



Midwest Messenger



“To the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion, and power, both now and forever. Amen” Jude 25

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Greetings from the Board of Trustees!

The Board has much to report again this month as the work toward starting our own high school continues to develop at an ever increasing rate. The Board has been operating according to financial benchmarks established at the society meeting in 2005. Last year the \$900,000 benchmark was reached, allowing the board to hire an architect. The next benchmark of \$1.2 million was reached in late December, at which point the Board was required to seek Society permission to look for an administrator and present final plans and costs for approval. At a special society meeting held February 14, 2008, the Society authorized the Board to look for and hire an administrator, and chose the name “Trinity Christian High School” as the name for our school.

The Board has been working to bring the

final plans and costs to the Society for approval, but this process actually involves several steps that take some time. First, the architect worked with the Building Committee to review our plans and provide some input on modifications. The Board then went through a selection process and selected J&J Building Contractors to come up with a pricing for construction. The rough estimates for the construction of the whole facility were approximately \$2.6 million, which is well over the amount the society had anticipated. The Building Committee then looked at how the price could be trimmed back, or how the project could be phased. This ultimately involved adjusting the project to exclude the locker rooms and band and choir rooms until they can be added later, and constructing the gymnasium without bleachers or hardwood floor initially. This revised plan was circulated at the special society meeting on February 14, 2008, but the cost estimate for the plan was not yet complete. The

Board has now received the cost estimate for this revised plan, which is projected to be \$2,000,000. This would be the figure for the building alone and would not include furnishings or other “start-up” expenses.

At the last Board meeting, this revised plan was endorsed by the Board to be presented to the Society for final approval. The Board will seek this approval at a special society meeting to be held March 20, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in Hull.

In order to finance the building project and start-up costs, the Board has adopted a plan to conduct a spring drive with a goal of \$350,000 in cash and pledges to be due by December 31, 2008. This amount, combined with our total funds received or pledged to date will bring us approximately to \$1.6 million. The drive will be conducted shortly. The Board would then seek

Society approval to borrow the remaining funds necessary, up to \$500,000, to complete the first phase of the building project and buy furnishings, books, etc. Funds to add the locker rooms, choir and band rooms, and finish the gym would be raised at a later date. The Board would propose adding classroom materials, books, and furnishings each year as the grades are added.

The Board also considered whether it is feasible to work towards starting our school with ninth and tenth grades instead of just ninth grade. The Board is currently hoping that we will still be able to start classes this fall. After some deliberation, the Board has determined that it is not feasible to start with both grades, at least for a fall 2008 start-up. The problem is the lack of time before classes need to begin. This is more problematic for the tenth grade than the ninth for several reasons. Finding a temporary facility for one grade is easier. The ninth grade has fewer options as far as elective classes, and most of the students will be in the same class at the same time. With the tenth grade, the course options start to vary more. This means the tenth grade curriculum involves much more work. The number of

teachers needed jumps from the equivalent of one and a half for ninth grade to three and a half for ninth and tenth. It would obviously take more time to locate the three and a half teachers for the broader tenth grade curriculum. The Board determined that if we are going to try to start in 2008, it would be better to try to start with the ninth grade than to try to start both grades and possibly not be ready to start at all.

The Board has interviewed the applicants for administrator and offered a contract to Jim Regnerus. The Board is also planning to hold an informational meeting for parents and eighth graders on this Saturday, March 15, 2008 at 6 p.m. at the Hull PR school. The purpose of this meeting is to give parents information about the courses offered, etc if classes do start in fall of 2008. At the same time, the Board hopes to receive feedback from parents as we seek to begin this first year of classes.

Our treasurer reports that total funds received or pledged to date are \$1,241,868.31. Our treasurer also reports that we currently have pledges outstanding from the spring drive of 2007 in the

amount of \$37,600. The board reminds everyone that these pledges are due by the end of May, 2008.

Remember to keep Saturday, March 29, 2008, open for the Seminar on "The Kingdom of God and the Protestant Reformed School" by Professor David Engelsma. The seminar will consist of one speech in the morning followed by a question and answer period and a brief presentation by our Ed. Committee. Lunch will be provided, followed by another speech and question and answer period in the afternoon. This seminar is co-sponsored by our Promotion Committee and the Federation of Protestant Reformed Schools. The seminar is free of charge and we hope to see you there!