

Wisconsin Lutheran High School

Delegate Conference Meeting Summary

October 7, 2020

WLHS's delegates met on October 7, 2020 to give input and gain understanding about what is happening at our school. New theology WLHS teacher, **Rev. Chris Koschnitzke**, gave the opening devotion. In virtual attendance were 44 delegates, representing 25 congregations out of a total of 52.

CHANGES AT WLHS IN INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY – Mr. Peter Iles, Director of WLHS Instructional Technology, presented on the changes to instruction due to Covid-19. About 25% of students are online learners, and with in-person students having one rotation day each week to learn remotely, all students are online learners at some point of the week. The biggest investment with virtual learning has been the implementation of the Rally System installed in 50 classrooms. This is a hard-wired system with top-of-the-line cameras, dual microphone pods and speakers, which allows virtual students to always see what is going on in the classroom. This product offers the highest quality consumer product on the market and will serve us for many future projects, even after Covid. This Rally system is used in conjunction with GoGuardian, which offers a secure platform for students to access their courses virtually, with high quality audio and video.

PURCHASE OF 7927 W BLUEMOUND RD. – The delegates approved the purchase of a third house near the new dormitory on Bluemound Road. The school now will own all three houses in a row.

TUITION RATES 2020-2021 – The conference chairman, Mr. Ryan Festerling, presented next year's proposed tuition rates. Due to Covid-19, many families have been hit financially. Therefore, the delegates ratified the 2021-2022 rates **to remain the same as last year, \$9,450** for conference students and **\$12,700** for non-conference students. The Board of Directors at its September meeting had proposed this freeze. Last year, **over \$600,000 in generous tuition assistance** was also available for families who want a Christ-centered high school experience for their teens. There still is a discount of \$1,000 for families who have more than one child enrolled at WLHS.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT – Dr. Ken Fisher, WLHS' president, gave his report on the major happenings and updates. Dr. Fisher presented his State of WLHS 2020 report. He divided his report into five major categories under our new branding of ***Where Success Means More***. His five main areas of focus were on: faith comes first, a lifetime of opportunity, character counts, a unity that is real, and a legacy of support. Some of the highlights included the newly opened dormitory last year was at 95% capacity with students from 14 different nations. After schools were closed in March, between 95% and 97% of students attended virtual classes. Daily chapels were still shared, in hopes of giving our students a sense of normalcy during such an isolating time. During the shutdown, WLHS still baptized 5 students. Dr. Fisher was also proud to report that **84% of WLHS students passed the AP exam**, compared to 63% worldwide and 67% for Wisconsin. Throughout the 2019-2020 school year, WLHS students worked hard to give back to those in need and donated \$24,148.97 to Branch Lutheran Schools in Haiti. ***What a blessing!*** WLHS's congregational giving was up \$50,762 2019 from the previous fiscal year. The first-ever virtual gala for WLHS raised \$474,000, the second largest auction total ever.

CONFERENCE FINANCIAL REPORT – Mr. Ryan Festerling reviewed the financial statements for the past year. We ended very positively. With increased enrollment, this year's budget seems achievable. Support gifts are still coming in. He thanked congregations for their support.

CLOSING PRAYER – Dr. Fisher closed the meeting in prayer and the chairman encouraged the delegates to share the good news they received during the meeting with their congregations.