

Group Society Meeting - 1.11.2022

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0:00:26.0 Jon DeJong: Okay, well welcome and thank you for taking the time out to meet with us as a Board of Fellow Society members. My name is Jon DeJong and I am currently serving as Chair for the your school Board so I'm going to lead us through tonight.

0:01:04.0 Jon DeJong: I'll try to talk louder and try to talk closer. I gotta open with prayer. This is a book by John Bailey that I started this year and it's a book of personal prayers, so I'm just going to read through this, this prayer, which is, it's written as a personal that you can offer yourself, but I think if you would all pray it with me it applies in each of our lives. That's a little louder?

0:01:36.3 Jon DeJong: Better. Okay. So I'm going to read through this prayer and we'll use that to open up the meeting... If Paul settles down. [laughter] His old principal is in the room and he didn't behave then either. I don't think so. Okay. "Oh Heavenly, Oh Father in Heaven. You crafted my limbs to serve you and my soul to follow closely after you. With sorrow and repentance of heart I acknowledge before you the faults of failures of today. For too long, I have tried your patience, too often I have betrayed your trust. If you still want me to come with you, come to you with a humble heart, as I now do, imploring you to drown my sin in a sea of your infinite love. Oh Lord, forgive me for my failures to be true even to my own standards, my excuses in the face of temptation, my choosing of the worst, when I know the better. Oh Lord, forgive me for my failure to apply myself, apply to myself the standards I demand of others. My blindness to the suffering of others and the time it takes me to learn from my own, my apathy towards wrongs that do not impact me and my over-sensitiveness to those that do."

0:02:57.6 Jon DeJong: "Oh Lord, forgive me for my slowness to see the good in others, and just to see the flaws in myself. My hard-heartedness towards the faults of others, and my readiness to make allowances for my own. My unwillingness to believe that you have called me to a small work and my brother or sister to a great one. Create in me the clean heart of God and put in a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence and do not take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your Salvation. And sustain in me a willing spirit. Amen." So, why are we gathered here today? We're asked by you our Society members to call a meeting for the full society so people can have the opportunity to share their thoughts and concerns about school or the school board.

0:03:58.1 Jon DeJong: These meetings we're having are a series of meetings are to help... Also in response to that, but also just to gather your thoughts and concerns about where do you think the school's going and for important information. The Board felt the smaller meetings would be more productive and give the most people an opportunity to share their thoughts. Also logistically, it's easier to set up small meetings, we didn't have any idea how many people will be attending to fit in... These are a smaller setting. Members of the board are here to listen, not all the members are here. So I think at this time... The members that are here can you just stand up and say your name, so we can see who you are and where you're at.

0:04:45.9 Speaker 3: Mike Smit

0:04:46.9 Speaker 4: Lisa Kramer.

0:04:48.0 Speaker 5: Dan Gibson

0:05:00.7 Speaker 6: Darren Johnson.

0:05:01.2 Speaker 7: Becky Bos

0:05:03.9 Jon DeJong: So we have pretty good representation, I think Kathryn's out of town and Lori's not here. Have I missed anybody else. The Board members will stick around tonight after we get done listening so you could talk to us individually afterwards, we'll be around for a while. The Board is not planning to answer any questions posed tonight during the meeting. We're simply here to listen to gain a better understanding of the concerns and celebrations that you may have concerning how the school is going. At the end of these three meetings we will review the notes from each meeting and discuss the next steps and get points of clarity, at that point, we can post additional question/answer items for everybody to see our answers and decisions on things.

0:05:58.6 Jon DeJong: Few housekeeping items to get started here, we're going to be... For the people signed up that want to speak, we're going to have you get two and a half minutes, Lisa's going to kinda run a clock there. She'll give you a little wink and a nod when you get close to your time limit so we can be respectful of everybody. I'll call you up by name and just call the school off the list. You come up and speak. To respect everybody, please don't interrupt people that are speaking. Cheers of applause, boos whatever. Just give them their time. And then when people are done, just if we can refrain from clapping or just... I'll thank them for speaking and we'll call on the next person. Okay, so, from the board...

0:06:57.0 Jon DeJong: We understand that there's lots of different ways to communicate and as a board we're trying to do a better job communicating with society about lots of different issues that are going on. We spend a lot of time working at that, so we've posted several statements on the website, we're going to continue to update those as more clarity... As we work through some more things and the things that are brought up tonight, possibly. And much of those things that we've posted are our responses to questions that we've always had for people we've talked to, we've met with a lot of people last several months talking about the concerns, addressing them, posting statements, so everybody kinda view positions on things. A lot of things that are in the works that we're working through currently too.

0:07:57.3 Jon DeJong: Just a reminder here, on what is the Living Christian Society? 'Cause some people can ask that question, "What are you talking about? When we're talking about Living Christian Society," so, let me just read the constitution there is... It spells it out there, but I have it here so I'll just read it for you. All the right agreement with Article 2, which now reads is, "the basis of the society is the infallible word of God as interpreted by the reformed standards of the society. Society is governed by the following guiding principles;

0:08:30.3 Jon DeJong: That all things have been created to the end of the trial, and God may be glorified in and through, that God by His wise covenant arrangement has appointed the parent to be responsible for the training of the child to the end, that God and his glory shall be central and supreme in lifestyle experience. And training of the child shall continue to be the parents responsible supervision in a school that carries out basic God honoring God's centered programs be it at home." So everyone who agrees with Article 2 which I just read, which is 18 years of age, and contributes time, treasure or tuition are an eligible member of this society.

0:09:08.6 Jon DeJong: Additionally, all employees are eligible to be society members. Membership includes a privilege of voting at the meetings of the society, as well as readiness to

participate in activities on behalf of the school. Another reminder is, March 8th is the scheduled annual Society meeting that we hold every year. And in that meeting we're excited as a board to present a basic layout of the five years plan we've been working on, to kind of guide the direction of our school. We'll be forming the 2022 nomination committee which will nominate for replacements for three retiring board members this coming year. We have to review and approve the budget for this next school year and any other business that comes up. So that would be the focus of March 8th meeting. Other reason we want to have this listening sessions before that, is so we can have that meeting actually get through the agenda to get the stuff that needs to be done and not be short of time of listening to society members.

0:10:20.2 Jon DeJong: So what have we been focused on the last several months? Honestly, since the beginning of this school year, a ton of effort or a ton of time the board has been consumed with just keeping our kids in the school, and dealing with the continually changing COVID restricted regulation and just navigating through that. 'Cause we as a board feels it number one priority to keep our kids in school face-to-face with their teachers in that learning environment. The board's job is to preserve, protect, promote and advance the 112 year legacy of the Christian education, here in Living Christian in ways that align with our mission. This includes representing all of you guys as a society following and clarifying school policy. Supporting and encouraging staff and the administration, overseeing and holding our superintendent accountable to default and to following the board's direction and vision for Living Christian. We have to develop a budget that allows our goals and visions to be carried out, and also to develop a longer term strategies to make Living Christian sustainable, provide leadership through intentional direction. Looking forward for the next generation for our family and our community.

0:11:44.0 Jon DeJong: Okay, that's all I have to say. So we can now open up the floor to those who want to speak. The sign up sheet there for people who signed up before, if you do want to speak, there are some time slots left. So go ahead and sign up for that if you want to. I stated previously, this a time for the board to hear what you have to say so we can accurately address your concerns as we move forward. We are looking to give specific answers to issues as much as desired to better understand where you feel the school is excelling or falling short. If you could phrase your comments so as to share your thoughts or give examples that clarify your position, that will be most helpful. After we finished up, board members will be available and to talk. So good to go?

0:12:45.2 Jon DeJong: That will work. Just... Yes, come on to the mic. This mic... Probably sit down and you guys could, this mic is dialed in but you're just fine.

0:13:06.2 David Gollin: I know. I timed myself at four and a half minutes so you're only going to get about a third of what I think. So, I know that we battle against spiritual forces and not each other. However, there are truths that need to be shared, so my son is in an American History class, and based on his experiences and his first homework assignments. I am very concerned about the infiltration of social justice and Critical Race Theory. So let me give you an example. His first assignment was about, this is in American History, was about Native Americans. His second assignment was about the 1619 project. His third assignment was to determine, for the students to determine at what level white privilege is still rampant in our country. The fourth assignment was around socialism, and then there was a comment in the class, that the class didn't have time to study the Revolutionary War, liberation of America from the present taxation control by Britain because there were too many wars to cover. Any other similar assignments were given. So apparently LC prefers to focus on what I would consider to be wise like the 1619 project. Critical Race Theory, the

evils of whites by the way all races in all societies have had slaves of every color and every background.

In a meeting with David and his wife prior to the society meeting, Mrs. Price and the Gollins had already come to an agreement about what she was doing and the scope of her lessons in US History. David was able to read the titles of assignments but did not gain the content of Mrs. Price's lectures. When Mrs. Price and the Gollins met, Mrs. Price clarified her intention for **teaching about** the 1619 project not for it. She did not teach about white privilege or at what level each student expresses that privilege. She did teach the Revolutionary War as well as all the other wars that we have been in; however, we will not cover all the battles. Mrs. Price taught about the Indigenous tribes that lived here when US history began; that is correct. They helped explorers and settlers when we were in desperate circumstances, and we owe them a debt of gratitude for helping and providing knowledge. We talked about socialism in contrast to capitalism, and the government system that the US has been built on.

0:14:50.9 David Gollin: I had a hard time reducing this to two and a half minutes. I had a four and a half minute presentation, mostly focused on the actual aspects of American history. But most of you, vocally could come up with that list yourselves, you're smart people. So what do we do? My proposal is to bring a group of parents together with teachers to develop a curriculum, that monitors presentation of the curriculum. Not woke curriculum, but Christian curriculum. The parent should without being canceled or selected by the board or the institution, select themselves. Work should be done at night, or on weekends when most parents can work together. This could be done in March, have a huge impact next year. I volunteer to being on the planning committee...

The teachers, principals, and director of learning all work at curriculum. We have curriculum standards aligned and recorded in a web-based site. The education committee of the board approves substantive curricular changes. Principals oversee curriculum with teachers, and teachers are granted latitude in their selection of age-appropriate content. We recognize our need to improve our curriculum alignment and content oversight, and we have plans to do that through the education committee and other research/work coming from our strategic plan and re-accreditation.

0:15:49.8 Lisa Kramer: Thirty seconds.

0:15:49.9 David Gollin: And maybe, the focus can be on the wonders of God, and not only on the failures of America, but the Christian heritage of America and the amazing things that relative to the rest of the world have gone right. In Jesus name. Amen. One other thing Voddie Baucham on social and biblical justice and Voddie Baucham on CRT. If you don't understand what I just said, I will give you the information. That's it.

0:16:24.5 Lisa Kramer: Time's up.

0:16:32.3 John DeJong: Thank you. Your name is David, is that correct?

0:16:34.9 David Gollin: Yeah.

0:16:35.6 John DeJong: Alright, I'm terrible with names but, forgot to mention it when you come up, if you could just introduce yourself and maybe a little bit about how you're affiliated with Living Christian. Just a little perspective for everybody in the audience, thank you.

[background conversation]

0:17:02.9 Michael Colwell: My name is Michael Colwell. We have a son who is a senior in high school, William. And our son middle second Christian went to LC, graduated a couple of years ago. Okay, I timed myself and I practiced the three minutes, it's okay so I'll see what I can do. My wife says I awfully talk too fast so buckle up. We live in a sin filled world engaged in a struggle between good and evil. In these days, it's not a physical battle as much as the cultural struggle. The battle ground's in the cultural world are the key foundations of the society, including Christianity. This cultural struggle started a century ago with Carl Marx and it calls for a violent uprising to create a socialist utopia. In 1930s, Italian philosopher Gramsci recognized that's not gonna work in America.

0:17:45.1 Michael Colwell: In this middle class, that middle class they have is too tied into Christianity, capitalists could make that work. So you develop a different approach. Forget class warfare, focus on culture. To be in a long march through the institutions that continues today. It was called Critical Theory and Gramsci's view weakening the foundations of the Church, turning aside morality and socialize the economy, but bring it on a quiet revolution. In the 1960s it was called the Contemporary Critical Theory. Which calls for the destruction of traditional families of religious institutions. What about LC, are we caught up in this?

0:18:19.3 Michael Colwell: The recent board statement on critical issues, plays right in to these hands. After acknowledging the true sinful nature of humans, we state "Sin also finds its way into the structure of institutions.". Exactly, they say, the institutions themselves have other problem and they must be reformed and we have the answers. What else? Why else do I think it's happening here. Why do I think the lines of battle are in our school? Our children heard the presentation on human reproduction, that included abortion as an option for a pregnant woman.

This is true. Abortion is an option under the current state of the law; however, given Lynden Christian's strong Pro-Life position, this option is not endorsed in this class or anywhere else.

A TV station was granted access after we voluntarily shut down during COVID. The outcome was easy to anticipate people across the state to saw a slanted news report that reflected poorly on the school, it's leadership and the parents.

The board made the decision to shut down when a closure by the Health Department was inevitable. They were not allowed on campus though our superintendent did grant an interview, which did reflect poorly on the school and will be handled differently in the future should the need arise.

0:18:58.0 Michael Colwell: University of Washington has instructed, our senior English teacher to avoid using books written by white authors in our UW classroom this year.

Though UW does encourage this, we nonetheless use a wide variety of authors based on quality and content of text more than ethnicity.

We leverage UW classes based on the reciprocity of credits with most colleges. Our teachers are still infusing the content with Christian worldview.

And our Christian world views (correction: World Issues is the course) teacher developed a curriculum on contemporary topics that were submitted before the board completed work on its

policy and was forced to be withdrawn after parents saw what was in it.

The curriculum for this course was established before this school year. The specific unit on race has been taught in prior years. The board formed a task force to establish a framework for teaching critical issues which just submitted its draft to the education committee mid-February.

So together, we need to acknowledge that there's a battle taking place to commit to fight back. We get on the board. I wanna talk a bit about boards, we count on your leadership as we send our children and spend our treasure for a Christian education. Not a private school, a Christian school. So what makes a good board member? I have some experience here. Trust, curiosity, and the trust, courage and curiosity are the three things that matter... In my experience with boards, act of curiosity is the key.

0:19:43.3 Michael Colwell: Asking questions. Are the actions we're taking consistent with our foundations? Have our leaders adequately considered the risks? The best leaders I've known are all curious and ask these questions over and over again, and then they challenge the answers.

0:19:53.4 Lisa Kramer: Thirty seconds.

0:19:53.5 Michael Colwell: The problems I mentioned would not have occurred had our Board been more curious. I feel like LC's Board is underestimating the battles at hand and I don't think there's enough curiosity on the Board. A simple example: We were asked to complete a survey about our thoughts about dealing with COVID, and we clearly demonstrated that we wanted to fight, but the school chose as a resource, as a liaison with the public authorities, someone who chose to keep his students to online teaching when we were back in class. How could that give us confidence? As of January 1, children in Washington as young as 13 are now...

0:20:25.5 Lisa Kramer: Time's up.

0:20:25.9 Michael Colwell: Allowed to have gender reassignment procedures without their parents consulted. Are we aware or ready for this? I'll finish very quickly. I challenge all of the Board members to ask yourself two questions for the coming days. Am I being curious, and do I have the stomach for this fight? I'll close with a verse from Matthew 16, Verse 18: "And I say to thee that thou art Peter. Upon this rock, I will build my church and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it." Lynden Christian is a place where we prepare the next generations. We need to be Peters. Thank you.

0:21:23.5 Julie Decker: I'm Julie Decker and our oldest daughter graduated from LC in 2020, Paige. We have a senior Ava and we have a sophomore Judy and we have a fourth daughter... Lucille, who will be a freshman next year. So I would like to read a letter from Mike and I addressed to the school board regarding our concern at the 10% non-Christian enrollment policy.

0:21:49.8: We can't hear you.

0:21:50.5: Talk in the mic...

0:21:51.9 Julie Decker: Is that better?

0:21:52.7: Yeah.

0:21:53.4 Julie Decker: Okay. I'm Julie Decker. LC school board, we request that the 10% non-Christian student enrollment policy, which was approved by the board in 2019, be added to the agenda for the March 2022 whole society meeting. We are specifically asking that this 10% non-Christian enrollment policy be revoked at that time. If the board wishes to drop this policy, it must be put to a vote of this society of that meeting in accordance of Article 11 of the Constitution. Additionally, both sides must be afforded the opportunity to share perspectives with the whole society in advance, and at the meeting. We have communicated a number of times with both the LCS superintendent and the school board regarding this policy, as have other individual parents have also groups that concerned LCS society. In brief this 10% non-Christian enrollment allowance was set by the School Board without the knowledge of the society in March in 2019. This policy is a direct violation of Article 2, 3 and 11 of the constitution of Lynden Christian School.

0:22:53.8 Julie Decker: This policy, which allows 10% of our student body and families to be non-Christian was used at summer school 2021, by the superintendent and the school board to justify open enrollment for the first time in the 110 year history of Lynden Christian schools. This policy discriminates against tuition-paying non-Christian parents that enroll non-Christian students by refusing them membership in our society, giving them no voice and making them unequal with Christian parents, whose society membership includes the privilege of voting in society meetings as well as readiness to participate in activities on behalf of the school, according to article four membership. This unequal treatment of tuition-paying parents opens our school up to liability. Exception 5143 requires that the tuition paying non-Christian parents or the enrolled students: "Must agree, that while their children are enrolled at the school, they will not actively countermand before their children any teaching that is not in harmony with the LCS statement of philosophy, goals and objectives".

Open enrollment for summer school was simply that. Families who were admitted into our summer school who are not Christians or are unchurched were not enrolled into Lynden Christian for the 2021-2022 school year, unless they applied for the school year, not summer school, and were accepted. Our summer program was designed to fill a need in the community. Attending summer school did not result in or enhance their enrollment into Lynden Christian.

0:23:48.2 Julie Decker: All other belief systems, such as Buddhist, Muslims, Atheist etcetera, do countermand Christianity by their very definition. The school board does not have the authority or the ability to control what non-Christian parents can teach or not teach to their children. Exception 5143 also built in room for the board to increase this 10% non-Christian allowance by stating, that: "The total number of exceptions is not to exceed 10% of the total enrollment of any school building, unless prior board approval is received". The historical understanding of our Constitution by previous LC generations has always been covenant children from Christian homes. Our current vision states quote: "Lynden Christian schools, belief that Lynden Christian is an extension of the Christian home, designed to reinforce the faith and values of their parents." This non-Christian enrollment board policy, which is currently set at 10% is a different vision. We are asking our school board to honor and enforce our legal document, the constitution of Living Christian schools. Thank you.

Based on a thorough review of past minutes, the initial verbiage allowing for students from unchurched families entered the policy manual in the early 1990s (1993). The stated goal was the

integration of those families into active church life within a short time. By 2000, there was also a growing percentage, particularly in the high school, of non-Christian foreign exchange students, with most of the students from East Asia who lived with Christian host families. That number increased throughout the following decade, peaking at about 10% of the high school enrollment. The number of foreign exchange students has declined markedly since about 2016 for a variety of reasons external to the school.

Children from several local non-Christian families have also been admitted as students in the past decade. That number has been very small, less than one percent of the student population, and is accompanied by the agreement of the parents that they will support the teaching of the Christian school to their children.

The number of "non-churched" students (claimed commitment to Christian faith but without church affiliation), by policy not to exceed 10% of the student population, is more difficult to track from a practical standpoint inasmuch as some families may declare a church affiliation that nonetheless is not reflected in regular attendance at, participation in, and commitment to the church. While the number of students whose families have not declared a church affiliation is relatively small (less than 5%), there is a larger number of students from families declaring a church affiliation whose regular participation in the life of the church is lacking. This situation is a source of concern for the board, but does not lend itself to an easy resolution.

In 2019, clarification was added to state that both children from unchurched families and international students should be counted and should not exceed 10% in any building. The board stated at the same time that it was not in favor of heading toward an "open enrollment" policy.

Notes from many past board meetings indicate support and agreement that Lynden Christian is, at its core, a covenantal school. Many decisions have affirmed this position. The board is continuing to review the policy and has place on-hold the enrollment of any new, unchurched families at this time.

5140 Admission of Transfer Students at Beginning of a Term- Admin Reg

5141 Criteria for Regular Admission of Transfer Students – Admin Reg

Lynden Christian School admits transfer students who provide evidence of:

1. Satisfactory conduct in their previous school.
2. Academic ability and achievement appropriate to the grade for which application is made.
3. In addition students seeking admission must give evidence of an openness toward the development of a personal relationship of discipleship to Jesus Christ. A student who demonstrates in attitude and actions that he/she does not want to be at Lynden Christian School may not be admitted.
4. Athletic eligibility will be determined by WIAA and league rules as administered by the Activities Director

5142 Priorities for Admission – Board Policy

If certain classes or grades at Lynden Christian School are filled, the following guidelines in order of priority for admission are maintained:

1. Returning parents or whose siblings are currently enrolled under the discretion of building principal.

2. Children who themselves have made a Christian commitment or are interested in the gospel, even though their parents are not committed to Christ or his church.
3. Children of parents who are not regularly attending a Christian church, but who are open to instruction in the Christian faith and who desire Christian education for their children. Families in this category are admitted with the expectation that they will become actively involved with a Christian church. These families will be reviewed the following year.

5143 Exceptions

Admissions may use its own discerning judgment to make exceptions to the above policies, provided that the following conditions are met:

1. The student's presence must not harm the moral atmosphere of the school.
2. The student's parents or guardians must agree that while their children are enrolled at the school, they will not actively countermand before their children any teaching that is harmony with the LCS Statement of Philosophy, Goals and Objectives.
4. The total number of exceptions is not to exceed 10 percent of the total enrollment of any school building unless prior board approval is received.
5. Names of newly enrolled families are reported to the Board for information. This would include information re: exceptions.

5144 Church Attendance Follow Up – Board Policy Admin Reg

Lynden Christian School will, after prayerful review, allow up to 10% of students enrolled to come from unchurched families. Parents and/or students from such homes will be accepted on a trial basis for a period of one year. During this time they are encouraged to seek a relationship with God with the outgrowth being spiritual maturation, and church fellowship.

To foster this process, the school will touch base with the family/student (grades 7-12) at least quarterly, offering support and encouragement. We recognize our human inability to cause such growth and therefore trust the Holy Spirit to nourish His life in each family.

At the year's end parents and/or student(s) may be interviewed for evidence of a spiritual walk – and the family's choice of church fellowship.

0:25:10.8 Kelly Bouma: I did not read mine out loud at all so I don't have any idea how long it's gonna take, and I hope it doesn't go over but it probably go over, so just cut me off.

[chuckle]

0:25:23.7 Kelly Bouma: My names is Kelly Bouma and I have a, my husband and I he's not here, but we have a fourth grader, Colt and he is at LC, has been since preschool. So, my question is obviously we have so many issues going on that at this point I just wanna ask the board, the administration, everybody involved. When are we gonna wake up and realize that we are not going to comply our way out of this, as far as COVID goes. When in history have governments taken away rights and then given those rights back? We are willing and eager as a society, so many of us, that I know to work with you to push back against the lawless, godless government, not only at the state level with Inslee tyrant, but at the federal level of with Biden, call him Brandon if you like.

0:26:14.1 Kelly Bouma: I know Romans 13 is so very important to this administration, but look further into the chapter Romans, verses 10 through 12, or Romans 13 verses 10 through 12 and see, that says, "Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day

almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light." The goal here was never about keeping people safe, it was always going to lead to slavery and forced vaccinations. And we have complied all the way at this point, nothing has changed.

0:27:00.9 Kelly Bouma: I saw this coming. You remember Paul, when you laughed at me in June of 2020, when I said that first it's gonna be masks and then it's gonna be box cars. Well, they're preparing the COVID isolation camps for the unvaccinated. How is that not? I mean, is this still funny? The government is not going to save us and if you can't see that non-compliance and fighting... Back against this tyranny is the only way, than I will leave you with this statement: There is none so blind that he, who whilst not see. There's right and there's left, and there's God. Which side are we choosing as a Christian school? Our children are paying the price. Thank you.

0:27:56.8 Nathan Chambers: Nathan Chambers. I'm new to LC. We have a daughter who is a freshman at the high school, first year. So we're new to this. I feel like the tenor of my signing up to speak is a little different to those speakers. I just wanna say thank you to the board and administration. As the leader of a church, I know these have not been easy years, and yet you guys have done hard work and good work. So thank you. I encourage you to stay in the course. If I have any concerns about Living Christian, in general, it's that the school can end up becoming... In our children's education... Can end up becoming a football in a culture war that gets kicked back and forth, maybe that's mixing a metaphor.

0:28:42.8 Nathan Chambers: I think our children are in school to be taught virtues, and to be cultivated as good citizens, and to be... Have a, provide a safe Christian environment to inquire into many areas of study. So I'm not in principle afraid of our children learning anything in the context of a Christian school like this. Discussing issues of race or whatever they may be, I think will provide to sort of environment that children can encounter these things before they go off to college or into the world, and encounter them for sure. So overall, I'm saying thank you and let's not turn our children's education into the battlefield for culture course. Thank you, Board. Thank you, Administration.

0:29:42.2 Sarah Arnold: My name's Sarah Arnold. I have two kids here at Lynden Christian. My husband and I both graduated from public school, and we just are so in love with Lynden Christian, and the community, and the families. We have an 8th grader and a 5th grader, and this is not my thing... But I felt the need to also kind of speak a different voice. I mostly just wanna thank the board, administration, and staff. And especially our school nurses for the hard decisions that they have to make. I'm so happy that our kids have been able to attend Lynden Christian, and I truly will feel for that school year, 2019 to 2020, all of our kids were some of the most fortunate in the country to be in person in school. And that's because of your dedication and working amongst all the changing constraints that we've had. None of us alive have lived through a pandemic, so we haven't yet had to navigate this. That said, I'm also, I'm deeply concerned about Christian nationalism and patriotic education being a push for our school. I trust my children. I trust the decisions and discussions that we can have at home with anything that's posed by their teachers, who we put total faith and trust in, that we'll ultimately discuss at home and send them out in the world to think for themselves.

0:31:23.9 Emily Gibson: I'm Emily Gibson. I am a former LC mom. Hope to be an LC grandma here next year. And a former board member. So I know the pressures that the Board is under. Speaking to the Board, I want to thank you that you gave me the privilege of volunteering as the

interim wellness officer for six weeks starting with the two weeks shutdown. I volunteered because I'm a physician who has worked with the public health department for 40 years, in this county. I knew this school could actually stay open if it actually had the time and the resource to make that happen. So, in the six weeks that I served as a volunteer before we currently hired Colleen on board who does wonderful work as the wellness coordinator for nurses. I learned a lot about this school. And I've been away, because I wasn't an active mom, I'd been away for a while. So, it was very eye opening for me to spend some time to actually find out more about our students, our staff, our administration, our board.

0:32:49.7 Emily Gibson: And then here's what I learned, we have an energetic, courageous superintendent. And he absolutely helped me with every step that I needed to take to try to reach compliance so our school could be open. We have awesome principals. Ron, Aaron, Craig work so hard to make sure that those schools are doing what we have promised our society. And we have incredible staff. Faculty, support staff, I absolutely was so impressed that this still is an extraordinary place. And will continue to be an extraordinary place. Who impressed me the most were the students. Now, I had a job for six weeks here. That I think nobody happy, absolutely nobody. In fact, I made a lot of people very unhappy. The students were gracious. They complied as best as they could. They were always grateful... Whether we're testing whether we're having to do any of the things having to do with COVID prevention. And I'm continuing to do the testing for the athletes. And I continue to be impressed with your students. So, I think we're raising such great people.

0:34:16.8 Emily Gibson: But the parents are another thing. I had some parents that made my life incredibly difficult. In forty years as a physician I have worked in very difficult environments, inner city, ER, detox, university, where I was the only Christian in the room. But I have never had name calling, I have never had my faith and integrity questioned, I have never had a threat from the State of my license school because a parent complained. But that happened here, Christian brothers and sisters. Though Pastor Chambers is our pastor...

0:34:55.6 Lisa Kramer: Time's up.

0:34:58.0 Emily Gibson: And I just refer you to 1 Peter 3, tender hearts, humility, and unity of thought. That is what we need.

0:35:30.1 Sandi Cobb: My name is Sandy Cobb. We are really new here. Our son Aaron just started in the sixth grade. First of all I wanna thank the board for serving. I have said from the beginning of this meeting... Truly is a difficult time to be in a position of leadership, this is not an easy time. I am speaking today to encourage you. And the very definition of encouragement is to put courage in. I am a fellow Jesus follower, and as such, I wanna raise my boys to be bold in their faith, to stand for truth, and against evil, to show a desperate world about Jesus. I believe that we can only expect them to do this, if it's modelled by us first. So I am here, practicing my boldness, and standing for truth. I believe that we are engaged in a much bigger battle with evil, bigger than this pandemic. I believe that our kids are under attack, every angle, a full frontal assault by our enemy. From the womb and abortion, to college campuses and the indoctrination that's happening there. From masking and vaccine mandates to see our teachers sex trafficking.

0:36:48.1 Sandi Cobb: Our enemy is out to steal and kill and destroy them. This battle is real. We can faithfully claim victory with the one who has overcome this world, however God told us to put

on our full armor to stand against the evil one's schemes. We know He's sovereign and He is above all of this. We know He has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love and self-discipline. So I am encouraging you to be bold with us, to take a stand against the evil. A stand against the mask mandates, a stand against the health department. Join other school boards, like Mount Vernon Christian, who is engaging in a bill process to move out of mandatory masking for their kids. Consider caring for the whole child. Their physical, social, emotional, cognitive, and spiritual well-being. We fight this battle for our kids, and yours, for your grandkids, and my grandkids. We have to ask ourselves where this line is, and as we give and we give and we give, as someone said earlier, "We cannot comply our way out of this." So thanks for hearing me.

The board, administration, and all staff at Lynden Christian love and are concerned for the whole child and every child that attends our school. None of us like masks; none of us prefer school with masks. Paul is in contact with Mount Vernon, other Christian schools, and many private schools on this topic and many others. As the board has stated in the past, our primary driver is Christian, in-person education for our kids.

0:38:21.0 Herm Fransen: My name is Herm Fransen. I am a grandfather. Currently two grandchildren here. I am a graduate of the system, and I have been an employee here for 10 years, and I have 38 years in the Christian educational realm, and it's been a blessing. The thing that I am struggling with is, when I came here, I am out of the loop. I have no idea what the issues were. I have heard a couple of them now, and there are a whole lot more, but I have no idea who they are, or what they are. And I would hope that maybe somehow we could have identified all these issues and then maybe deal with them one at a time or whatever, but I have a couple of written things here I would like to share with you.

0:39:04.5 Herm Fransen: Apparently, a rift has developed between well-meaning folks in the school community and the LC leadership. Not being in the loop, I have nevertheless heard rumors and opinions expressed here and there, various opinions have been floated around for some time. Hopefully this meeting and others will give an insight as to the issues and work toward a satisfactory solution. Opinions are really the lowest form of knowledge. I wanna repeat that. Opinions are really the lowest form of knowledge. It requires no accountability and no understanding.

0:39:47.2 Herm Fransen: The highest form of knowledge is empathy, where it requires us to suspend our egos, and to live in another's world. We live in a world that is fractured, as you've just heard, a minute ago. Fractured, anxious, frustrated, fearful, suspicious... We as Christians are not immune from that, as we all know. Citizens and parents often get caught up in this as well. They feel that they have little or no part in decisions or circumstances, that they feel isolated or not listened to. Consequently, rumors and innuendos get started and fester. And I think that's probably some of our problem here. It seems to me that the resolution to the apparent conflict or misunderstanding can and should be reached. We are all part of the family of God, and called on to honor our Lord in every aspect of life. Communicating with each other meaningfully, in love, is required of all Jesus Christ's followers. I would like to suggest the following as ways to possibly heal wounds and to get back on even keel. Some of these suggestions may already have been suggested or implemented but here goes. Number one, that each side take a step back, identify the issues clearly, and determine whether they are real or imagined. Check out the facts and then preferably seek out an agreement, seek out an agreement and work toward a satisfactory solution.

0:41:15.9 Lisa Kramer: Thirty seconds.

0:41:16.6 Herm Fransen: Number two. That those parents who have issues follow proper procedures privately and go directly to the person who's responsible for their concerns, starting with the lowest level, the teacher, principal, superintendent, Board, and that the Board through the superintendent regularly write a series of articles in the school's newsletter or produce a video that will explain and instruct and remind all of our people, as parents and as Society members, who we are as a school and who the school consists of.

Yes, the board sees its role as representing the full society, which includes current families as well as staff and other members of the broader society. Yes, parents are welcome to come to teachers with their questions or concerns. As a way of the requested reminder, the board uses a Community Governance model, which is outlined below (from the policy manual).

1. The Board's first and primary responsibility is to hold in trust, protect and direct the mission of the school. The Board adopts a clear mission, and mission-focused goals regarding Christian education. The Board should review the Lynden Christian Mission statement, and its Amplification, routinely and set yearly goals that may reach down into the organization.
2. The Board's role is clear and distinct from the staff. It is critical for the Board to work through key issues such as its role, what power and authority will be delegated to the Superintendent, and how it will hold the Staff, through the Superintendent, accountable for their responsibilities.
3. The Board has a governance focus. The Board must be careful not to micro-manage the organization. The Board must focus on setting clear policies, maintaining financial stability, directing strategic planning, and reviewing operations. The Board gives organizational oversight rather than working in the trenches.
4. Board members understand their roles. The Board speaks as one voice outside the Boardroom. Further, Board members need to know which hat they are wearing at which time:
 - Governor—when at a Board meeting fulfilling the task as a trustee and acting on the powers given them by the Constitution.
 - Volunteer—when a Board member is providing volunteer service. He/she has no authority over other volunteers unless assigned by the Board.
 - Implementer—when a Board member is given a specific task from the Board to carry out.
 - Parent/Guardian—when a Board member is fulfilling their role as parent, responsibility is limited to serving the interests of their child(ren)
5. The Board links with the parents and Lynden Christian Society*. The Board develops creative strategies for community linkage through newsletters, formal and informal meetings, and special events. The parents and Society become moral owners** and must know where the Board and leadership are directing "their" school. Board members welcome contact points with parents and Society members. The Board also seeks to sustain the vision of Christian education for future generations.
6. The Superintendent is the lone agent of the Board. Having one person provides organizational clarity. He/she gives leadership toward achieving the mission-focused goals, in collaboration with other administrators and staff. The Superintendent is expected to live within the Superintendent job

description and the Board Policy Handbook.

7. Policies are organized into a Board Policy Handbook. It is vital for smooth governance that the policy handbook is kept up to date with each change being recorded promptly. Likewise, it should be reviewed regularly. Organizations may use hard copy handbooks or online versions that may make it easier for updating and accessibility.
8. The Board chair “manages” the Board. While the Superintendent can be helpful in crafting the agenda and providing resources, the chairman ensures the meetings are well planned. He/she works with committee chairs, follows up with reports, and stays tuned to the needs and desires of fellow board members.
9. A strong committee structure is vital to board effectiveness. There will be standing committees and ad hoc committees, all of which need a clear written mandate. Committees, including the Executive, do not have final decision-making ability unless it has been delegated. The Executive Committee must be careful not to claim authority for itself, thus excluding the full board. Board members chair standing committees. Committees may include non-board members who have particular skills and knowledge useful to the Board.
10. Both board and committee meetings must be well planned so as to conduct business efficiently. The Superintendent prepares a forthright written report for the Board. The Administrative staff will likewise prepare forthright written reports for standing committees with information regarding their area of responsibility. A committee secretary will be appointed to record minutes for Board review.
11. Board members are elected and well oriented. In particular, they need to understand and commit to the mission of Lynden Christian. A standing Board Development Committee will be appointed, whose task will be to submit to the Nomination Committee names of candidates who will have the commitments needed to serve well the needs of the Society. The Committee will also propose plans for Board evaluation and professional development.
12. The Board accepts responsibility for self-improvement. The Superintendent may help in the process, but the Board takes the lead. Often it will take new board members awhile to understand their new role. A mentoring process teaming new board members with veteran members may be used. Board members should engage in discussion, reading and retreating that would build a solid cooperative and collaborative team, passionate about Lynden Christian School and their leadership role.

*The Society consists of all parents and community members who continue to support the school as stated in the Constitution.

The moral owners are those Society members who are deeply committed to the essence of the school, its mission and both its current and long-term sustainability (see Bartlett and Campey’s **Community Governance)

0:41:53.5 Lisa Kramer: Time's up.

0:41:55.2 Herm Fransen: Okay, one more thing. I would like to suggest that we initiate in the schedule quarterly check ins with the superintendent or the principal as a means of communicating with parents and the school supporters for the purpose of mutual encouragement when asking questions.

The board will certainly consider this suggestion. The board is also working on a plan to keep the first half hour of board meetings available for society members to sign-up to speak to the full board. The information will be available soon.

0:42:43.3 Bryan Ahlers: I'm Bryan Ahlers. My wife Kim and I have four kids here. Carter's a freshman. Noah is in seventh grade here in the middle school. Easton and Ella are fourth and third. Full disclosure, I completely misunderstood the assignment, so this is gonna be quick. I actually came with a question. I know you're supposed to write those out. I should have read closer, but...

[chuckle]

0:43:03.5 Bryan Ahlers: I'll put it more as a call to action maybe. But my question was, does the Board have a plan, if it becomes inevitable that we fall out of compliance? If something comes up that we just can't stomach as a school, as a society, as parents, as students, that we just cannot comply with the state health department anymore, does the Board have a plan for that?

The board continues to pray for wisdom and discernment. At this point, the board doesn't have something as elegant as a multi-step plan--because we feel that a plan would likely depend on the issue at hand and would need to be developed based on the specific circumstances.

The board agrees that there are many things that could require our action. Requiring teaching that directly contradicts scripture, laws against teaching from the Bible or teaching from a biblical worldview, and views on gender and sexuality that contradict our statements (as a few examples) would require action.

And then I guess that's my question and it'll get answered at some point hopefully. And then I'll just share. For Kim and I, I think this has probably been the hardest on our kids. I go to work every day. I work out of my home office. COVID doesn't even really exist in my world until my kids come home. And so that's what makes it hard for us and hard for them not to just have a normal school life.

0:44:00.5 Bryan Ahlers: When I talk to not just my kids, I'm just singling out my kids, but other kids, and I ask them how their day was and they tell me, "It was a great day. I barely wore my mask today." That's hard to hear that that's the best thing that happened. So anyway, thanks, everybody that's speaking. You guys did a lot more preparation than I did. Thanks to the Board. You guys are in a terrible situation, I understand that. You guys are putting in long hours, I know that, but I just encourage you to keep working hard and keep Jesus just in the forefront of your mind, and yeah, and we'll just continue to pray for you, and keep working. But anyway, that's all I have. Did I go over time?

[chuckle]

0:44:58.4 Lisa Kramer: You're good.

0:45:04.9 John DeJong: That's the end of the list, Leonard?

0:45:06.0 Leonard Smit: Correct.

0:45:06.4 John DeJong: Well, appreciate all the comments that were shared, the honesty and the concern for our school that you've all come here to voice. We appreciate that as a Board. So, I don't wanna cut anything off if someone wants to speak yet, although I am kind of excited because we

haven't ended a Board meeting before midnight for a long time.

[chuckle]

0:45:37.9 John DeJong: This might be the record. [laughter] So don't spoil that for me, but I don't want to cut anybody short. Once again, the Board members that are here, we'll stick around and you guys can talk to us, it's fine. If nothing else, Darren, can I ask you to come up and close a prayer. Put you on the spot.

[background conversation]

0:46:07.6 Darren Johnson: Shall we pray. Lord, can we just thank you for the school, thank you for the parents, Father. Thank you for the kids, thank you for this time, Lord. Lord, we've been living in crazy times and, Lord, with all the stuff going on, we know the one we can always turn to, who is always solid, and has always turn to. We can always go back to your Word 'cause your Word never fails and it's what we can just live on, God. We thank you for it. Lord, bless everyone in here, bless all their families, their kids. Lord, thank you for tonight and just be with everyone as they move on from here in Jesus's name. Amen.