

Lynden Christian Board of Directors Meeting Summary – Nov. 1, 2021

Leonard Smit led our devotions with a reflection on the Biblical story of David's preparation for battle with Goliath. As he explained to Saul about why he was prepared to take on Goliath, he recounted his previous encounters with wild animals as a shepherd. Leonard challenged us to ask ourselves if we are preparing ourselves well to face what seems like an overwhelming set of circumstances. And are we learning from smaller challenges as we get ready to face possibly even larger challenges in the future?

The board identified Leonard Smit, treasurer and TJ Mellema, asst. treasurer as the new signers on the LC accounts. The board instructed the wellness team to make sure all communication with the WCHD including all requests and recommendations be in writing and documented. President Jon reminded Board members to refer parents with specific questions about the guidelines to Paul or the Wellness team directly to be sure they get the most accurate information possible. Incomplete and sometimes inaccurate information is often exchanged on social media, and that proves to be disruptive and counterproductive. The board also approved next steps to improving our employment application forms and our entire hiring process. The wellness team has been functioning remarkably well, but are putting in long hours and facing challenging demands where distrust and frustration often surface. Emily Gibson is planning to step down from her position as Wellness Director at the end of her one-month assignment from the board and our current wellness nurse. Colleen Stremmer continues as our wellness nurse and the remainder of our team including school nurses and administrative personnel have gelled well together despite the challenges they face. A search continues for another wellness nurse who will be needed when Emily steps back. Further discussion was held on the request for a special Society Meeting, but the board wanted to identify key questions that need to be answered and determine if communicating those directly to the Society would be a more productive and less divisive response. The Executive Committee was tasked with developing those questions for the Board to answer.

Kathryn VanWeerdhuizen and Paul led the board in the next round of discussion surrounding current strategic planning efforts focusing on 4 key impact areas: Teaching and Learning; Master Campus Planning; Financial Sustainability; and Improving our Services and Processes.