Location:** PNCS Library (with online option)

1. Call to Order

Chair **Jessica Seatter** called the meeting to order at **4:05 PM**.

2. Attendance

Jessica Seatter, Nick McCann, Lisa Lawrence, Ariana Montgomery, Raime Drake, Stephanie Bellows, Jesslynn Smith, Rob Weiss, Michelle Rau, Tina Hutchison.

3. Approval of Agenda

Jessica asked if there were any amendments to the agenda.

- **Motion:** Approve the agenda
- **Moved by:** Tina Hutchison
- **Seconded by:** Ariana Montgomery
- **Result:** Motion carried

4. Review and Approval of Previous Minutes

Jessica asked for a motion to approve the September 14, 2026, School Council Meeting Minutes.

- **Motion:** Approve the September 14, 2026, School Council Meeting Minutes
- **Moved by:** Jesslynn Smith
- **Seconded by:** Tina Hutchison
- **Result:** Motion carried

5. Trustee Report – Nick McCann

Nick reported that the Board continues to advocate for additional funding for support staff. He explained that efforts are underway to work with various ministries to reduce the current wait time, which is approximately three years, for students to receive the supports they need.

Nick also discussed the importance of helping students receive diagnoses that impact their learning abilities sooner. Earlier diagnoses would allow teachers to implement appropriate supports and learning strategies at an earlier stage, helping students achieve greater success in the classroom.

Nick welcomed Raime Drake as the new Superintendent of the Pembina Hills School Division.

6. Principal Report – Rob Weiss

Sports

- Elementary Triple Ball will begin in November. Mrs. Rau and Morgan will coach the team.
- Volleyball regional results were shared:
    - **Tier 2 Boys:** Gold Medal
    - **Tier 2 Girls:** Silver Medal
    - **Tier 1 Boys:** Silver Medal
    - **Tier 1 Girls:** Consolation Finalists
- Tier 1 Volleyball Zones will take place on November 5, 2026.
- Basketball will begin following Fall Break.
- Rob stated that there should be enough interest to field one boys' team and one girls' team.
- Susan Taylor will coach the boys' team with assistance from Amber Bunaik.
- Andrea Rimmer will return as coach of the girls' team.

Goal Setting Interviews

- Goal Setting Interviews were held on October 15 and October 21.
- Rob asked parents whether having interviews scheduled across two separate weeks posed any concerns. Those present indicated that this was not an issue.
- For Junior High students, parents were able to schedule a single meeting and meet with all three teachers at the same time.
- Parents agreed that this format was beneficial and appreciated the opportunity to meet with all teachers together.

Progress Reports

- Progress reports will be distributed on November 26, 2026.
- Discussion was held regarding whether reports should continue to be printed and sent home, emailed, or accessed through PowerSchool.
- Council members agreed that printed copies remain valuable and provide a useful way for families to sit down together and discuss academic progress.

Provincial Achievement Test (PAT) Results

- Lisa Lawrence asked about the school's Provincial Achievement Test (PAT) results.
- Raime Drake stated that the results had only been provided to Rob Weiss earlier that morning.
- Rob indicated that he had not yet had an opportunity to review the results and would provide an update at the next School Council meeting.
- Lisa noted that she was interested in seeing how PNCS compares with other schools within the Pembina Hills School Division as well as with schools across Alberta.

Safety Drills

- A Hold and Secure drill was conducted on November 2, 2026, at 1:15 PM.
- Rob reported that the drill went well and that students and staff responded appropriately to the procedures.

House Groups / Toonie Drive

- The winning house group for the Toonie Drive was the **Black Mambas**.
- A date for the group's pizza party has not yet been selected.
- A total of **$1,822.27** was raised for the Food Bank.

Hot Lunch Program

- Amber Bunaik will complete the school's Food Safety Course and assist with the Hot Lunch Program.
- A Hot Dog Sale is planned for November 24, 2026.

Important Upcoming Dates

- **November 9:** Fire Drill
- **November 10:** Remembrance Day Ceremony at 10:45 AM
- **November 11-13:** Fall Break (No School)
- **December 10:** Christmas Concert with performances at 1:00 PM and 7:00 PM
- **December 15:** Jarvie Christmas Dinner, Andrea Gibson has agreed to assist with the event.

7. Teacher Report – Jesslynn Smith

Jesslynn Smith provided an update on activities and learning initiatives taking place within the Kindergarten to Grade 3 classrooms.

K–3 Walking Curriculum

- K–3 staff have begun implementing their walking curriculum, which incorporates outdoor learning opportunities.
- The Kindergarten teacher reported that students are settling into the school year well and are enjoying the walking curriculum experience.

Kindergarten and Grade 1 Buddy Program

- Kindergarten and Grade 1 students are participating in a buddy system that pairs each Kindergarten student with a Grade 1 student.
- This program provides Grade 1 students with opportunities to develop leadership skills while helping Kindergarten students become familiar with what Grade 1 will be like.
- It is hoped that this initiative will help ease the transition from Kindergarten to Grade 1.

Grade 1 Update

- Grade 1 students have been participating in a variety of outdoor learning activities throughout the fall.

Outdoor Classroom

- Lisa Lawrence asked whether the outdoor classroom is being utilized by staff and students.
- The teachers present confirmed that the outdoor classroom is being used regularly and continues to be a valuable learning space for students across grade levels.

Student Assessments

- Jesslynn Smith reported that she has completed all student screening assessments.
- She noted that completing the screenings has provided valuable information about where students are academically and has helped identify areas where additional instructional focus may be beneficial throughout the school year.
- Michelle Rau shared a different perspective regarding the screening assessments. She stated that she did not find the results as helpful and felt they did not accurately reflect where some students are academically.
- Michelle noted that some students rushed through the assessments, while others worked carefully but were unable to complete them within the allotted time. As a result, she felt the screening data did not always provide an accurate picture of student abilities.

8. Fundraising Report

Lisa Lawrence presented the Fundraising Report.

Account Balances

- **Casino Account:** $3,149.12
- **General Account:** $16,888.80
- **Rink Account:** $6,508.89

Casino Fundraiser

- The School Council casino fundraiser is scheduled for December 1-2, 2026.
- Volunteers are still needed to fill the remaining casino shifts.

Concession Fundraising

- The school concession raised **$1,220.74**.

9. Old Business

Library Committee Update

- Jessica Seatter reported that approximately **$1,700** remains available from the library grant funding for the purchase of additional books.
- The Library Committee plans to have the remaining books selected and ordered before Christmas.
- Jessica shared that students have been enthusiastic about the new books.

10. New Business

Meeting Date Changes

- Jessica Seatter proposed changing the March School Council meeting date from **March 1, 2027**, to **March 8, 2027**, to allow Nick McCann to attend.
- Nick McCann noted that the June meeting date may also need to be adjusted; however, he requested that it remain as scheduled for the time being and indicated that he would advise Council if a change becomes necessary.
- Members present agreed to move the March School Council meeting to **March 8, 2027**.

ASCA Grant Proposal

- Council discussed potential uses for the ASCA Community Engagement Grant.
- Several ideas were brought forward regarding parent education opportunities and ways to increase parent involvement in school activities.
- Lisa Lawrence suggested offering a session for parents focused on online safety, including information on how to set up parental controls on devices used by children.
- Tina Hutchison suggested that pairing an educational session with a fun family activity may encourage greater parent participation and engagement.
- Council members agreed to continue considering possible uses for the grant funding.
- No decision was made at this meeting.
- Members were asked to think about additional ideas before the January meeting, at which time a decision on the use of the grant funds will be made.

Outcome-Based Reporting Pilot

- Raime Drake provided an update on the Outcome-Based Reporting pilot that has begun for Grades 7 and 8.
- She explained that Grades 7 and 8 will now use the outcome-based reporting format for report cards.
- Grade 9 report cards will remain unchanged and will continue to follow the same reporting format used in previous years.
- The new Grade 7 and 8 report cards will align more closely with the reporting format currently used in the elementary grades.
- Raime explained that outcome-based reporting does not eliminate testing. Student assessment continues to include tests and assignments but also considers a student's knowledge, understanding, and ability to demonstrate what they have learned.
- Several parents shared concerns regarding the reporting format. Lisa Lawrence, Tina Hutchison, and Jessica Seatter indicated that they found outcome-based reporting challenging to interpret and felt it could make it difficult for parents and students to identify areas requiring additional support.
- Concerns were also raised that junior high students should be preparing for high school and post-secondary education, where percentage-based grading systems are more commonly used.

Free to Play Grant

- Raime Drake advised Council that the school will be receiving a **$5,000 Free to Play Grant**.

- The grant may be used to purchase outdoor play equipment and other outdoor recreation resources for students.
- The funding cannot be used for permanent structures but may be used for portable outdoor equipment and activities that support student recreation and engagement.

11. Upcoming Meetings

- **January 4, 2027,** at **4:00 PM**
- **March 8, 2027,** at **4:00 PM**
- **June 8, 2027,** at **4:00 PM**

12. Adjournment

Jessica Seatter adjourned the meeting at **5:15 PM**.