Wisconsin Lutheran High School

Delegate Conference Meeting Summary February 2019

Wisconsin Lutheran High School's delegates met on February 6, 2019 to celebrate blessings, participate in a marketing exercise and discuss reports. Mr. John Sebald, WLHS' new Chief Development Officer, began the meeting with a devotion explaining why WLHS is a place where success means more. The faculty and staff do everything humanly possible to support students to reach their God-given potential on earth and to ultimately hug them in heaven. He asked, "What could be more important to invest in?"

EXERCISE ON MARKETING AND RECRUITMENT EFFORTS – Ms. Wendy Greenfield reminded the delegates that "word of mouth" is the number one reason people select the high school. She shared an extensive list of ideas from the last meeting's brainstorming session that the delegates had developed. She asked small groups to review the list and after highlighting their favorite ideas, **create their own plan to support admissions.** The delegates were encouraged to put their plans into action. The session ended with a viewing of the "Be More at WLHS" video that could serve as an example of one resource.

HONEY CREEK PROJECT REPORT – Mr. Scott Beyer shared an aerial video of the site. He also introduced staff from the Tredo Group. Poster boards on display in the atrium showed the design work for Honey Creek Hall (the 3-story, 72-bed dormitory) and Honey Creek Place (the 5-story, 62-unit apartment building). Construction continues at a rapid pace despite some inclement weather. Honey Creek Hall is still scheduled for completion by July 1 and the market-rate apartments by September 2019. Look for monthly videos showing the progress on social media. Furniture for both dorm rooms and common areas for Honey Creek Hall has been ordered. Security equipment is being finalized. Catalyst Construction continues to find creative ways to keep the project on schedule (e.g. assembling the walls offsite). Rev. Dr. Fisher shared the vision of growing both the domestic residential program (which this year has students from Montana, Virginia and California) and the international program.

UPDATE ON POST-GRADUATE READINESS (PGR) PROGRAM – Principal Leyrer shared that he thinks the greatest challenge at WLHS is meeting the **wide-range of abilities and gifts** with which students come to the school from those who can write a perfect ACT test to those who are academically disadvantaged. Mr. Brent Bloomquist, the PGR's director, presented the multi-pronged efforts to help at-risk students achieve academic success. This is accomplished by assisting students in discovering and developing academic abilities and providing **guidance and direction in managing WLHS' academic rigor**. The PGR includes a four-week **summer academy**, **peer tutoring** and an **extended learning center** (ELC). The ELC which begins at 7 am and is staffed until after school, **supports at-risk students** with particular assignments, assists with study habit, and supports their organizational needs. A goal is greater student retention. Over 200 students are being **monitored daily and mentored regularly** through the efforts.

WLHS ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT— Rev. Dr. Ken Fisher reported on staffing changes and strategic priorities. Mr. John Sebald (new Chief Development Officer) and Mr. Jim Brandt (WLHS' first Academic Dean) began serving in November. Mrs. DeAnn Frey also joined the Guidance Department as a counselor. Mrs. Lisa Wigley (Spanish and English) and Mr. Jason Nickels (biology and wrestling) accepted calls for next year. Mrs. Anna Kolander (biology) and Mrs. Karen Lippert (grade school band) are retiring at the end of the school year. He also reported that a Master Site Planning Task Force has started meeting to develop a master site plan for the next 15 years and a new Academic Council, which meets bi-weekly, is defining and advancing WLHS's academic vision. New courses for next year include Anatomy and Physiology, AP Computer Principles, AP Economics, and Video Production.

CONFERENCE FINANCIAL REPORT – Mr. Scott Beyer, the Conference treasurer, reviewed the financial statements. Although tuition and expenses are on budget, there is concern that we are \$500,000 behind budget in support gifts. He reminded the delegates that congregational support gifts are vital.

The meeting closed with prayer. The next meeting in on June 5, 2019 at 7 pm in the atrium.