

Group Society Meeting - 1.26.2022

***The board had this meeting transcribed. Any errors or omissions in black text would be from the transcription service. All board and administrative responses are in red.**

<https://scribie.com/files/54aeac9d30fe4da6b72106fae8ec27c7618909d7>

0:00:30.9 Leonard Smit: Okay. Can everybody hear me okay? I'll take that as a yes. So, I drew the short straw tonight. So I wanna thank everyone for coming. Glad everyone got here safely. The soupy fog that happened. So I was kinda looking for a devotion tonight for what do you do for big meetings type of thing. So I was googling, and I was doing my best. Pinterest opened up a cheese a bacon recipe. [laughter] So anyway, let's open in prayer, and I'll go over some stuff, and we'll get moving. So, Dear Lord, thank you for bringing us all here tonight as members of our school community. We ask for your presence to be with us as we meet this evening. Thank you Lord, for blessing this school for the last one hundred and twelve years through many ups and downs. Lord, we pray for your continued blessing moving forward. May we be aware that we serve you and your children. We ask that you inspire and guide our thoughts, discussions, and ideas as we seek to work together to ensure that our school is your school. We're asking your blessing on our meeting tonight. In Your name we pray. Amen.

0:01:52.8 Leonard Smit: So, why are we here? A couple months back, we were asked by a group of society members to call a meeting. I should just say first, these are John's notes from a couple weeks ago, so I am plagiarizing them as well.

[laughter]

0:02:11.0 Leonard Smit: I changed a couple words. We were asked by a group of society members to call a meeting of the full society, so that people could have the opportunity to share thoughts and concerns about school with the board. These meetings are being held in response to that request. The board felt smaller meetings would be more productive, give the most people an opportunity to share their thoughts. Also, logistically, it's easier to host smaller groups. Hopefully, people feel more comfortable sharing in a smaller setting. Members of the board are here to listen, although, not all board members could make it each night. So, I want to introduce everybody, I guess, if the board members...

0:02:51.3 Leonard Smith: I am Leonard Smith. And I am the current treasurer.

0:03:02.9 Brian Kooiker: Brian Kooiker

0:03:03.4 Dan Gibson: Dan Gibson.

0:03:04.0 Derek DeKoster: Derek DeKoster.

0:03:05.3 Lori TeVelde: Lori TeVelde

0:03:06.6 Leonard Smit: I think that's everybody we've got tonight.

0:03:14.2 Darren Johnson: Darren Johnson.

0:03:14.6 Leonard Smit: Derrick's late. So, the board... We're not planning on really answering any questions posed tonight during the meeting, simply here to listen and get a better understanding of the concerns or celebrations that you may have concerning how the school is doing.

0:03:28.8 Leonard Smit: Our plan is to review the notes, review the video, discuss any next steps, points of clarity, additional Q and A items, etcetera. So before we get going, first thing I wanna do,

is kinda talk about what it means to be a member of The Lynden Christian Society, which you all are members of. So, it's all of who are in agreement with article 2 of the Constitution, and I'll read article 2 quickly. The basis of this society is the infallible word of God is interpreted by the reform standards. The society is governed by the following guiding principles. That all things have been created to the end, that the Triune of God may be glorified in it and through them. That God by his wise covenant arrangement has appointed the parent to be responsible for the training of the child til the end that God's glory shall be central and supreme in life's total experience. That training of the child shall be continued under the parent's responsible supervision in a school that carries out the basic God-honoring, God-centered program at home.

0:04:39.0 Leonard Smit: So, all who are in agreement with that, are eighteen years of age, and who contribute time, treasure, or tuition are eligible for membership in this society. Additionally, all employees are eligible to be society members. Membership includes the privilege of voting at the meetings of the society, as well as readiness to participate in activities on behalf of the school. So a few housekeeping things, just for clarity.

0:05:09.9 S Leonard Smit: We're giving everybody about two, two and a half minutes, I'm gonna say 2, 'cause... We'll say two and half minutes. I'll be sitting down here calling names. When we hit about 2 minutes, just so it's not too distracting, I'm just gonna raise my hand. Know that you have about thirty seconds to wrap it up. I'm not gonna drag you off with one of the big canes if you're running 2:45, but be respectful of everyone's time 'cause we've got a lot of people who'd like to speak tonight. Don't interrupt the other speakers, even with cheers or applause. I'll keep things going. Out of respect for everyone and their thoughts, and to keep us on our time schedule, going clapping, finish speaking. I will call the next person. Please don't call people out by name. If you want... If you want to be specific, talk to that persons individually or board member. It's not the time or the place to be calling other people out. We had that a bit at the last meeting and I just... I don't think that's good.

0:06:23.0 Leonard Smit: We understand everyone prefers different communication style towards working better to communicate with society through updating a Q and A document that's on the website. So much of the responses, much of this is in response to questions that we have been asked, or things that have been stated. So during this season, we just can't answer and keep up answering every question on every email, and so what we've done is we posted a link on the website. Every time we update that, it is in response to a lot of questions that some even came up last week, and I'm sure some will come up tonight, but a lot of them have been answered, and that's kind of where we plan to update some of this.

0:07:08.7 Leonard Smit: Last couple things, our annual society meeting is March 8th, we're gonna share the five-year strategic plan with society that we've been working on. We're gonna form the 2022 board nomination committee. We will review and vote on the budget and some other business. So I think that is pretty much it. So with that... One more thing 'cause I've got a list of speakers... I'm going to call through these, and so I'm not sure everybody had a chance to sign in on the speaker list. If you didn't, I'm still planning on calling every name that we had signed up and give you the opportunity to come down, even if you didn't sign in on this list. So I will be sitting right down there, like I say, throw up in hand in about two minutes, and then we can get going. So first person I have on my list is Alyssa Kooi.

0:08:12.1 Alyssa Kooi: Can you still hear me like this or do I have to do this too?

0:08:24.8 Alyssa Kooi: Is that better? Okay, so first of all, I am Alyssa Kooy, I am a parent of a preschooler, but I am also a teacher here. Bible and Social Studies teacher in high school. So lately, some terms have been thrown around, like infiltration or indoctrination regarding our curriculum. And so accusations and assumptions, maybe English, Social Studies classes, but they're not accurate, or maybe a better way to say it is really just that they're not fully informed. I wanna clarify that if all the things that were said or you've heard were true, the concerns expressed would be worthy, but they're not. We teachers are professionals, thinking through what we're teaching and why we're teaching it, we know you're trusting us to not only educate but to also care for your kids, and you can trust us.

0:09:07.7 Alyssa Kooi: We teach skills, and how to think and how to discern, and we'll include controversial topics but be confident. We aren't teaching to agree with the world, we're teaching about the world, we're not teaching that our kids must believe and hold to worldly ideas as straight from the biblical foundation of our reformed education. But I do have some concerns. We all have allowed our individual, cultural and political beliefs, sometimes cloaked in religious terms, to impact how we are perceiving and treating others. We've labeled people, families, departments, and jobs, someone or something is too conservative or too liberal, too Democratic or Republican. We may disagree with others, but we have to be thoughtful in our words. Fortunately, most of us are doing this. But sometimes, words are used as weapons. And in the past year, it's become more common. It really hurts.

0:10:02.7 Alyssa Kooi: Despite concerns that parents have society I have, there is so much beauty happening in our classrooms everyday. No, they're no longer just your kids, they're ours too. So board, society members, everyone here, keep caring for LC, not for your own or my own individual benefit or cause, but for the betterment of our community. Be assured that as Christian school teachers, we will stay indifferent, the earthly culture and the world around us will change and it will challenge us, but we need not fear, for our hope is in Christ. LC's amplified mission states, "The training of our students incorporates every aspect of learning. The head, sharpening the mind and learning to think critically. The heart, nurturing an authentic faith and life of compassion. And hands, putting God's given gifts to work in the world and service." That's what we are teaching, head, heart, and hands.

0:11:07.9 Leonard Smit: that was impressive. Krista Maas.

[pause]

0:11:16.4 Krista Maas: I'm Krista Maas. I have a second grader and a pre-schooler and me and my husband both graduated here and my parents, my grandparents, and I didn't prepare anything like that. That was amazing. I just wanted to say thank you to the school board members, because I think that you have been taking a lot of time and a lot of energy, and it seems like all that you've been doing, you've been carefully considering and all your communications has been really gracious, and so thank you for spending all your time, and also my son's in Spanish, I don't like it so... [laughter] That program, though. Okay.

0:11:58.4 Leonard Smit: Rusty Polinder. One thing I didn't mention, but they both did great is, if you can introduce yourself, obviously, say your name, but a little bit what your relationship is with the school, I guess that kind of thing.

0:12:24.8 Rusty Polinder: My name is Rusty Polinder, and I have a fourth grader here at Lynden Christian. So, yeah, I will just stick to my notes. So to the board I'm just asking you, please don't cave to the political culture of our times. Our school has stood... Has withheld... Sorry, I can't even read my own writing. Our school has withstood more trying times than these, and they did that by staying focused on the foundation... The foundational values of the school. Not left-wing agendas or right-wing agendas, but on kingdom values. Part of the mission of LC is to produce citizens who have a transforming influence in the world. The way we transform is learning about the world we are called to. We need teachers that challenge and present issues to our kids that will cause them to wrestle with the world that they are called to. I'm worried about a few things that have taken place over the past few months.

0:13:40.3 Rusty Polinder: The biggest concern is a culture of disrespect and mistrust of some of our teachers, administration and school board. One of the things that sets LC apart from other schools is that we have amazing parent teacher conferences, and amazing relationships between parents and student. Almost 100% participation. Sadly, this year, many teachers don't feel comfortable alone with parents. There's been anger about masks and political issues on both sides. This is really sad to me. I worry that our teachers, and our administration are at the end of the rope. They're tired, and worried that anything they say will be twisted out of context. As a society, we're in partnership with them. They deserve our respect. So I urge the board to stand behind the teachers, and to stand behind the administration as they hold our teachers accountable. For 112 years, the mission of this school has been firm and grounded in God's word and a reformed world view.

0:14:56.5 Rusty Polinder: The way that you have any unanswered questions over the past several months has shown me that our current elected board is still working well. Thank you for all of your hard work. That's it.

[laughter]

0:15:18.6 Leonard Smit: Ron Polinder.

[pause]

0:15:56.8 Ron Polinder: Not that form, Leonard. I thought I had one more.

0:16:00.3 Leonard Smit: Sorry, I'm not timing you yet.

[laughter]

0:16:10.7 Ron Polinder: So my remarks start this way. This is a very brief lesson in church history. Some of you had to ask, "Why that?" Because many think that the worldwide church started about 20 years before they were born.

[laughter]

0:16:29.4 Ron Polinder: No, it starts at the Genesis and took on additional identity 2000 years ago at Pentecost. God, through his Holy Spirit, has sustained his church. In the 16th century, there was corruption in the church. There was a reformation called the Protestant Reformation. The reformed

churches in this community flow out of that reformation, including our Christian school. This school has an unchangeable foundation based on the Bible and the three confessional statements, including the 450-year-old Heidelberg Catechism. This school has tried to live up to those Biblical standards, though not perfectly. I should know because I was an imperfect student and later, an imperfect principal, and principal of sweet but other imperfect students. For 18 years, I was honored to work for terrific school boards. What a blessing. But our current board faces contention in our school society these past months stirred by imperfect parents who are modeling for their imperfect kids.

0:17:51.0 Ron Polinder: Our reformation, our reformed foundations may not be moved, not by CNN or Fox News. We're a Christian school based on the Word of God, not a political narrative. We wanna teach our kids how to think, to examine, to explore using a Christian worldview, to study history and science, language and math, such as our mission to study our world which belongs to God. We've worked hard at this through the decades.

0:18:28.9 Ron Polinder: I would like to help everyone go home and read from the Heidelberg Catechism Q&A question and answer 104 and 112 about these two commandments. The fifth commandment is about respecting those in authority, and the ninth commandment about bearing false witness. I have copies for you. I'll be at that table on your way out. You can read them. And finally, if we follow those commands, it will do a lot to bring respect, civility, and good health back to our school. Thank you.

0:19:19.2 Leonard Smit: Kathleen Plantinga. **Not in attendance.**

[pause]

0:19:29.2 Leonard Smit: Jesse Price.

0:19:39.1 Jesse Price: Evening, my name is Jesse Price. I have a first grader here in Mrs. Klein's class. And I was speaking with a friend of mine who's in his 70s recently, and he used to teach respiratory health for the government for 20 plus years. Right? He told me that... I was speaking with him about masks because I'm very anti-mask. And he said it's like wearing a Petri dish on your face. My daughter, over the past three months, has developed a terrible infection on her face, and she's got little red marks all over it, and she's developing scars, and she's got blood spots all over her little pillowcase. And she asked me, "Dad, why is this happening to me?" And I can't do anything because I don't have custody because my ex-wife just thinks it's okay. And now, I'm done with it. Board members, I'm looking right in the eyes. This needs to stop. I was just so mad that I sent John, I don't know if he's here, sent him an email and said, I'm gonna sue all members of the board 'cause this is my little girl. And I'm very upset, but I've decided not to sue you guys 'cause I don't want your money. It's not gonna take the scars off of my little girl's face. Right there. This needs to stop.

0:21:26.8 Leonard Smit: Harlan Kredit.

0:21:39.7 Harlan Kredit: My name is Harlan Kredit. My relationship with this school is I've been here for about 50 years, and just the last two days, and I started teaching a couple of more sections of sophomore biology, so it's for a prolonged period of time. Last week, I had 85 fourth graders at the greenhouse over there. So that's my connection. And one last thing, I was just asked about whether we're gonna have state basketball tournaments or not in school today and has anybody

volunteered? We just had a five-hour board meeting, and the plan is that state basketball is going to go on as scheduled, so get your reservations. We wanna see you now.

[laughter]

0:22:27.0 Harlan Kredit: To the Board. Thanks for giving us the chance to talk tonight. This is pretty amazing that this is actually happening, and I appreciate you making that possible. Obviously, this is a very stressful time. In my role as a WA Board member, I'm in daily contact with school administrators from all over the state. As I was leaving here tonight, I got a phone call from an administrator of a very large school district to the south of us that they just had to interrupt a school board meeting and canceled it. It's gonna go online. You'll probably read that in the papers tomorrow. Here, we can do this in a very respectful sort of way.

0:23:06.0 Harlan Kredit: The Covid issues that we're facing as a world as well as a community certainly add a lot of stress to everybody's lives, teachers and yours and administrators all over the place. We see that every day. But 100 years ago, a little over that, this school was founded on reform principles, and one of those is that God is in control of every square inch in the universe. I tried to tell that to my 10th grade sophomore biology students today. Our school's constitution clearly states who we are and what we're about. From my perspective, this would mean that there are few, if any topics which could not be discussed in a proper setting with a Christian teacher. That does not mean we promote one agenda over another, nor far right, nor far left, but just honestly and openly discussing the major issues of the day.

0:23:55.1 Harlan Kredit: One of those would be race and ethnicity, COVID concerns, climate patterns, social justice and many more. I would like to believe that we've done that for the whole length of time our school has been in existence. Where better should our students be involved in honest discussions about bigger issues than in a classroom with a Christian teacher. Our curricular committee with trained and confident Board and faculty members are well-equipped to make decisions. Of course, there's gonna be some areas of potential disagreement, and I don't know of any group in the world anywhere that does not. We have hundreds of churches in this community, and we're all reading the same Bible.

We do not have a curricular committee, but we have an education committee that reviews curricular changes.

0:24:28.7 Harlan Kredit: So in conclusion, my kudos to you, to continue these listening sessions, to promote a better understanding for everybody and if issues arise, I would suggest you continue to do this. We have committees of thoughtful people discussing and make recommendations to the Board, and for your consideration. Stay the course, and I'll commit to continue to pray to you every day. Thank you.

0:24:57.5 Leonard Smit: Rachel Hernes.

0:25:07.3 Rachel Hernes: Hi, I am Rachel Hernes. I would like to address a misconception that there's a portion of the LC Society that supports the Board and one that does not. This misconception being that anyone who openly vocalizes concerns is deemed a non-supporter, even being called dissenters. But the reality is that the vast majority of the Society support you as a school Board and are supporting you while simultaneously bringing their concerns and asking hard

questions. It isn't one or the other. I think much of this misconception comes from lack of transparency and open communication from the Board to the Society. My husband and I have written handfuls of emails this past year and a half. Some emails took weeks or months to reply and many were scripted with their response and no resolution, and a few didn't even get acknowledgement that they were received until we inquired weeks later. These experiences were frustrating because it felt like you closed the door on communication and the concerns we had didn't matter to you, and honestly, the lack of transparency felt like you had something to hide. It wasn't until we spoke in person or on the phone with a Board member that we felt our concerns were heard and our frustrations were eased.

The board is working on a better process for faster response times on emails received. We apologize for the slow response. Keeping up with communication and responding as one voice from the board has been challenging.

0:26:13.7 Rachel Hernes: Communication is thus my critique tonight. We must or you must make a way to create transparency and healthy open communication. With that in mind, I'm looking for clear communication from the Board on a couple of questions. First, is it the position of the Board that what we're being told to do and are implementing at LC in order to stay open and in-person, the best learning environment for our children, the masking, the testing three times a week, sending healthy kids home who don't wanna do the test to stay, the outright discrimination of certain students and staff based on their vaccine status? Is this the environment that is best for our children's mental, emotional, psychological, spiritual, social and academic wellbeing?

We believe the best environment is in-person learning as stated in our letter on September 30: We understand that our children's wellness--spiritual, educational, mental, and physical--are best served when we have in-person, Christian education. We know that kids need to be in school.

No one on the board or in the administration believes that masking is the best environment for learning. This led to our decision for lax masking requirements at the start of the 2021-2022 school year.

The sad reality is that we don't know where LC actually stands on these matters. It hasn't been communicated, and because we don't know the official position, we don't know what's being said on our behalf when dealing with the health department. If we knew where LC stood on these actions that are taken to uphold or change the rules of the Health Department, parents would know how to appropriately quest for change. As a Board, you represent us, the Society. And so it's very important for me to know whether my interests and the interests of my children are being represented.

The board does its best to uphold the interest of the full society and to safeguard the institution.

0:27:22.3 Rachel Hernes: Second, since LC is willingly compliant to the current government guidance, how are you gonna handle things when the government mandates more? What do you have in place and ready for when the government goes past LC's moral or biblical line? And where is that line?

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 in place and ready. This is because we feel that a plan would likely depend on the issue at hand and would need to be developed to whatever the specific

circumstances are at the time.

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

You need to be ready with a plan because it's not gonna be possible to comply our way out of this. Just look five miles north to Canada or across the world to Australia. It will only continue on this trajectory until you decide to stand up for the best interests of our children, and when you do, you have a large portion of this Society that will stand with you. Thank you for these meetings. I think this is a great start towards open communication.

0:28:02.4 Leonard Smit: Steve Kruyswijk.

0:28:10.4 Steve Kruyswijk: Thank you. I'm Steve. I have five children here, my wife and I... Thank you for this opportunity to speak briefly with you. My wife and I are thankful to you for your hard work on the Board. LC has been a blessing to our family. We've appreciated many great teachers, positive experiences for us and our five children. We are thankful you opened up in the Fall of 2020 while many schools were closed at that time. We understood some of the protocols, we were willing to deal with them. Had a real problem with masking in sports but the school's open, many schools were not. And it was fall of 2021 that was so difficult to understand, and confusing. The Society overwhelmingly wanted to go one direction, which was fight the mask mandate, but the Board went in another direction. It was confusing, since we had come another year further, not much progress was being made in providing normalcy to our children again, and that was unexpected.

The survey from August:

How much do you agree with LC following the state's requirements, with the known strengths and concerns? 0 – do not agree; 100 – fully agree

1. 430 (54%) people gave a score of 39 or less, stating that they did not think LC should follow the state's requirements.
2. 140 people (18%) gave a score between 40 and 59, stating that they were not sure whether LC should follow the state's requirements.
3. 220 people (27%) gave a score between 60 and 100, stating that they thought LC should follow the state's requirements.

It is a long-established board policy to follow and cooperate with local government authorities as a school.

With this survey feedback, recognizing a majority (54%) of people did not think that we should follow the state's requirements, the board took a moderate approach to following the requirements because of the answers posted in question 12 above. After many meetings, much prayer and discussion, the board unanimously decided that it did not have a choice but to follow the requirements for compliance and safety reasons. The risk was too great not to follow the requirements. By late September, with the decision to close because of a pending health order, the board agreed to fully follow the DOH's COVID-19 requirements, to re-open school and to keep in-person Christian education going. The survey results impacted the board's approach to enforcing

the requirements, but the board had the responsibility to ultimately make the decision to follow the requirements.

0:29:09.3 Steve Kruyswijk: We understand that you are following the health department's mandates, and you must have figured that was the right thing to do to stay open, but we believe another path should have been chosen. Health Department Emergency mandates are for emergencies, this is long stopped being an emergency. We are currently on the comply road that we need to get off it, if we want any semblance of independence, it actually goes against the constitution to listen to someone who unconstitutionally issues an endless emergency mandate. We would actually be complying with the constitution by not complying to the mandates, the mandates can even be revealed in the normal constitutional way, since they were not passed in the constitutional way, it's been tried in several states, and that was the answer that was given.

0:29:52.5 Steve Kruyswijk: There's no chance for repeal until those who issued the mandate graciously remove it. This sounds like dictatorship to me. God instituted government, the family and the church, and he gave them their jurisdictions in life, we are absolutely are morally obliged to listen to our civil authorities, even emergency orders, but that really needs to be an emergency. For example, if a town has a dreaded deadly disease and it was spreading rapidly, 50% of people die, mayor of that town has a God-given obligation shut down that town, it would not be government overreach or tyrannical at all. It would be his or her duty to do so, we are so far removed from that type of scenario that it's laughable. Healthy kids had to mask up for two years, nobody even started to figure out how much this is hurting children.

0:30:42.3 Steve Kruyswijk: We will find out in the coming years, emergencies do not last two years, COVID has a better than 99% survival rate of those who get it, certainly by now, you can see that things do not add up to these extreme over reactions. Two years in with no end in sight, should we just let these authorities hurt children by their politically motivated power grabs? I contend that, then it becomes our duty to not comply after we apply some thinking to these mandates, not knee jerk non-compliance measured reason to non compliance, push back at these things, suggest alternatives that are reasonable and healthy for children, stand up for these kids. And if the state tells us, we will shut you down, you would have massive community support, free Christian lawyers support from around the country, and you would have driven a stake in the ground saying no more, this is absolutely a fight worth having. Our future as a town with a faithful Christian school depends on it. Also now we need to test to play basketball, if you're not vaccinated. This is discrimination, plain and simple. Vaccinated people get sick and they spread COVID also, again makes no sense.

Testing and vaccine requirements for basketball are required for participation by the WIAA (based on the Health Department requirements).

0:31:57.3 Steve Kruyswijk: Once we agree to mask, we need to start agreeing to the next thing they demand because compliance in us means they just see weakness since we'll just comply. For that reason, you can expect more and more rules, no matter how much or how little COVID goes away, this they don't stop, it takes people protesting loudly for them to even think about stopping. You may argue you're keeping the school open however, if you continue to comply with unconstitutional mandates out of the out of control, drunk on power state, you will start to cross many of the school members red lines in the sand, which will create more division. Members will move on not want to compromise their convictions and start leaving the school. We have a red line

in the sand. Once you require vaccinations, we will not be here.

As board members, we love Lynden Christian, and we love Lynden Christian families. However, we see our role as governing the school for all 750+ families and members of the larger society. We understand that every decision we make may not be acceptable to every family. As parents, you have the ultimate say where to draw your lines of conscience. It may be that the school lines and family-specific lines are not compatible (now or at some point in the future, on any/all sides of any current or future issue). If that happens, we understand families may need to decide if Lynden Christian is still the best fit for their family.

0:32:47.8 Steve Kruyswijk: At some point, I predict the health department will ask you to do something that you are morally opposed to, but aren't you supposed to comply?

This is the constant challenge for all Christians living out their convictions in the world, in every time and place throughout history. We pray for wisdom and discernment on each issue as it arises. We rely on the full counsel of the Word of God, prayer, and the tenets of the Reformed faith in the decision-making process.

I believe that is why most of the membership did not want to start down this road last fall, and they voted for way more pushback, we should not have complied when it started to make no sense and would do more harm than good, and we're talking about our kids here, and who can deny that that is the case today, even some governments are now admitting cloth mask do nothing to stop the spread. In the meantime, kids struggled to breathe, can't hear the teacher, can't see their faces, all for no good reason. Government over-reach starts in something seemingly not so bad, just a mask after all. Just about done.

The board eliminated many of the protocols that were in place as we headed into the 2021/2022 school year. Yes, we still had masks, but parents were also asking about other protocols (playground zones, hallway dividers, microwaves, to name a few) which we were able to remove this past fall.

0:33:32.4 Leonard Smit: Well, your wife is next. So I'm... [laughter]

0:33:36.7 Steve Kruyswijk: And that's how they warm you up. So we take over, get used to complying with something that does not make sense, and then you will continue to comply with stuff that doesn't make sense, and constitutional sense of emergency never goes away. It's not too late. Do not comply to these kind of constitutional mandates and start us on the path of independence. Thank you.

0:33:55.0 Leonard Smit: You only have 30 seconds.

0:34:02.4 Janine Kruyswijk: I know. I'm Janine and I'm married to Steve who just had a real long speech 'cause he figured, he gets two and a half minutes, so he be signs both us up. I can finish his speech, but he spoke fast and clearly thank you. So I have nothing written down, but I figured, you know I'm a mom of five kids, and I know a lot of you can relate. So we have five kiddos here all the way from a senior our oldest, to a little kindergartener, and boy, it's an adventure in my house all the time. The last two years, even more adventure. Some good, some not so good. It's been rough. So what I wanted to say, and I'm just gonna zero in on, it's gonna be a little bit about masks, 'cause

that's been our day-to-day battle. But what's important is, first of all, Christian education, and second of all, the whole child, we need to see the full child, not just the academics, we gotta see their emotional wellbeing, social, developmental, emotional. I said emotional already. So I didn't write it down. So we need to see all of those aspects. And I know for...

0:35:12.3 Janine: Just a few examples, my oldest one is a senior, she came in 10th grade and she's like "I've never had a normal full year at LC." And I think, "Oh, that's sad." Then my son, who started in 9th grade, he's now in 10th grade, so that was year where he had a, you know, a mask up and oh it was hard for him to make friends, to even connect with other kids, you could only see a small part of them and they were distance, it was rough. Then I've got another kiddo that really should be wearing her glasses, but she's not. That does not work with the mask, whatever we tried, she's like "No way." So we got one of those, and that's middle school... Middle school's rough.

0:35:51.4 Janine: Then we've got another kiddo that is so sweet and she's quiet and timid, and I think "I hope the teacher can understand her, I hope she's, you know, brave enough to speak up", and then our youngest one, he's overcome so much, we've gotten him from China at two and a half years old, he, I had to teach him English, he's overcome so much, he's had to learn all these things, and the sad thing is, he doesn't know what it's like to go to school with a pair face and, you know, it doesn't bother him that much. He's used to it. And that just breaks my heart, and the fact that he is still learning English, and I'm like, "He can't see the teacher's face, he needs to see her face, and he's a smarty pants, he'll get there", but those are just some concerns as a mom, and I know a lot of you moms and dads will have the same concerns for your kids, so let's think about the entirety of the children, in their needs. Thank you.

0:36:53.9 Leonard: Don Kok.

0:37:03.4 Don Kok: Yes, my name is Don Kok, and I've been an administrator at the school for 22 years, with two children who have graduated, three grandchildren, presently in the system and a daughter in law as a teacher. So therefore, my family and I are deeply invested in the school. The long held mission of Lynden Christian is this, and it's been stated before together, and we emphasize that word together, "With Christian parents and the church, we educate children and young people, so that they may grow and mature into perceptive and care of Christian."

0:37:41.5 Don Kok: This message is, this mission is challenging and best achieved when we work together. I'm deeply sadden with the divisions which have been occurring within this body. Lynden Christian is not a perfect institution, never has been and never will be, but neither or any of us. We are all going to disagree of different opinions, different perspectives on how the school should be run about curricular content, and in any number of other matters, it's inevitable.

0:38:13.9 Don Kok: However, we must not disagree within the context of disrespect for those in authority, with unloving and un-civil behaviors, with name calling, misinformation and even threats of legal action. Our children are watching this, they're listening, and they are learning lessons which are harmful to their hearts.

0:38:38.4 Don Kok: God's words calls us to work through differences and divisions with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity, Ephesians 4. In the time of division, let's focus on what we can agree on. We can agree that together we must help our children become passionate followers of Jesus Christ, to be caring

Christians who serve others over self, we can agree that together in an attitude of respect and trust, we was guide our children to be perceptive discerning Christians, with the ability to distinguish between what is true and false, what is genuine and counterfeit, what is good and what is evil.

0:39:29.8 Don Kok: Board members. Your first priority is to hold and trust the vision and mission of the school, and I encourage you to protect and encourage this discernment process. Such topics as poverty, justice, race, environment, human sexuality must be discussed from a foundational Biblical perspective within our homes, and churches, but especially within a Christian school setting. It may be challenging, but if we don't do it, there are multitude ungodly forces within our culture which are ready to captivate the minds and hearts of our children. Parents, when you enroll your children, you agree to support the mission of the school, to follow biblical principles of communication, and to work supportively with the board. I encourage all of us to re-commit to those statements. It blesses our children, and if we don't, it breaks community. Please, let us bless our children by supporting our deeply committed and capable teachers, staffs, administrators and board members. They are people who love our children dearly. Let us protect the special gift called Christian Education. I humbly thank you.

0:41:08.4 Leonard Smit: Heidi Price.

0:41:22.5 Heidi Price: My name is Heidi Price, I am a teacher of high school, I teach US history, and bible history and family psychology. Some of you have been in my class.

0:41:39.1 Heidi Price: I wanted talk to you as a teacher this year at this moment and how difficult it has been for us and how incredibly tired we are. Yeah, we don't like the masks, we don't like the protocols, we don't like the mandates, we don't like... You know what we do like though? It's 125 students that go through my classroom every day and that's not just me. It's all of your teachers. Every day, you may have one or two or three of your kids that you have to get a mask on. I have to do it every day, every moment, all the time, and now, for two years. But you know what is amazing about your kids is how resilient they are, how gracious they are, how amazingly kind they are, in subjects they don't wanna learn. Protocols they don't wanna follow, anyway.

0:42:57.7 Heidi Price: As a teacher, I have had to defend myself for the first time in the things that I teach in class, I never had to do that. I assumed maybe wrongly that I was trusted, but the thing that is so discouraging to me is that I listen to the few voices and it wasn't all the voices. See the teachers are the treasurer in the school. We really are. And I know I'm not just because it's I'm a teacher. You, the people that are teaching your kids, they're pretty amazing, but we're not asked a lot about what we need to do and how we need to do it, but we do it anyway.

0:43:46.1 Heidi Price: Do you know how many things we've had to change in a moment? How we've had to go online, offline, online, offline, online, offline, online, offline? We're good, how we've had to pivot here and here, here and here? How amazingly tired we are and discouraged, but it's the three or four or five or six parents that have been very particular and very mean, but it's not all of you. Most of you are just amazingly supportive and encouraging. You give us cards and you write us notes and we are so amazingly grateful. You know that as private school teachers, we don't get paid a lot. Do you know what we do get? We get your kids, we get your kids, and they're amazing to teach. This is an amazing school and we are all waiting for the day when it's not a pandemic anymore, maybe sooner than later. Thank you.

0:45:09.0 Leonard Smit: Karla Swann.

[pause]

0:45:32.4 Karla Swan: Hi, my name is Karla Swan. I signed up for two spots 'cause one was open. So I apologize, you will have to hear me a little bit longer. I graduated from Lynden Christian in 2003. My son Elliot is in kindergarten this year. Like many of you, I've had challenges and obstacles in the last years related to COVID. I've spent the majority of the pandemic as a church nurse at our COVID ICU unit. Working in COVID has been a heartbreaking and exhausting experience, never in my career as an ICU nurse, did I understand stress, isolation, 12 hour shifts of physical discomfort and heartbreak as I do now. Last September, I realized LC wasn't employing the department of health guidelines and our school was being threatened to be shut down. It's very distressing for me to be taking care of patients on life support, knowing I was putting my son in an environment that wasn't following precautions created to keep my community safe.

0:46:33.6 Karla Swan: When the school went to online learning, due to COVID outbreaks, I had to call out to my short staffed unit, because I cannot find childcare for my exposed son. I felt terrible knowing my coworkers would be more understaffed because of me. Knowing nurses would likely have more patients than they should affecting the care that those patients might received. Did LCs outbreak cause parents or grandparents to get sick and be hospitalized? I have no idea, but during COVID I have learned that we are all very connected. During that time period, I kept hearing how COVID doesn't affect kids. They shouldn't have to worry about precautions. This was so confusing in my [0:47:13.1] _____. Simultaneously in my unit, we were trying unsuccessfully to save three parents in their '30s and '40s who had children ranging from age 4 to 16.

0:47:23.3 Karla Swan: Those kids' lives just will never be the same, COVID kids are affected by COVID. Over the last two years, we lost multiple patients who got COVID from their kids. We lost patients who got COVID from family, coworkers, and close friends. We are a community and our actions affect each other whether we care about it or not. I wanna express my gratitude to the board for making decisions after our shutdown that support our COVID healthcare workers and our entire healthcare systems. I quit my job in October, the pain and burden became more than I could bear. I couldn't live with that work anymore. I could not turn off the stress and the sadness that was haunting me. Half of society, either didn't believe we were even telling the truth or at best could not be bothered to adjust their lives, or we dedicated everything we were to our jobs. For the last two years, my social media has been filled with people talking about insignificant statistics of COVID, how we shouldn't be making such a big deal about it. We should just let things run their course, only 0.9% people die after all.

0:48:30.3 Karla Swan: But I knew that insignificant statistics were actually people. I knew their names. I looked into their eyes, I held their hands. I helped intubate them, I helped code them. I had to face their family and tell them I was sorry, and that we tried our best. I knew they were significant. I knew it was real. It's confusing and exhausting when your truth is so different than those around you. I finally feel like I have the strength to discuss my experiences, and I'm begging you school board, please continue to support and encourage your health care workers, they really need you. The COVID healthcare workers are exhausted beyond belief and continue to go to work and take care of the patients in our community.

0:49:14.1 Karla Swan: They're selfless and so much stronger than anyone can understand. But

they are people and they need to feel supported. I think it's safe to say this has been one of the most difficult times in LCs history to be on the school board. We need to be praying for our members, supporting them, encouraging them, not trying to overthrow them. God placed them in their position for a reason. They have had to make unpopular decisions, decisions to keep our school open. Just because we are LC does not mean we are exempt from consequences. We all know online learning is not good enough for our kids. I am a nurse, I am not a teacher. And despite Señora Senti's dedication when I was in high school, I am definitely not a Spanish emergent. [chuckle]

0:49:58.9 Karla Swan: We need to come together and support the decisions that will keep our kids in class. I know you don't share my experiences. So you might not share my opinions. And I'm okay with that. But I think what we can all agree on, is that the legacy of Lynden Christian needs to continue. The school board needs to continue operating on a way that the school does not get shut down temporarily or permanently for not following regulations. I need LC to continue to operate for my son Elliot and my daughter Ilea who will serve preschool next year. I know you feel the same way about your kids.

0:50:30.9 Karla Swan: This common ground needs to be our priority and our focus. We need to humble ourselves and work together instead of tearing down those with different opinions because LC will not survive that. Different opinions about current events and politics is nothing new within the church history. I wanna leave you with an excerpt of a letter from Paul to the Ephesians. He certainly understood opposing views and behavior in a wild time in our church history. I therefore the prisoner and the Lord beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called with all humility, gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another and in love making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit and a bond of peace. Thank you.

0:51:36.1 Leonard Smit: Carol Morgan.

0:51:49.6 Carol Morgan: Hi, good evening I am Coral Morgan. I wear a lot of hats in the LC community and I had a lot of names in the LC community. And I was a... I'm an LC alumn, where I went by Carol Cammingan in 1988. I am a teacher here at Lynden Christian. I've been a teacher here since '95. Ryan Colinder hired me. Thank you. I was only gonna be here for three years. And by that time, I was senior Achey. I check and now I go by Mrs. Morgan's, Senior Morgan, Carol Morgan or whatever you remember to call me, right? [chuckle] Okay, so I not only have that, but I also have another path that I've had three LC grads. So I had three kids that I brought through this system as well. I first wanna say thank you to the school board. I know you use a lot of your spare time. I know what that's like. I'm a teacher too. I use a lot of my spare time for giving to any Christian.

0:52:55.2 Carol Morgan: I can speak for you, to you, as a professional at the high school. And I wanna tell you this is one top-notch team of brothers and sisters in Christ. They are amazing. Just look at the COVID shut down in 2020, And we were up and running in four days. Four days. That's amazing. I walk through the halls and I see teachers that tirelessly, tirelessly, tirelessly love on your kids. They do and they are mentors. Every day, all you have to do is go to the senior presentations and hear about those connections that they have with the teachers there. You know, sometimes my kids when they were teenagers, I was not very smart, and they didn't wanna talk to me. But you know what? They can talk to the kids, they urge the teachers there, and I knew the teachers had my back. I knew it, they're amazing.

0:53:53.8 Carol Morgan: You know what? I see the excellence in my colleagues' character, their professional abilities, they teach teenagers something they don't want to know. And they can do it. It is an amazing gift that we have on these brothers and sisters in Christ. All you need to know is when you go to parent-teacher conferences, we know your kids, we love them. We wanna work together with you to teach them, right? We want them to grow personally. We want them to grow spiritually. We want to challenge them. We love them. And we want to do head, hands, heart alongside of you. That's what we're working on. When you say your kids, we say our kids too. Why? Not because we're taking over but because we're that... We love them just as much. We love them just as much, once they're in my class, they're always one of my kids, And a lot of you have been there and you're still one of my kids. I feel really old, so. [chuckle]

0:55:01.8 Carol Morgan: So this dedication and professionalism is so overwhelming to me and wonderful that when my own kids wanted to do running start, my emphatic answer was, "No way, no way." "Oh, but mom, you don't have to pay tuition." "No way. Not one bit. Not one minute." Why? Because I wanted my own kids to sit under and discover the teaching of my colleagues. I wanted them to do world issues and world, family psychology and history and U of W English and world views. I wanted that with the teachers that I know and that I trust and that are so excellent in their profession, that there was not one bit at me that could say, "Yeah, I think we'll look at the community college." No way, no way. I wanted my kids to sit under these teachers, the same teachers that many of you sat under, and the same classes you've been through. It's amazing. I want them to watch my colleagues faith walk every day, where we work with them and we got your back when we talk about Christian issues and stuff that maybe they don't wanna talk to you about, but the teachers are there and they love your kids, and they have got your backs, so that's why I said, "No way."

0:56:32.9 Carol Morgan: I'm kind of saddened by some of the misinformation and mistrust that's been going on. I couldn't wait for my kids to get into these classes, and now there's misinformation and mistrust about what's going on there. I'm so confused, I'm so confused. I wanna celebrate our teachers. I think they're amazing, and I just wanna tell you that nothing really has changed. I wanna thank the kindergarten teachers. I couldn't do your job. I wanna thank all the other teachers that have worked with my kids, the three of them. They fell from the tree, so they weren't so easy to deal with all the time, but I just wanna thank you all for doing such a great thing. We have an amazing gen here at Lynden Christian. We really, really do, and I think we have more in common than we have differences. And please, please, please, support your teachers. It has been exhausting. We are tired. We are disheartened. And you don't wanna lose them. We got some of the best of the crop here. Anyway, that's all I had to say.

0:57:52.1 Leonard Smit: Brent Lensen? Brent here? No? Linda Kredit?

[pause]

0:58:18.5 Linda Kredit: Thank the Board for giving us this opportunity to listen. My name is Linda Kredit. Yes, I'm married to Harlan.

[chuckle]

0:58:33.0 Linda Kredit: I grew up in the San Francisco Bay area, which is a very, very diverse

community. We have many races and a lot of mingling with people with different backgrounds, and maybe that's why I chose this subject as being kind of something that's important to me. And I know that all over our country, there is concerns about teaching about racial history of our country. Many have questioned how honest we should be. We should be acknowledging what has occurred in the past. There are so many things in our history that we can be proud of, and we need to learn more about those areas and be thankful for them, but also there are things in our history where we have fallen short. As our students enter the workforce to go on to higher education and go into work, or going different places in the country, many of them won't be here. They'll be in many states, they'll be in many countries, and we have to be honest about our history.

0:59:48.3 Linda Kredit: I want them to be knowledgeable, I want them to be prepared, and most of all, most of us are aware that we have made mistakes as a country. Some of them we have corrected, and I'm grateful for that, but where we are today is best understood by where we came from, what has happened in our past. Our country does have a history of racial problems, whether it be with Native Americans, Black Americans, Hispanic Americans, Japanese Americans, and others. We have to be honest about the fact that in some areas we have made progress after recognizing where we have gone wrong. As Christians in our own lives, we know that we have sinned, and we acknowledge this, and we have to acknowledge this and ask for forgiveness. If we do not acknowledge and just ignore our mistakes, what have we gained? What justice has there been? How can we improve?

1:00:50.1 Linda Kredit: We need to make decisions based on actual and factual history, and yes, we've done mistakes. We need to correct this. We need to have justice where there hasn't been justice. It's hard to go forward without being honest about the past, both the positive and the negative. Kids go out in this world and not in a way that they're knowledgeable. I grew up in that area and I've had so many conversations with people of different backgrounds who have ideas about this. We go to Yellowstone during the summer and we have people from all over the world, and we get in discussions with them, and we learn. I have learned so much from other people, even people that I have not agreed with, but I have still learned how they think. And so my thing is, let's support people like our teachers who are being honest about our history so that we can just simply be better people. Thank you.

1:02:06.9 Leonard Smit: Craig Johnson.

1:02:11.2 Craig Johnson: Good evening. I'm the high school principal here. This is my second year. I've not had a normal year at LC. Thank you for it, it's good to see you. Thank you for coming. We are all concerned about how our culture is abandoning values and beliefs we cherish as Christians. Even before the pandemic, our nation saw deepening divisions, which presents significant challenges for Christians across the country. These challenges, however, should prompt LC to double down on its mission. Now more than ever, our students need an education grounded in Christian principles, embedded in Christian community unafraid to explore this world in all of its complexity. Our mission should distinguish us from the drifting culture. I'm concerned, however, we are failing to differentiate ourselves.

1:03:20.8 Craig Johnson: We enter dangerous territory when we neglect the command of our Lord to love one and another well, sound bites have replaced sincere discussion, partial information is accepted as truth, rumor is repeated as fact, suspicion has harmed reputations. These are the methods of an over politicized culture, driven by power dynamics. They are not based in Christian

humility, love and grace. Let's each carefully guard our thoughts and words, especially now. And I hope the board will continue to elevate the fruits of the spirit and not the spirit of this age. When many teachers across the country failed to show up or watered down the curriculum, LCs faculty, steadfastly pursued this school mission.

1:04:21.9 Craig Johnson: Their care for students and diligent instruction make me wish our sons had attended LC even under COVID. I wish that our sons had learned from these thoughtful believers who teach, coach, discuss, challenge and interact in ways we as parents could not. Let's commend the good work of this faculty. None of us knows the challenges that lie in the next months or the next year as our culture here is, we are gonna have some significant challenges as a school community. We may need to shore up some traditions. We may need to make some significant changes. There's some work to be done together, but we can't effectively start that work if we don't have a foundation of love based in Christ. Otherwise what we do is just acclaiming God. So I encourage us to pursue one another in love and in trust. Thank you.

1:06:00.3 Melanie Heldoorn: Good evening. I'm Melanie Heldoorn. I'm a guide study teacher in the high school. I have four kiddos, one graduated from LC two years ago. I have a senior. I have... I'm like some of the other families, we are completely spread out. So I also have a fourth grader and a kindergartener, and me and Mr. Heldoorn been married almost 25 years. So that's a treasure for me. One of the things that I have loved to do for this community is pray and it's something that I started doing when I first moved here joined moms in prayer. And it's been a treasure for me to walk this path with you, whether you knew I was or not with your kids. And as this school year began, I knew that a lot was going on in our community and a lot was going to be going on in our community.

1:06:50.6 Melanie Heldoorn: So I spent time to go before the Lord to ask him, "Lord, how then should I pray for this community? What's going on here?" So some of the things that he was opening my eyes to see was this is an abundant community. It's abundant emotionally, physically, spiritually, and that's gonna be challenged. And we have to stand guard over that abundance that the Lord has given us. I've given this community, the Lord directed me to say, a territory individually and as a community and that territory is going to be challenged. I've given this community a testimony individually and as a community, and that testimony is going to be challenged. "So Lord," I said, "How do we come together over these things? What then should we do?"

1:07:48.7 Melanie Heldoorn: So the verse that he's been bearing down on me this week, as I prepare for this has come from Zachariah 4:6. Then he said to me this is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirits, says the Lord of hosts. And again, he's been pressing on me as I pray for us that we are abundant and we are abundant spiritually, that his spirit is alive and are well in us, in the teachers in the high school and in the elementary school and in the middle school, in the community and in you as believers, but we are not yielding to that in the way that we could or should because we have a voice and we're opinionated, and we're opinionated in good ways and we're opinionated in challenging ways. So our strength is not going to come from our might, it's going to come from our yieldedness, our yieldedness to him. And the way we do that as parents, mom... I'm a mom of four children, the way we do that as a community is we go back to the word and we walk in it.

1:08:57.1 Melanie Heldoorn: If you have a grievance, then you're praying for that person. Before you're approaching, before you're bringing it forward, and you're certainly not airing it on

Facebook, and you're certainly not talking about it publicly at the basketball game. But we are together walking through biblical practices. We're gonna put that person before the Lord, and we're gonna pray for that person. And then, we're gonna go to those people individually, first. We're going to know the difference between what is a sin issue and what is this issue of sanctification? Do you all know we're being changed? It's that I am... Mr. Helbore knows I am not the person he married. Praise the Lord. Okay?

1:09:41.5 Melanie Heldoorn: So he gives me that wiggle room, and he has allowed me to grow. And we have to do that for our teachers, and we have to do that for our community. And we have to realize that they are in 12 by the Spirit. That there are only different places of their sanctification. And we need to love them, and me, and give us that wiggle room and that honor, and that room to grow. And we need to pray for one another, fervently. That we are saying to ourselves, we're going to... "Oh, Heidi was right, we're tired. We are tired." This is a tall order daily. When I get up, my day looks like, or I want to offer an offering like Abel and not like Cane. And I don't have any reason then. So I'm gonna really need the power of your spirits to bring me there. I'm gonna need to be very open to that. And I get to the school and some of my day looks like this, "Do you see her? She's heartbroken. Would you go alongside her tonight? Do you see him? He's doubting. He's doubting. He needs a right word from you. Go give them the right word and pick him up. Do you see him?" Every chance that I give you, you leading to me, you lead him to me, you put him in front of me.

1:11:11.6 Melanie Heldoorn: And I wait for him to bring them to my class. Now, I'm just one teacher at the high school and I see this over, and over, and over. This is what's happening. We get that privilege and that honor to come alongside these students. We get to partner with people over their lives. One of the most common discussions that I have with the students is, "Your parents are not the enemy. You're fighting the wrong battle. Okay?" So, I want to remind us to that too. We are not the enemy, the teachers are not the enemy, the board is not the enemy, the parents are not the enemy. We are one in Christ, and there is one enemy. I firmly believe, after praying for this community, that we will see a victory in these areas. The more yielded we are to these thoughts, to His spirit in each one of us, the gifts of the Spirit, He has supplied abundantly. One of the things I would ask the board is that as we continue to train teachers for our professional development, we've done streaks training and we've done teaching for transformation, and I think it would be a completely lovely thing to do training on spiritual gifts.

1:12:27.1 Melanie Heldoorn: I think it would be an encouragement to us as people, as we get to know one another, and serve together and love each other. And I think that it would also be encouraging to parents to see that spilling out of us and into your homes. So before I close, I would just want to say, I have a close friend of mine who's also praying for this school. She's a Christian in another town, and had been so thrilled at all of the... Just landmark decisions that we made last year to continue in school. And she was messaging me things: I'm on my knees! So here's my... I told her what... I knew we were heading into a lot of hard things this year. She's saying, "Yes." Find fear and lose courage; find sickness and lose health; find deception and lose truth; find darkness and lose light; find bondage and lose freedom; find confusion and lose clarity; find foolishness and lose wisdom; find hate and lose love; find unforgiveness and lose forgiveness; find poverty and lose spiritual provision. I love that as a prayer for us. I wanted to share that for you tonight. Thank you.

1:13:52.2 Leonard Smit: I assume now it's Dave's time too.

1:13:53.8 Melanie Heldoorn: Yeah.

1:13:55.5 Leonard Smit: Will Dave demonstrate it?

1:13:56.2 Melanie Heldoorn: Yeah.

1:13:57.5 Leonard Smit: 'Cause Dave is next. We'll skip Dave .

1:14:05.5 Leonard Smit: Cal Bratt?

[pause]

1:14:19.5 Cal Bratt: I'm a community member and 1970s graduated of Lynden Christian school. I don't have any kids in the school right now, had our four daughters through this system. Very loyal to it. Through my son in law Brandon who gave me the opportunity to speak, we have three granddaughters here. I'm speaking out of alphabetical order, but I think that I got permission to do that. My main thought is that I hope, I pray, that Lynden Christian school does not lose sight of its past. All the dedicated, intelligent people who preceded us, all the work done by them and the values and principles that were followed for over 110 years to bring this school to the place that where we are today. That is to be a place of Christian learning and discerning, as stated in the mission statement for Lynden Christian that we have had for a while, so it's familiar to you. To be an effective instrument of God, with parents and the church, to educate children to grow into mature, caring, and perceptive Christians and citizens who have a transforming influence in the world. Those are very lofty and inspiring words to live up to.

1:15:50.2 Cal Bratt: To me, this means being open to learning about this world in all of it's many aspects. Science, History, Literature, Languages, maybe even about Politics Psychology, Race Relations. Not afraid of these topics and subjects because we believe they are all a part of the every square inch that God controls and redeems using us. This has been going on in some fashion or another for over 110 years. LC is not a new kid on the block.

1:16:28.7 Cal Bratt: I think of the Superintendent I had, we had when I was in high school, Ben Boxum. And teachers back then and since, whom I respect and learned from. And I would just say some names, last names and you can fill in the first name of so many of these. Tepster, Poinkers, Pikmac, Credy, Vandapaul, Grawer, Vendehak, Polsen Vendehauk, Rocicle, Choker, Kok. You can fill in more. You know I sense from the teachers that have taught, the same feeling about today, right now. Ben Boxum, in his own rounded way, was always articulating living out a vision for the school that was encouraging our Christian creativity before the face of God.

1:17:27.5 Cal Bratt: So this is my point. Please value this school as an institution blessed by God and built over 110 years on the values and vision and effort of an enormous cloud of witnesses. Do not be quick to throw this all aside for the pressures that have arisen in the last two year. Which implies that what we have done or built of this educational institution in the past does not cut it today. Please do not lose the legacy and values that others have handed over to us. Do not be thrown off balance. Please build on what has been given to us as the foundation and vision of Lynden Christian School.

1:18:35.0 Leonard Smit: Michael Goldfeld? Rebecca Manderson?

[pause]

1:19:05.1 Rebecca Manderson: LC's constitution states it is here to reform standards. At its foundation, LC did not have to deal with some of the issues of our day. I request the board make it's stance known based on the historical reform standards first. Shared to the society with Biblical proof. And then those that disagree can take that up in their own homes, knowing what the schools official stance is on these issues. So they know the angle at which it will be taught, and our teachers required to adhere to. We love LC and hope it stops any views that would move it away from what it was founded on. And with that, sorry, I am Rebecca Manderson. I have 4 kids here. Two in 7th grade, a first grader and a kindergartner. And they love LC and the teachers. Sorry, I'm nervous.

1:19:50.8 Rebecca Manderson: Okay. We request the school hire a consultant to analyze the problems brought forth from the last round. Give all parents, staff, students, board, etcetera a full and proper voice, create a plan to address these issues and guide a path forward in alliance with the foundation it was intended to follow. We expect when we bring our kids to Christian Education, that they will be taught an understanding of the Bible's truths about an issue first and then are challenged to see through a biblical lens, how the world presents the issue. It seems LC is currently taking a difference stance in some classes. It can result in cheapening the Bible to only only be relevant in such a way as to match the current ever-changing culture. One such example is CRT. And it is a big topic in our home, as our son is of Ethiopian decent. Is it okay that in a high school when assignment is due, hop on Google and search for Black lynchings?

This is inaccurate. Our freshman English teacher assigned research topics to 9th graders as context before they read *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Students were given books as resources to study and to complete the work regarding lynchings; they weren't instructed to go to Google, but they were for other topics such as the following: The New Deal, various court cases, The KKK, The Great Depression, Scottsboro Boys, various Amendments, others related to race for the context of the novel.

1:20:45.8 Rebecca Manderson: Or that my daughter has to find a person of minority to interview, which could be her brother? Or that his classmates would pick him out based on the color of his skin to interview him? Does that teach our kids about valuing everyone for who they are? Or that the color of their skin is their first identifying value?

This is inaccurate. First, students have a choice to listen to a TED talk or to interview someone, of a different ethnicity, with whom they have an existing relationship where the person is over the age of 30 to gain better understanding of the experiences of others.

As stated above, students are not interviewing other students. But, like Linda Kredit mentioned earlier, there is value in seeking a true understanding of the experiences of other people. Lynden Christian's teaching is Biblical: all people are created in the image of God and therefore of equal value and worth. That does not mean that all people have similar experiences in life. Our value is found in our Creator.

It is my understanding, and I may be incorrect, that when Ron Polinder was the principal, all curriculum taught went through him and the vetting process was sure to be gone through as a standard of what was being taught at Lynden Christian. It is my understanding again, that this is no

longer the case.

The principal doesn't review and approve all teachers' individual curriculum.

Curriculum is managed by departments and grades; departments and grades are responsible to the Education Committee. Our Director of Learning (DOL) oversees curriculum school-wide. The DOL reports to the superintendent; the superintendent reports to the board.

Having said that, we all admit that holistic curriculum work (across grades and departments) has taken a back seat the past two years as we have dealt with the challenges of Covid. Curriculum organization and improvement across the school is a board focus and included in the five-year strategy.

So what is the standard now in the high school for teachers to follow to have the materials and members approved first?

We have curricular standards and expectations for each class. The fleshing out of class content is done by the teachers. If teachers have questions or new ideas, they would confer with their department and/or their principal.

Or perhaps the best transparent option would be for teachers to video their classrooms and upload them for parents.

The board doesn't have any plan to make class videos available to parents. If parents have questions on content or curriculum, every year teachers host parent night to cover the class content or are available for conversations with families. If you have questions about the content or curriculum, please contact the teacher.

1:21:32.9 Rebecca Manderson: With regards to those in society that interpret the Bible differently, one such example is Romans 13, "When a Christian is to submit to government, and when it is biblically, it is okay to not to obey." It's just that, those are my convictions, and different as they may be, we each have the right to hold their own. I'm confused on who at LC, a religious institution, has been behind the denials for parents claiming religious exemptions. Is the person or persons behind this of a higher caliber of Christianity in order to make this determination? What qualifies this person to deny these? Please explain how this is a true extension of our homes when we are being denied religious rights and exemptions that adhere to a prevalent belief in our homes as proven from the results of the poll from 2021?

The state did not make religious exemptions available for masking; therefore, Lynden Christian did not grant them.

The school has been and remains a school governed by a board that is selected by the school society. *In loco parentis* has always been the position of the school, meaning parents delegate certain issues and decisions to the authority of the school—discipline, curriculum, facilities, interaction with governmental authorities—via the duly elected School Board by the Lynden Christian Society.

1:22:18.8 Rebecca Manderson: At what point will we address the hypocrisy and unbiblical

models we are teaching our kids through the responses to COVID? At a choir concert, the students were forced to mask up all saints singing. Looking out at the parents and friends overwhelmingly majority were unmasked, and of the others, some had masks around their chins or hanging off their ears. What is that telling our kids about hypocrisy, government and school leadership?

The school policy was that parents and concert attendees were required to wear masks. But that was not enforced as people entered the WFAC.

What are we telling our kids when the school skirts by with lax adherence, with high school skirts by with lax adherence to COVID, but to junior highers get demerits for not wearing a mask or extra credit, dangled like a carrot. Are we teaching them to challenge and discern?

Yes, masking adherence and consistency could have improved. Like everything, there is room to improve and increase consistency.

Does this lead them to be followers or leaders in this dark world? What are we telling our kids when we tell them to just follow orders, even if it goes against their convictions? We claim to educate the whole child, in the classrooms design to have kids feel connected socially and emotionally to a loving Christian Community, the teachers and classmates, that's from the website.

1:23:18.2 Rebecca Manderson: Please explain how any child will effectively learn with masks on from their teachers and classmates on how to form words, how to learn about compassion, and facial expressions or understand to regulate emotions, how to read facial cues, how to bond properly, so as not to just care for self? How does this teach my child? Are we failing our kids to connect with others at the behest of the fearful few for a disease that rarely affects kids? Why must the majority decline instead of maintaining and helping them flourish while pouring extra into those that truly do need it during this time? At what point would we acknowledge that the negative effects of masking with regard to our kids is depression and suicide rates? Why do our administrators teach to conform to a worldly mandate that is already proving there are harsher consequences for our children by following a rule?

We all agree that masks are not the best way to conduct school because masks can limit some aspects of teaching and learning because of communication complications. They can also serve as a distraction for some. Some find masking to be inconvenient and uncomfortable. We still do believe that children can learn compassion, emotions, bonding with their teachers and classmates, even with a mask. We agree it is not best! But, it doesn't remove all the effectiveness of education. Our teachers are still effective educators, even in masks.

1:24:06.9 Rebecca Manderson: Does LC understand that the parents and longstanding supporters of LC will back any legal threat that comes its way by choosing parental choice?

The board doesn't think risk of legal action in this area is in the best interest of all families and students as well as for the mission of Lynden Christian School. We know and understand that families are divided on this issue.

Our school has stated they do not believe religious rights have been restricted or denied and will continue to follow the forthcoming mandates by the governor. For one, religious exemptions are being denied and ignored. Also, is chapel not an extension of our church within the school? What

about the joining together of believers in community as biblical command? Is not the praise and worship of our creator, through our kids concerts or religious right that has been trampled on? When will we say enough and stand by our constitutional rights, that the government does not get a say in how or who may join in our Christian religious activities?

According to the Department of Health, there are no religious exemptions for masks for students, only medical: <https://doh.wa.gov/emergencies/covid-19/masks-and-face-coverings>

Chapel is a way to integrate worship into the life of our school community. Yes, we had to use alternate methods of worship, as did many area churches, but we did our best to continue to integrate chapel into school life when and where we could.

[pause]

1:25:02.2 Emily Kooistra: Hi. First of all, as a second-grade teacher I know how long it is to sit this long, so you have 15 seconds to stand up and stretch, [chuckle] You're welcome.

[pause]

1:25:20.6 Emily Kooistra: Alright, so my name is Emily Kooistra, most people probably know me as Ms. K. Some of you maybe didn't even realize Emily was my first name. And I teach second grade here. Though I stand here alone, I do speak for many of my fellow staff members, both with our K through 12. For 17 years, I've been teaching God's Covenant children to seek and pursue the heart of God. Teaching is a job that is equally rewarding and exhausting. And for many of us, it is not a job at all, it is a calling. When you feel called to your profession, it becomes intertwined with your identity, being a teacher isn't what we do, it's who we are. It's a very part of our DNA, and to every letter in that strand of DNA is likely in alphabetical order. [chuckle] If you were to ask any teacher on this campus why they do what they do, not a single person would answer for the money or fame, or the hours of prep work and correcting that is stitched into the framework of every lesson, or that we like hearing the sound of their own voice and repeating themselves 47 times a day.

1:26:22.5 Emily Kooistra: Or playing referee while simultaneously assuming the roles of nurse, detective, judge and jury. We teach because we love kids, we want them to feel valued and loved, and most importantly, we want them in the throne room beyond the gates of glory. Teaching is hard work, meeting the needs of 22 eight year-olds for seven hours a day, day in and day out is hard. Prepping and planning is hard, time management is hard, meeting with parents can be hard. Staying current with best practices is hard, but we do it because we're called. Then March 13th, 2020 hits and hard to an entirely [1:26:58.0] _____. And for nearly two years now, it's been really hard. For the last year and a half, our classrooms have been revolving doors, we never know from one day to the next who will be in class, and who is out on COVID protocol and for how long?

1:27:13.2 Emily Kooistra: We are at the mercy of the parents to share any COVID information with us since school is legally bound to privacy. Now throw a COVID positive teacher into the mix, teaching doesn't stop. There's still planning and correcting to do often for a sub and for students learning online. Board, we simply cannot keep doing this, we absolutely must find a reasonable solution to living with COVID because it's not going anywhere. It's a virus like the cold or the flu, both which come every year, again, have never upset the day-to-day operations of our school. None

of us signed up to teach this way, and none of us went to police academy, we are teachers, we belong in the classroom, not online. Not in both places at the same time. And certainly not while policing tyrannical mask mandates that are proving to be useless and ineffective.

1:28:02.5 Emily Kooistra: Teaching last year was difficult. Teaching this year is nearly impossible. We are strong, but we are tired. [chuckle] Sorry. There are many of us who do not know how much longer we can continue to teach under these conditions. 40 other states are teaching and learning is normal. We are under cruel and unreasonable and arbitrary use of power and control in the state, and that is the very definition of tyranny. Every single day, we teachers advocate for our students, now we are asking you board to advocate for your teachers, write letters to Olympia, sign petitions, team up with other Christian schools in the state, and along the western corridor, and together have one voice. I realize that none of you have you signed up for this current battle, and many of you may feel unequipped, however you have been called by your society to be the voice of Lynden Christian School, for such a time as this, and this is the time to say enough for your students, for your families, and for your teachers. Thank you.

The board and superintendent have been advocates personally and as Lynden Christian. We have written to and called our legislators and our Governor as well as the Board of Health. Our superintendent has shared advocacy opportunities with staff and families regarding COVID-19 requirements and student vaccine mandate research.

[applause]

1:29:16.8 Leonard Smit: One of our shorter ones. [laughter] Michael Koenan.

1:29:23.0 Michael Koenen: Hi, my name is Michael Canon. We had five kids here at LC... I just wanna say that some of this is negative, right? In our experience, I would say it was negative, but we have much love for teachers and everybody at this school. We didn't come here for any kinda gain. Our kids aren't here again. But we came here 'cause we love the school. We care about everybody here. So with that being said, we spent a lot of this school year in disbelief about what was happening to us and those around us. Our kids were ashamed about wearing masks almost daily, given the merits and then further embarrassed over the loud speaker that [1:30:16.7] _____. Principal's praying over the loud speaker to God thanking him for mask and vaccine. And the same week, we had to attend a funeral... Who died 12 days after getting the shot, that same shot that some teachers are praising in classrooms at the school.

1:30:42.1 Michael Koenen: This administration here went on TV and blaming all the children with the shutdown earlier in the year because they weren't complying. LC doesn't seem to have true statements on very important topics in the world right now. When we asked about when a baby is a baby, what the truth is, and this is how the school sees masks effectiveness, we're given big run around answers and again that have no solid stance. In high school, and this seems to go on and on. Again, we found ourselves in disbelief in what was happening, and in how we are treated when we try to find answers to all these questions at this Christian private school. Seemed like public shaming is a go-to for this place for adults too as we were called divisive and lied about publicly all for trying to find answers to these important questions. We decide to pull our kids as we don't trust you with them, we don't trust your leadership or their worldview on the place of government, and family, and on a lot of other topics. You're supposed to be an extension of our family. Instead, you fought against us and other families every step of the way, had the goal to call us unloving because

we don't agree with putting a thin cloth on and helping people and calling it protection.

The board has written and shared statements on the sanctity of life, human sexuality and gender identity, and critical issues, giving clarity to our core beliefs on these topics.

1:31:55.8 Michael Koenen: We sat in superintendent principal trying to get exemptions, and we're told to our face, we're wasting their time. Like all of us, you have problems to work on the LC, but your sense of denial is the scariest part. You got great people here, you really do with real problems, and you just ignore them. Pretend to listen at these meetings. A board member told me on the phone, parents have no say.

No board member would intentionally state that parents have no say. It is not the board's intention to ignore parents, but the school has been and remains a school governed by a board that is selected by the full school society. There are limits to the control of an individual or group of parents. Parents have a say, but the school board must balance the desires of 750 families and those in the board LC Society.

In loco parentis has always been the position of the school, meaning parents delegate certain issues and decisions to the authority of the school—discipline, curriculum, facilities, interaction with governmental authorities—via the duly elected School Board by the Lynden Christian Society.

If we want things changed, we need to elect new board members. So I have little hope in you correcting things, to be honest. Let's think about this. We had to pay \$6,000 to you when we pulled our kids as we pulled them early. So we literally were willing to pay you with nothing in return, so our kids didn't have to be here. I pray that you can have the courage to make big changes for the people who are still here, faculty included, many of whom we know and we cared deeply about. It was truly a sad decision for us when we cleared out our kids' desks in their classrooms, not to take them away from their loving teachers. It was a sad decision, and we had great hopes for our kids at this school and even look forward to what we could contribute with our own talents as coaches or whatever was made. Thank you.

All new families sign a one-semester contract, so yes, any family pulling out prior to the end of the semester agreed to pay for the full semester. We hired teachers based on class loads.

1:33:21.9 Leonard Smit: Kim Moses.

1:33:33.7 Kim Moses: My name is Kim Moses. I'm a graduate of Lynden Christian 1992. And I'm the daughter of a graduate from 1803. Thanks to my dad. Sorry. I have to apologize, when I read the instructions to come and speak tonight, it said to talk about stuff that hasn't been brought up that you haven't dealt with. And I took that literally. One issue that we brought up with the elementary school staff that concerned my husband and I, and this is very, obviously, there's a lot of concerns expressed tonight, and I appreciate everybody's talks, but one thing that we tried to address is the concerns that we had with all the candy that's given out at school. Why do school staff think it's appropriate handout candy to kids? We've heard teachers complaining about the lack of focus, they're bouncing off the walls. So then we wanna ask why then we giving them more candy?

The superintendent and principals will look into the candy reward prevalence with teachers and adjust as appropriate.

1:34:39.4 Kim Moses: And we understand that birthday celebrations are great. We have no problem with that. We have no problem with people bringing those in and what people do in their homes is fine. I just... My husband, when he picks up our kids every day, they have candy. And so we were just a little concerned about that. We would love for that to be addressed. I have been a cancer nurse for 26 years. And so I have also been with very, very sick patients for a long time. Cancer, bacteria and viruses thrive in a high sugar environment. Every day, I spend time talking with patients about nutrition, about wellness, about exercise. Many people ask me what they can eat, what can they do to decrease their risk of cancer? What can they do to decrease the risk of recurrence or eating habits?

1:35:32.0 Kim Moses: 13 cancers are directly linked to obesity. That's a high number, so we can definitely impact that ourselves. So right now, there's a major obesity epidemic in the United States. So my simple request is, can we talk to our teachers about decreasing the amount of candy given out to our kids? I think it will also help with the pandemic, lowering their sugar content, how [1:35:52.5] _____ healthier, and also many other illnesses as well. So, and I have... Sorry, Mr. Polinder has six grandchildren here and he wanted me... He didn't share that. So he wanted me to share that and I have twin 11 year olds in fifth grade...

1:36:16.4 Leonard Smit: John Kreig.

1:36:27.2 John Kreig: Cameron, I couldn't agree more, but I am disappointed to find out that candy is bad for you. [laughter] My name is John Kreig. I am a father of three, who started in pre-school and are now a junior, eighth grader and fifth grader. And I would like to offer an idea for the board hopefully, to encourage trust and build the community in the future. Let me say first to the board members, you've got a tough, thankless job. I appreciate you doing it. It is a difficult, difficult position to be in. I know first-hand, I was elected to the Lynden school board for two different terms over a time period when we fired our superintendent, and six months later lost 10 to 15% of our state-funded budget because of the housing market crash in 2008. I sat in many, many public meetings where the anger and emotion levels were quite high, a very uncomfortable position to be in, so I appreciate what you are going through. With that said, as I reflect on my experience, I recognize that that sitting through public meetings, does something healthy for your organization, and it's something healthy that I think you as The Lynden Christian school board are missing out on.

1:37:46.6 John Kreig: As I sat through those school board meetings, I was constantly confronted with people that brought up positions and ideas on positions that I hadn't considered, or I hadn't thought all the way through. Hearing those ideas from the public, helped me formulate my ideas and it helped me feel more confident in the decisions that I made. Listening to those people bring up issues that I didn't even know were happening in the school, issues that you deal with here. Curriculum, budgets, schedules, curriculum moving across schools for instance, parent concerns, all of these things are issues that occur in any school system over any given year. Today, we're here because of masks and vaccines, but don't think for a minute that over the past years there haven't been parents with concerns about things like, "What's tuition gonna be?" "Why is it going up fast?" "What's the budget?" "Can we rethink how to do that?" "Is the curriculum aligned well?"

The board and the administration are always available for discussion with society members—our contact information is available on the website. Yearly tuition is discussed at the annual society

meeting. The budget is also voted on by society at the annual society meeting.

1:38:53.2 John Kreig: As a parent, I've never seen a curriculum meeting where parents have been involved in. These are issues that parents want to bring forward. They want to have conversations with their school board. They want to hear the school board's position on those. You would benefit greatly from inviting the public to your school board meetings and listening to what they have to say. I can't think of a better way to form a team environment, for the public to feel comfortable coming to you and talking while at the same time listening to your discussions and better understanding the constraints and the position you're in.

Curriculum standards are selected, reviewed, and implemented through teachers, administration, and the education committee. Board members are parents and are on the education committee. Parents are not part of the curriculum review process.

Lynden Christian School board meetings are closed. The LC board is different than a public school board—LC board members are chosen exclusively from the LC society by a committee of exclusively society members, are confirmed only by society, and they are responsible only to society. The board is working, however, to improve communication between parents and the board is discussing setting aside 30 minutes, at the beginning of board meetings for parents to sign up (in advance) for a slot to speak with the board. We hope this will help improve communication.

1:39:30.2 John Kreig: I think one of the best ways to reduce mistrust is to be able to listen to our leaders, to hear what they have to say, to understand why they decide what they decide, rather than to have parents be excluded from those discussions and perhaps walk away with misinformation and mistrust. In short, one of the best things I think you can do as a school board, is make your meetings open. You can't obviously discuss everything that goes on in the school. There are personnel issues that are private. There're legal matters that are private, but discussing other issues, the issues that affect our kids on a day-to-day basis in front of parents, will build that trust that seems to be lacking.

1:40:16.4 John Kreig: In conclusion, if I could come back to what Mr. Kredit said when he walked up here, he looked out at the crowd and said, "This is amazing." I ask you, strive to make this routine and not amazing. Trust your parents. Listen to them and find their input. Don't make this amazing, make this a routine thing where parents know when your school board meetings are, where they can see what the agenda is, what's gonna be discussed, where they feel invited and welcome to come participate. Produce minutes, produce minutes in a timely manner so board member knows, so the public knows what happened, what the decisions are. Make those minutes a detailed enough that we can understand what the constraints you're facing are, what is going on and try to build trust through those. In short, use the parents here. They are your biggest fans, and they want to be part of what's going on here. Excluding them from your meetings is divisive, and leads to periods of time, especially under stress, where that trust breaks down. Thank you for your time.

The board secretary strives to produce a faithful summary of every meeting as soon as they are approved. We will continue to make summaries and more detailed minutes available. But no minutes can capture the full spirit of discussion and debate, or all comments and opinions voiced, as the board works to consensus on the board range topics on each month's agenda.

1:41:26.5 S1: Josiah Heinz.

1:41:42.3 Josiah Heinz: My name's Josiah Heinz. My wife and I have two boys here, second grade and seventh grade. This is our first year at Lynden Christian. I appreciate the board having this meeting. I appreciate the board having meetings at the beginning of the year, where they asked our opinion on the COVID restrictions or mandates. I do appreciate that. Having... This is a great school. My children really enjoy their teachers.

1:42:14.7 Josiah Heinz: I really enjoyed it. There was a lot of good here. One of the reasons that we came here as a new family is that we could see that the mandates were hurting people. And we had wrongfully assumed that a Christian school would see the harm in those mandates, especially in children as well. So our main complaint is how to handle the COVID mandates, our courage now will produce courage in the future. If you can't stand up for the mandates now, what's gonna happen when we get worst mandates in the future? Where does it stop? I can tell you that if Inslee mandates vaccines and you enforce it, my family will not be here. That is not a threat, that's the red line in the sand. Let me keep it short, it's late, we're all tired. Thank you again for having us.

1:43:16.9 Leonard Smit: Peter Kroon.

1:43:32.9 Peter Kroon: My name is Peter Kroon. My family and I moved here 30 years ago and we have four children that have gone through the system rather well, and it's been a blessing to us. And some cases either been kinda a thorn in the flesh. My parents... My kids always reminds me I used to be a better person. I have to thank the Lynden Christian for that, there's still so much the fear of God in their hearts.

[laughter]

1:44:01.0 Peter Kroon: I just want to be very thankful for the opportunity to speak, and for it's the decision of the board because there's nothing like relentless diplomacy to solve problems and issues rather than fighting it. My wife and I chose Christian education for our children because without God in the center, there's only darkness. And it's a great thing to see light coming from Christian institutions like Lynden Christian. However, sometimes when there's so much fighting, it seems as though there's more heat than light that and that can be said when the world looks upon us and says, "Look at these Christians, how much they love each other." That's what the Roman said in the first century. But now, they're looking at us and saying, see how they're fighting each other. This is embarrassing. We shouldn't do that. Take opportunities to get together, talk, relentless diplomacy, I think they call it and just get to the business of loving one another.

1:44:54.9 Peter Kroon: That's what we do during these times of war. We're in a war right now. I'm reminded of the story when Jesus went down, the Pharisees went to him and said, "Hey, who's side are you on? Are you for working on the sabbath or not?" Jesus, you know the story, but ultimately he says, "I am Lord of the Sabbath." That's what we should be doing is looking at Jesus first. And then all our problems will not necessarily disappear, but we can certainly look to him for the strengths and the resolution. Once again, I'm very encouraged by the staff, by the teaching people and the supply people here, they are doing a courageous wonderful, diligent job. Thank you for your time.

1:45:47.4 Leonard Smit: Troy Lenson.

1:45:52.6 Troy Lenssen: I'm Troy Lenson. I have three daughters in this school. I had a whole three plus page deal wrote up after... Is it Miss Kooi I believe.

1:46:14.4 S1: Was it?

1:46:14.8 Troy Lenssen: Kinda just threw it all out the window. I've heard some stuff tonight that has angered me to my wife pinches my leg and sure I have a bruise on it. I've heard some stuff that I almost gave a dude a hug and trust me, that's not normal.

[laughter]

1:46:32.3 Troy Lenssen: I'd hug you [1:46:35.3] _____. Don't worry. I met with Aaron Bishop the other day, and he told me some things about... The heard that he has felt in the last while and how he's been dealing with it, that it was awakening... Eye opening would be the best way to say it. I was shocked at the things he said that he has been told. I can't believe the things my daughters say that teachers are told by other students, it's shameful. It's sad. It's pathetic. I hate these mandates. I hate this governor. I love this school. I didn't even know I loved this school until about four months ago. We just settled here. It was kinder... We know it's better than the other one.

[laughter]

1:47:33.2 Troy Lenssen: And let's face it, and let's face it. I'm fourth generation here. My wife went to Christian schools, not ours, but other one. And I've talked to five... Six moms that are new this year in tears. 'Cause they cannot believe the love that's here, that's what they want. You guys have my full trust. Your teachers have my full trust. Is everything perfect? Of course not. That's stupid. What are we? Jesus.

[laughter]

1:48:08.5 Troy Lenssen: And if you think this superintendent is perfect, you're being stupid [1:48:12.7] _____. You guys have a impossible task? I hear people grumble about school board members. I'm yet to have a text message or phone call or email that answer within hours, if not immediately. And do I always like the answer? Sometimes not. Do I always get an answer? Yeah, I do. I've always gotten an answer. I've stopped a staff member on his bicycle, rooting his exercise many times in front of the mark to ask him what's going on. 'Cause I heard X or Y and I hate gossip. So it's much easier just to go to the source. Am I perfect? Nope. [1:49:00.9] _____ start and said things I probably should have said in the last three months, but we need to listen to the Apostle Paul in Colossians to come together. We're all here for the same reason. We want our kids to be in glory. Period. Thanks.

1:49:27.0 Leonard Smit: Its pretty obvious, I don't keep good clock. Award is gonna go to Alyssa for two minutes, 29 and a half seconds. So that was very impressive. So lot of the things we heard, things that came up are things we actually... Are great ideas that we actually are working on. A few things. So we're going to... We'll be hanging around here for a little bit if you guys wanna talk and I'm not gonna guarantee you we have answers for everything. I think definitely, a point was made tonight, we're not perfect. So we're far from it. I ask James, our chaplain to close in prayer tonight and... Then we will be finished. So, I wanna thank everybody for coming and everybody for speaking with us.

[laughter]

1:50:32.1 James Ogle: Dear Lord thank you for this evening, thank you so much for who you are and what you've done, and we pray Lord that you continue to shine the path for LC, help us to remember that you're our leader and you'll never lead us astray. Forgive us of our sins for they are many. Help us get home safely tonight. And we just pray... We ask you to continue to bless LC now and until you return, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.