

## Great Plains Lutheran High School Association May 2, 2020 Meeting Summary

The Great Plains Lutheran High School Association delegate assembly met on Saturday, May 2, 2020. For the first time the meeting was held virtually, with 51 delegates from 17 association congregations in attendance.

### Elections

Elections are held each May. Rob Busch, Jonathan Niemi, Eric Raasch, Christian Weseloh, and Rev. Ryan Wolfe were thanked for their service on the Board of Directors.

Rob Busch (Rapid City), Jonathan Niemi (Watertown), and Rev. Ryan Wolfe (Mandan) were reelected to the board, and Michael Lentz (Brandon) and Zak Fick (Sioux Falls) were newly elected. Mike Kluck (Watertown) was reelected to serve on the Endowment Committee. All those nominated and elected were thanked for their willingness to serve.

### Report Highlights

- Treasurer David Davis noted that the Covid-19 virus will impact our financial position, but at this point it is difficult to know to what degree. Several income categories and several expense categories are below budget.
- President David Maertz asked the delegates to pray for current and future students, tell the GPL story, and encourage families regarding enrollment. He noted room & board and lunch plan credits, and outlined the decision to apply for a CARES Act loan. At this meeting we were happy to welcome St. John's of Wood Lake, MN as an association congregation.
- Principal Matthew Bauer reported that Carina Rahn has accepted our call to teach Spanish; she will also work with our international and athletic programs. We are again asking that a female MLC graduate be assigned as dorm supervisor and instructor as Gina Radue moves on to Wisconsin Lutheran High School next year. He commended everyone involved in distance learning, and noted our plan for a virtual graduation May 23. He also noted the formation of GPL Schools, an organization which will facilitate coordination among our Lutheran grade schools and high school.

- Dean of Students Tony Hansen reviewed our dormitory response to Covid-19. He also noted that the Teens in Ministry trips and camps scheduled for this summer have been canceled. As of now the GPL Open golf outing is still on for July 13.
- The Mission Advancement report noted numerous ways we share updates and invite support. Some of the approaches are being adjusted because of current circumstances, nevertheless they are ongoing. A collaborative partnership with WELS Ministry of Christian Giving will begin in July 2020. Also highlighted were plans to celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary throughout the 2020-2021 school year.
- Each of our five standing committees reported on the tasks accomplished during the previous six months and noted efforts planned for the months ahead.

### 2020-2021 Proposed Budget

A budget of \$2,031,545 was approved for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. This budget looks for support totaling \$175,000 from congregations.

### Facility Expansion Update

A facility expansion update included the following information:

- Work with the contractor and architect is moving from the design development phase to the construction document phase.
- The current timeline includes a bid window of June 15 – July 9, with construction beginning in early August; we anticipate a 15 month construction time frame.
- Preliminary estimates indicate costs \$300,000 to \$600,000 above the hoped-for \$5 million cost to build; the building committee is working with the construction team to manage costs.
- Furnishings and equipment are not included in the construction cost; special efforts will be made to raise the needed funds.
- When bids are opened and actual costs are known (mid-July), the building committee will prepare a recommendation for the board, and the board will prepare a recommendation for the delegates.
- There will likely be a special delegate meeting to approve a project plan; the probable date is July 18.
- Architectural renderings of exterior views were shared with the delegates.