

Lynden Christian Board of Directors Summary – Aug. 23, 2021

TJ Mellema opened our meeting with prayer, seeking God's will and asking for His direction with the ongoing difficult decisions we have to make – and also how to communicate well with the Society.

The board recognized our staff needs direction on the vaccination issue and is looking for assurances about their jobs in light of recent mandates from the Governor's office that all school employees need to be vaccinated or they will be terminated. Parents are also concerned that this may lead to the next step of required vaccinations for all school children.

All board members agreed that our staff would not be terminated if they chose not to be vaccinated. We discussed exemptions, but concluded that the standard exemptions were likely not available. We recognized there are major concerns with some members of our board and the society, of the safety of the vaccines. Many believe the approval process has been rushed and are not ready to trust the vaccine. There was also a recognition that agreeing to require masks – which is temporary and only required for limited hours during the day – is very different than requiring something 'permanent' like a vaccine to be injected into someone's body. Several board members felt that it was time to take a stand to defy over-reaching government mandates, and this issue is the line in the sand that needs to be drawn. After examining a variety of ways to respond, the board concluded we would issue a statement to staff stating that getting the Covid 19 vaccine is not a condition of employment at L.C. We also recognized that many believe the Covid19 vaccine is the best way to slow the spread of the virus. With that in mind we will ask staff who have been, or are willing to be vaccinated, to do so by the deadline and to notify LC administration so it can be recorded in their personnel file. The statement was sent to our staff and copied and sent the Society. The board hopes this sends a very clear message of support to our staff and also assures parents that until this vaccine has had more formal approval and typical testing, it will not be required of students.