



WESTERN CHRISTIAN
HIGH SCHOOL

Annual Society Meeting Reports | Fall, 2020

Western Christian’s Board of Directors has created an alternate plan for the Fall Society Meeting of 2020. We welcome your in-person attendance on Monday, September 21 at 7pm. However, to allow members of Western’s Society an opportunity to participate without attending, we have made all committee reports available in this document (see below). We will receive comments regarding the reports until Friday, September 18. Please send comments to Mr. John Vander Haag: john.vanderhaag@westernchristianhs.com. To submit an absentee ballot, please see below.

Agenda

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| 1. Opening Prayer and Devotions | John Vander Haag |
| 2. Reading of Minutes of Society Meeting February 19, 2020 | Tracy Kollis |
| 3. Election of Board Members | |
| a. Mark Kleinwolterink, Tracy Kollis, and Jerry Buteyn; each for their second term. | |
| i. Paper Ballots & Absentee Ballots Collection | |
| 4. Committee Reports - <i>made available electronically by Monday, September 14, 2020</i> | |
| a. <i>Comments regarding these reports will be received until Friday, September 18, 2020</i> | |
| 5. Development Directors Report - <i>Included in written report</i> | Wes Fopma |
| 6. Head Administrators Report - <i>Included in written report</i> | Brian Verwolf |
| 7. Time for Q & A with Head Administrator | |
| 8. Adjournment and Closing Prayer | |

Ballot

Please mail, email, or hand deliver completed ballots to Western Christian High School by Friday, September 18.

Name _____ Signature _____ Date _____

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Vote for the following board members to approve their acceptance for their second 4-year term.

Note: No new board members are being presented at this time.

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|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| _____ Mark Kleinwolterink | (Sheldon 1st CRC) |
| _____ Tracy Kollis | (Sioux Center Faith CRC) |
| _____ Jerry Buteyn | (Sanborn CRC) |

President's Report

As we look back at our 100th year of Christian Education at Western Christian, we are again reminded of a theme verse from Psalm 100:5. "...His faithfulness continues through all generations". God has truly been faithful! Being my first year as board president I assumed I would have a few things to learn. My assumptions were correct, but God provided! It brings me JOY to reflect on the response that our Christ-centered learning community, board, administration, faculty, staff, and students lived out as we encountered a never before seen pandemic. Thank you for all of the encouragement and prayers as we worked together to provide the best for our children and students!

As we began the year with our new head of school it was so rewarding to see more of God's faithfulness by connecting Mr. Verwolf with WCHS. His enthusiasm and passion for Christ-centered education is contagious! Our faculty and staff are responding to his leadership and finding ways to engage students in a stronger and deeper relationship with their creator. What a blessing to have this opportunity in our learning community! I have been blessed with a supportive and hard-working board. I am happy to report that the three board members who have completed their first terms have agreed to put their names on the ballot to serve a second term. Thank you to Jerry Buteyn, Tracy Kollis, and Mark Kleinwolterink.

*John M. Vander Haag
School Board President*

Head Administrator's Report

Our greatly anticipated school year is now underway. We give thanks to God for the opportunity to gather as a student body, in-person, to begin the 2020-2021 school year. This is a unique time in Western's history as we kick-off our second century of service operating school amid a global pandemic. In March, students and parents made remarkable adjustments to accommodate for spring school closures. School administration has expected our staff to try something new by implementing WC Online Learning and preparing for the possibility of school closures in the future. We understand that with all of the "new" we will make mistakes, but that is what makes our growing culture of learning truly authentic. Overall, we are proud of the way our students, parents and staff are overcoming these new challenges, and we remain committed to providing relevant, Christ-centered education that is aligned with the mission of Western Christian High School: *To provide God-centered secondary education for young men and women using the Bible and its principles as the foundation for the total curriculum.*

Over the summer months, Western developed a Continuity of Learning Plan; a road map that offers a care-filled strategy for safely returning to school by August 24, 2020. The most important part of our plan has been to ensure the continuity of Christ-centered learning for every student, even if state and local orders restrict in-person learning at any point throughout the school year. At the time of writing this report, I am pleased to share that things are going very smoothly. While it is tempting to write more about our response to the pandemic, it remains a priority for our learning community to move forward with strategic initiatives, keeping our eyes fixed on the future of Christ-centered education.

Leadership and Vision

I have been blessed in my second year as Head Administrator at Western to team with a well-established Board of Directors, led by Mr. John Vander Haag and the Executive Committee. The main roles of our board are to establish organizational identity and ensure effective planning, to secure necessary resources, and to provide wisdom and oversight. We have an extremely supportive board who has our learning community's best interest in mind.

We have made positive strides to streamline communication processes with board, administration, staff and constituents, and I am committed to serving as a bridge between board and staff. With my onboarding as Head Administrator, we have expanded our vision-casting to consider the Christian school that will exist in 5, 10 and 15 years from now. A wonderful improvement has been the development of our on-campus administrative team. Together, we are targeting our unique talents to serve students well in our whole-child approach to Christ-centered education.

Student Services

What do discipleship opportunities, academic support, job shadowing, course selection, community partnerships, ACT preparation, scholarship searches and pastoral care have in common? These services are just a few of many resources Western Christian is providing our students through the recent development of our Student Services program. Six of our staff members make up our diverse Student Services Team (SST) - see Education Committee Report below for personnel details. Placing students at the center of their own learning requires their collaboration. They need a voice in why, what, and how learning experiences take shape. Our Student Services Team is united in our goal to walk alongside students during this busy and transitional period of their lives. We are excited about the way we are better equipped to serve students through The Learning Center, The Discipleship Center, The Academic Registrar, and The Vocational and Guidance Center.

Partnerships and Culture

As we move forward in mission together, it is our goal to continually improve faith integration with a focus on spiritual formation, worship, service learning and culturally responsive teaching. As a staff and Education Committee, we have started to re-imagine the Graduate Profile of a Western Christian student. A Graduate Profile will include shared language that we will use to specify the learning experiences and competencies that a Western student will have by the time they graduate. For example, if we desire for students to have a passionate heart and the tools to serve God and others in a global society, we must create or enhance opportunities for authentic growth for students and staff in this area. One way we have started to meet this goal is the development of short term cross-cultural exchanges for international and Western students (Netherlands and South Africa). Publishing a Graduate Profile will help us start with the end in mind, and encourage Western Christian to deliver on the promises that we make to families who choose to partner with us.

Western Christian's community is committed to *Learning...to Serve the King*. May God continue to bless our efforts as we remain faithful to this calling.

Brian Verwolf
Head Administrator

Education Committee Report

The 2019-2020 Education Committee members were: Tracy Kollis, Michelle Zomermaand, Jay Ouwinga, Jerry Buteyn, and John M. Vander Haag. Mr. Verwolf and Mr. Negen also joined us for our monthly meetings. One of our standing practices is to meet with one academic department every month. Our schedule was impacted by our adjusted schedule this past year, but this practice continues to be a valuable connector between board and faculty. This is one opportunity for faculty to share how they are doing, what excites them about the future, and express any recommendations they have. We also have the opportunity to pray over this teacher or group of teachers.

Mrs. Christians and Mr. Verwolf continue to ask us challenging questions. What does a Western graduate look like? How do we incorporate our faith into this graduate profile? What experiences should we provide students as they learn to demonstrate this profile years after graduating? We look forward to working on a refreshed Graduate Profile to guide the staff's daily efforts in providing authentic, relevant and christ-centered learning.

We are grateful for the work of one outgoing faculty member Lynaea Dadisman, now Mrs. Lynae Dadisman VandenTop. Lynae served in Western's math department for two years before getting married and moving away.

A lot of our work this year included visioning for staff development and adding to our faculty as we continue to plan for years of growth. We have established a robust Student Services Team with Mrs. Mary Dirksen as our leader. Mrs. Dirksen directs our Student Services Team that walks alongside students in every facet of their Western Christian experience and beyond. Dr. Bill Elgersma is the newest member of the Wolfpack. His role as our Guidance and Vocational Director involves career and college guidance as well as a myriad of other projects under development. Some examples are: career fairs, building job shadowing and mentor relationships, developing apprenticeships, the teaching of workplace skills, mock interviews and more. Mrs. Karinda deBoom serves as our Academic Registrar. Her areas of expertise are scheduling and course selection, graduation requirements, college scholarships and financial aid. She also assists students with extended options such as dual credit, work release and teacher assistant programs. Mrs. Karen Christians is our Discipleship Director, and she facilitates opportunities for authentic and meaningful worship on and off campus; chapels, Faithpacks, and Bible studies, to name a few. She counsels and prays with our students, teaches all juniors and seniors and has touchpoints with students in all grades. Finally, in the area of academic support, Mrs. Mary Dirksen serves in the Learning Center with Mrs. Josie Van Ginkel, our academic support coach and Mrs. Diana Kooima, our super paraprofessional. The Learning Center is open to all students. Some students receive one-on-one or small group support, while other students pop in for occasional help, proofreading, homework checks and ACT preparation.

We have also hired Mr. Jerry DeGroot to serve as our upper-level math and physics teacher, Mr. Lucas Den Herder to teacher part-time in our lower-level math courses, and Ms. Bobbie Jeltema who will facilitate learning with our upper-level Spanish students.

Ultimately, we thank our full staff for their hard work in creating WC Online Learning last spring. We are so proud of their efforts and grateful that Western was able to continue education for students only 3-days after closing our doors due to the pandemic. This feat alone speaks to the tremendous collective energy and passion of our staff.

*John M. Vander Haag and Brian Verwolf
Committee Chair and Head Administrator*

Finance Committee Report

Committee Membership: Kevin Wynja, Gary De Jager, Todd Folkerts, Mark Kleinwolterink, Don De Boer

Source of Funds

1. Tuition: Tuition continues to provide the major source of revenue to support the education program. Cost per student for the 2020-2021 school year is projected at \$8,825 per student. Tuition is projected to meet \$1,670,654.00 of the revenue needs for the upcoming school year.
2. Fair Share Funds: Funds contributed by the supporting churches continue to be a significant source of funds to meet the cost of providing a Christ-centered education. The churches are projected to provide \$581,950.00 of the revenue needs for the 2020-2021 school year. The committee wishes to express appreciation to the Churches for this support.
3. Foundation Support: Western's Foundation continues to grow and this increase contributes to the revenue needs of the institution. The Foundation is projected to provide \$95,000 in revenue for the 2020-2021 school year.
4. Bargain Alley: The goal 2019-2020 was to contribute \$50,000 from store revenue. We superseded that goal even with the store's shut down in the Spring of 2020. In the 2020-2021 school year we plan to contribute \$175,000.

Fundraisers

1. Fall Fun'd Night - The 2019 Fall Fun'd night provided a net income of \$100,000.
2. Spring Fund Drive - The 2020 spring fund drive provided in excess of \$64,500.

The board continues to budget conservatively relative to these fundraisers and wishes to express appreciation to all who support these fundraising efforts.

Tuition Assistance

The tuition assistance program completed its 11th year of operation in the 2019-2020 year and will be a significant source of financial support to families in meeting the cost of tuition in the future. Funds for this program come from the Foundation, Fun'd Night, Spring Fund Drive and NICSTO. Western received over \$165,000 in NICSTO Funds to be distributed in 2020.

Debt

Currently, we have \$1,250,000 borrowed from the Foundation and \$735,000 borrowed from the bank for our Second Century Campaign.

The Finance Committee wishes to express our appreciation for the encouragement the supporters of Western Christian High provide through their financial contributions, volunteer work and prayers. We give thanks to our Creator whose Spirit lives in the hearts of those who share this vision for Christian Education.

Todd Folkerts and Connie Grevengoed
Finance Committee Chair and Business Director

Transportation Committee

The transportation committee consisting of Transportation Director Rog De Groot, Keith Kelderman and Loy Vant Hul, meet the second Monday of each month. We are thankful to be able to add a 2019 bluebird bus, suburban and 12 passenger van in the 19/20 school year. The plan in 2020/2021 is to continue with 7 daily routes, leaving 3 bus spares for activities and routine maintenance. The stats for miles logged in 2019/2020 school year ran right at 96,000 miles in busing and activities.

Congratulations and thanks to Rog De Groot for 15 years of service. Many hours are dedicated to maintenance, troubleshooting, cleaning, and scheduling. Additionally, thanks to all our drivers, both routes and activities, for the time and care they give to all our students.

We are thankful to our Heavenly Father for the traveling mercies we received this year not only in the busing as well as the countless driven miles by students, faculty, and constituents. We ask of your continued prayers as we continue in a new school year and many more anticipated miles.

Loy J. Vant Hul
Transportation Committee Chair

Building and Grounds Committee

The Building and Grounds Committee members are Steve Geels, Jerry Boer, Doug De Boer, and Craig Van Otterloo. Our committee has been quite active again in 19-20. Many changes in our physical plant have been necessary to make, and other long term needs have been addressed. A list of the projects of this past year include: Greenhouse completion, security camera system installation, tankless water heater replacement in our gymnasium equipment room, and needed roof repairs. A generous donation also made it possible to schedule an upcoming light replacement in our big gym.

The year also included some new introductions, and some farewells. Nathan DeHoyos started with us as an assistant building maintenance manager. He adapted quickly to his new role and is enjoying his work at Western after coming from employment with the City of Orange City. He is also a coach in the football program. We also say farewell to Dave Boender. Dave has been our building maintenance manager for the last 5 years, but has taken employment and is planning to move to the Pierre SD area to be closer to family. Dave has been invaluable in filling his role at Western. He has done excellent work in standardizing some of our maintenance procedures. We wish him well in his future endeavors. We are thankful to all our custodial staff and the ways they contribute to the greater mission of Western Christian High School. Looking back on the year it always becomes clear that the Lord provides. We are thankful for His leading us in our committee work.

Jerry Boer
Building and Grounds Committee Chair

Bargain Alley Task Force Report

The 2019-2020 Bargain Alley Task Force members were: Brian Verwolf, John Vander Haag, Jay Ouwinga, Mark Kleinwolterink, Lora Petitt, Brittany Keizer, and Kari Hoekstra.

The Bargain Alley Task Force was assembled to determine a longer standing governance model as it moves into the next phase of growth and development. The task force has reviewed existing non-profit structures with similar purposes as the Bargain Alley and is working on policies and procedures. The Task Force has recommended and the Board has approved a Bargain Alley Leadership Team to govern, develop, and review policies that give direction to the activities at The Bargain Alley. The Leadership Team will consist of the Bargain Alley Store Manager (non-voting), WCHS Board Member, WCHS Faculty Member, and a few Western Community Members. This team will oversee the store manager, oversee the budget, and develop policies.

We want to thank Wes Fopma for his dedicated service in the start up and development of the Bargain Alley. We also want to recognize the manager Kari Hoekstra for her many hours of hard work and dedication.. Finally, we want to thank all of the many volunteers for giving of their time and efforts to make Bargain Alley a success.

Jay Ouwinga

Bargain Alley Leadership Team Chair

Development and Promotions Directors Report

Foundation

Fund Balance in the neighborhood of \$3,000,000 as of June 30, 2020. Foundation mailing to previous and lifetime donors will go out soon.

2nd Century of Service Campaign

Currently we are at \$6,137,066 in pledges, gifts, and expectancies toward the project. Last year at this time we were at approximately \$5,081,312.18 in pledges, gifts, and expectancies toward the project. Currently there is just over \$200,000 in the bank designated for the building fund and about \$400,000 is left to come in yet on outstanding pledges. Just over \$700,000 is owed to local financial institutions and \$1,200,000 is owed to the Foundation. A Second Century of Service Phase II Campaign is in progress.

Spring Drive

Spring Drive gifts totaled \$64,563.00, down from \$101,827. The pandemic definitely had an effect on Spring Drive gifts.

Western Christian Fall Bonanza

Work has begun on this year's Fall Bonanza. It could potentially have a different look to it this year.

Northwest Iowa Christian School Tuition Organization

Approximately \$165,000 was raised to support families who qualify for NICSTO financial aid for help with tuition last year. This year our allotment is approximately \$190,000 that can be raised.

Wes Fopma

Director of Development and Promotions