

Dear Western Christian Community,

After much work, analysis, thought, and prayer the Board of Directors is excited to announce that we have selected Mr. Brian Verwolf as our next Administrator. Brian comes to Western with some great hands-on administrative experience through his role at Deer Creek Christian School as the Head of School since 2015. You might recognize Brian's name as he taught mathematics and coached soccer at Western Christian during the 2013-14 school year. Brian graduated from Dordt College's Masters of School Leadership program in 2014. Brian, and his wife Rachel, have two children. Their daughter, Hollis, is three years old and Hamilton just joined the family in November.

Brian is enthusiastic about his new role with Western saying, *"Christian Education is where we celebrate our creativity, our curiosity, our sense of wonder, and our ability to learn more about ourselves. God expects distinctiveness, and He calls us to discipleship. WCHS is asking the right questions at a critical time in her history (100 years!). Our school has an opportunity to be a leader in a global Christian Education movement; in rural towns, in suburbs, in cities, in nations. I am humbled to accept this calling and eager to get to work."* Brian will officially begin his duties on July 1, 2019.

The process to identify Brian as our next leader was a strenuous, rigorous, exhausting, exhilarating, and God glorifying one! Our Father's steadfast hand and your prayers were felt throughout. The Board utilized the services of the Center for the Advancement of Christian Education (CACE) to assist the Search Task Force, a group that consisted of five board members, two faculty, and three constituents. The nationwide search allowed the Task Force to receive and review 12 qualified applicants. The search committee utilized the results of a community survey and ten focus groups to help narrow the field to four prospective candidates. The Task Force conducted interviews with these four finalists, comparing the application materials and interview to the leadership components given to the Task Force by the Board. Two finalists were invited to spend a day at Western where they met with faculty, staff, and students, followed by a formal board interview in the evening. At the conclusion of this process, it was with great confidence and anticipation that Brian was offered and signed the contract.

We want to thank everyone for their help in this search process – those who have been in prayer for this process, those who attended focus group meetings, those who completed the survey, and those who served on the Search Task Force. Special thanks to Harlan DeVries and Justin Negen, our Interim Principal and Assistant Principal, who have done a tremendous job filling the lead administrator role this year. Finally, thank you for your ongoing prayer and commitment to support Western's board, faculty, and staff as we strive to provide an environment where students are Learning....to serve the King!

In His Name,

John M. Vander Haag
Search Task Force Chair

Kevin Gesink
Board President