

Lynden Christian Schools Society Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2022 - 7:00 pm

In Person and Zoom

164 Society members attended in-person and 39 attended online.

1. Jon DeJong welcomed everyone to the Society Meeting. Brian Kooiker led us with devotions with verses from Ephesians 4. He also reviewed Articles 2 and 3 of the LC Constitution, and led us in prayer.
2. Board secretary Mike Smit read the minutes of the March 25, 2021 Society Meeting, and also a summary of the three Society Informational meetings held in January and February. **MSC to accept the minutes as presented.**
3. Jon DeJong introduced the board members and gave an overview of how the past year has been difficult and trying, but encouraged the Society to join the commitment of the Board to continue to carry out the mission of LC. He reminded the Society of all the good things that continue to happen at LC and the relief we have all felt recently of a return to more normalcy. He thanked outgoing board members for their service – Becky Bos, Lori TeVelde, Dan Gibson.
4. Paul shared thoughts about 3 things – a table, the Bible and a Research Paper. (1) Table – think about the groups seated around the table - the church, the family/home, the community, the Christian School – all coming together to support our children...our Mission. Even with all that has gone on...we are not losing our way. Everyone is still very committed. He outlined and asked questions of what we hope the profile of what LC graduates will look like - Christ followers, community builders, continuously improving & growing; communicators & collaborators. (2) The Bible – it is at the center and heart of what we do, as is the Protestant Reformation (including the 5 Solas) and the Church. (3) A Research Paper – the indicator of student and teacher work and learning. Paul reviewed things like Inclusion, SAS, Spanish Immersion and SO many elements that make up learning and growing - including recent examples like the Musical and State BB championships. He cited examples of so many exciting things students are learning, including faith integration and how well our students are doing in areas of reading and math. Our Spanish Immersion program continues to flourish and our SAT testing of Juniors and Seniors are well above national averages. “Lynden Christian forward” are words found in the Lynden Christian Fight Song, and we reviewed those words together.
5. Dan Gibson explained the Board nomination process – 5 members of the 10-member committee are board members – the 3 outgoing board members: Dan Gibson, Becky Bos and Lori TeVelde and two current board members – Kathryn Van Weerdhuizen and TJ Mellema. The other 5 come from nominations from the floor. He also gave ideas of the type of people with skill sets that are valuable to have on the board and a reminder of the requirement that 9 of the 12 board members are required to be members of a reformed church. For nominations of the 5 society representatives, 21 names were submitted and voted on by the Society. 5 were chosen by written and online ballot. **The results of voting for society representatives to the Board Nominating Committee, as well as the vote to approve the budget, which was included on the ballot, were made available through email.**
6. Board treasurer, Leonard Smit explained the budget process – including the how the process works and that some things factored in including history, enrollment projections, classroom needs, and staffing requirements. The board asked the society to approve the projected budget. Highlights from the 2022-23 budget include:
 - A 6% increase for teachers; 3.5% increase for Administration, based on raising salaries equitably among the various categories of staff.
 - Budgeted for 1296 students, compared to current enrollment of 1310.
 - Leonard gave some highlights from FOLC and noted the budget includes an expectation of about \$720,000 to be received from Foundation this year.
 - He presented several pie charts that show how costs are broken down in several categories.
 - The Finance Committee is anticipating approximately a 3.75% average tuition increase.

Plans to meet the budget includes streamlining processes, changing job descriptions when LC has staff changes, and enacting a tiered tuition increase more closely based on cost of learning. Lynden Christian School Board strives keep tuition affordable for our families.

- **A vote to approve the 2022-2023 budget was included on a paper ballot and online that will be tallied with the vote on the 5 members of the nominating committee.**

7. Strategic Plan overview – Kathryn VanWeerdhuizen, presented a high-level view of our 5-6 year Strategic Plan, which included 4 major focus areas and listed some of the strategies within these areas to help us monitor our progress and measure the level of success we are achieving in these areas:

- a. Mission Focused Teaching & Learning.
- b. Mission Focused Master Campus Site Plan.
- c. Mission Focused Financial Sustainability
- d. Mission Focused Improvement of Processes & Services

She also walked us through the use of tools to help tell us what success will look like including dashboards and reports on KPIs.

8. Vice President Kathryn Van Weerdhuizen closed in prayer.