

Manhattan Christian School

Annual Association Meeting

May 12, 2026 7:00 PM



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Annual Association Meeting – May 12, 2026, 7:00 PM

Agenda

1. Opening Prayer: Kendal Walhof
2. Approval of 2025 Minutes
3. Board Elections
4. Floor Nomination for the 2026-2027 Board Nominating Committee
5. Presentation of Reports from the Board and Board Sub-committee
6. Head of School's Report: Nathanael Hope
7. Elementary and Middle School Principal's Report: Lacey Kutyllo
8. Board Report: Darin Hoekema
9. Facilities Report: Scott Kimm
10. Friend's Report: Chase Dyksterhouse
11. Education Committee: Anna Lynn Alberda
12. Stewardship Committee: Ben Holst
13. Athletics Report: Layne Glaus
14. Foundation Report: Don Vaniman
15. Finance Committee: Brendan Leep
16. Twice Treasured Thrift: Faith Dyksterhouse
17. Building Committee: Travis Hamilton
18. Motion from the Board
19. Closing Prayer: Darin Hoekema

Preamble

Tonight's Association Meeting, by policy, is designed to accomplish several goals. The first is the legal requirement to have an annual association meeting, as is the case for most non-profit organizations. This meeting is required per our constitution and reiterated in our by-laws and handbooks. The second reason is to take care of some required election items, namely the election of new board members by the association, as well as electing the nominating committee for next year. This nominating committee is responsible for bringing names to the association for next year's new board member candidates. This meeting is also held so you can hear reports from the administration and board committees on the "State of the School." Lastly, this is an opportunity for us to be thankful for this school and to gather as a community as we approach the end of the school year. If there are any questions, board members and administrators will be available at the end of the meeting and will be happy to meet with you to answer them, and if necessary, schedule a time to meet with either the admin team, the board, or both.

Article VI

Association Meetings:

1. A regular Association Meeting will be held in May on a date to be determined and announced by the board.
2. At the May meeting, a board-approved budget for the next school year will be presented. The Board Nominees Forum and election of new board members and other committee members also takes place at the May meeting. The Annual Report, with adjusted budget, enrollment figures, and all financial accounts are presented for information by the board with the October newsletter.
3. The president and treasurer submit reports at the May meeting.
4. The board will plan or schedule an audit of the school financial records. This audit will occur in the spring of the year.
5. Any member who cannot submit to a decision taken may have his negative vote recorded in the minutes.
6. Other meetings of the association shall be called as the board determines.
7. Association members may present items at any regular board meeting for inclusion on the agenda of the next Association Meeting.

Head of School's Report

Nathanael Hope, Head of School

This year's theme has been "The Lord Builds the House" from Psalm 127:1-2. To His praise, He has been doing just that! We've watched first hand how God provided the right people at the right time. We've watched God provide financially even in a very difficult economic climate. We've watched God lead our path in very unexpected ways and those ways have proven perfect. He is truly building the house. Our only appropriate response to all of these things is "praise be to God!"

As I look back over this year, my first as head of school, I cannot help but be humbled. Most recently, our reverse auction at the Tulip Mania brought in well over \$100,000 to help cover the cost of the basement classroom buildout. We are so excited to see this beloved space come back to life and house energetic students once again. We've begun the process to become a K-12 CSI (Christian Schools International) Accredited School. Our school board is partnering with CACE (Center for the Advancement of Christian Education) as we seek to more intentionally fulfill our mission of "Inspiring students to live God-glorifying lives by teaching Christ's lordship in faith, learning, and living."

God is building the house by bringing amazing faculty our way. It has been so exciting to see what the new faculty brought to our school culture! I have been so encouraged by Todd Rosenberger and Jeff Morrison's sacrifice as they have stepped in to be our interim secondary music team. Gentlemen, thank you! God has also seen fit to move Jenny Preece-Thompson back east in order to build other houses. Jenny, thank you for your time here at Manhattan Christian. We get to have the privilege to honor Kelly Swanson for her incredible 36 years of teaching at MCS. What an amazing program you have created here and your mark will be here for many decades to come. Thank you for all of these years.

We are so excited to have new faculty joining us this coming year. God has been so kind to bring us all star level talent in order to continue to Build the House. Sophia Hahner will be joining us as our secondary music teacher. Madison Davis is joining us as the K-12 art teacher. We are so excited to see how God will use these young women to bless our students.

As the Lord Builds the House, it is important that we take seriously the protection of those who are in the house. Around campus, we've continued to implement improved security. We installed an entirely new security camera system across campus. We installed reflective tint along the west elementary wing windows. We have a wonderful relationship with law enforcement who take the time to have a regular and non-threatening presence on campus.

God has continued to build the house in ever growing enrollment numbers. Over the last five years, we have seen a nearly 15% increase in our student body and this coming year looks to continue that growth trend. We are so eager to welcome new families into our already amazing community.

A reminder about resources that Manhattan Christian provides to families of the school. We have partnered with Right Now Media and all current MCS families are provided with access to all Right Now Media resources. Our teachers have been using this amazing Christian platform in the classrooms and we encourage you to take advantage of it at home. Another resource we provide is the Social Institute. This program is here to help families navigate the ever changing technological and social media landscape. More information can be found in the weekly emails as well as upon request from the office.

Manhattan Christian community, thank you for the honor of being your head of school. I am humbled that God would entrust me with such an important responsibility. May we ever continue to revel in God's continued blessing and sustaining of this great institution. May he make his name great and cause his light to shine through Manhattan Christian.

Elementary and Middle School Principal's Report

Lacey Kutyllo, PK - 8 Principal

It has been an honor to serve Manhattan Christian School again this year. As this marks my second year, I continue to feel deeply grateful for the opportunity to be part of such an incredible institution. The rich history and strong sense of community that define Manhattan Christian are evident in all that we do, and my family and I consider it a true blessing to experience it firsthand.

This year, it has been a privilege to work alongside our elementary and middle school teachers. Together, we have engaged in intentional and meaningful conversations focused on how we can best support the growth of our students, both academically and spiritually. These collaborative efforts reflect our shared commitment to excellence and to developing the whole child in alignment with our mission.

A significant highlight of the 2025–2026 school year has been the opening of our Early Learning Center as the home for our preschool and kindergarten classrooms. This transition has been a tremendous success, thanks to the dedication and care of our teachers. They have created a warm, engaging, and developmentally appropriate environment where our youngest learners are thriving as they begin their educational journeys.

Looking ahead to the 2026–2027 school year, we are excited to expand our preschool offerings with the addition of a full-day preschool option. This new opportunity allows us to continue providing our current half-day preschool program while also meeting the diverse needs of families who are seeking a full-day experience. Enrollment numbers for the program remain strong, and I look forward to how God will continue to nurture and grow our youngest learners through this.

Our teachers remain the backbone of Manhattan Christian School. Their commitment, passion, and faithfulness are evident in their daily work with students. We are especially grateful to have a strong number of returning faculty members this year, providing consistency and stability that continues to strengthen our school community.

Thank you for your continued support of Manhattan Christian School. It is a privilege to serve alongside you in this important work.

Department Reports

Board Report

Darin Hoekema

As we reflect on the past year, we are once again grateful. Not because we accomplished everything we set out to do. Not because we did anything noteworthy, but because it is again evident God has, and is building this house we call Manhattan Christian School. God does this through the faithfulness of each one of you, our amazing staff, countless families, supporting churches, and businesses. God has shown me personally what a special place MCS is through serving in this role. I encourage each of you to reflect on how MCS has blessed you and our community. Pray that God will continue His work through each of us!

We have great leadership in Nathanael Hope as our Head of School, and Lacey Kutyllo in Middle School and Elementary. They both possess a humble desire to learn, lead, and see God magnified in all we do. God provided many tremendously gifted new teachers that have had a positive impact throughout our hallways. A special word of thanks to both Jeff Morrison and Todd Rosenberger for stepping in and leading our band and choir students while we continued our search for a long term solution. We are excited God has brought Sophia Hahner to MCS to lead this program forward. We congratulate Kelly Swanson on her retirement and thank her for a tremendously successful tenure leading our art program and nurturing the creativity of our students.

It has been wonderful to have a strategic plan to help focus our efforts and guide our decision making over the last few years. We have made progress on many items while we continue working on others. Spiritual Life Director and Development positions remain in our goals. As we do that, we are excited to partner with The Center for Advancement of Christian Education (CACE) this next year to evaluate our progress, refocus and prioritize for the next several years.

We again met with leadership from supporting CRC churches and value our relationship and covenant partnership as we seek to stay true to our founding and invite others to join us within this framework. Careful vetting of new staff and families that understand and desire this framework is critical to our mission.

We have been blessed to see continued steady growth in our enrollment for several years. Although funding for updated and expanded facilities remains slow, we have managed that growth in our enrollment through other creative means. This past year we gained two additional classrooms by utilizing our Early Learning facility and have received overwhelming support at Tulip Mania for creating two more classroom spaces out of underutilized storage areas. These are both tremendous blessings, yet we still face many challenges with our aging Elementary facility that must be addressed and we look forward to continuing those efforts and conversations.

Facilities Report

Scott Kimm

1. The new boiler was installed last summer, runs nice and quiet but the same guy has to go down and turn it off and on. The new software and remote control have not been finished since it would require a dedicated WIFI entry point. That may have gone right over my head. But due to the lack of cold weather this winter it has been off about as much as it has had to run.
2. Speaking of a lack of winter, I am really quite disappointed that there was not much snow to plow. I probably spent more time putting on and taking off my blade versus actual plowing of snow.

3. So, it was decided that 2 of the apartments were empty and needed some freshening up. Mostly paint and a bathroom overhaul and a little work in the basement kitchen.
4. Work has also been started downstairs after Janelle and a few others organized and purged old stuff from years gone by. I thought we had done that a few years ago, but somehow more showed up.
5. Spring has sprung and now I have to plow snow! Go figure. But at least it's moisture and we'll take it.
6. Plow snow one week and mowing the next. I'm now ready for just rain, not to complain (well maybe a little) but it's track meet time and everyone enjoys a nice day for that.
7. I'm not planning on any major projects for once this summer, doesn't mean something won't come up.
8. We had to install a commercial dishwasher in the concessions to comply with our health inspector, it required some extra concrete cutting to comply with drain function. Also Natalie was able to get a used commercial double oven for the kitchen from a school in Belgrade for free.
9. I'm starting to ramble, so I'll quit... talking that is.

Friends Committee Report

Chase Dyksterhouse – Chair

Members: Chase Dyksterhouse, Steve Van Dyken, Justine Van Dyke, Aly Feddes, Jen Scott, Libby Triemstra, Racquel Skillman and Nathanael Hope

“Friends” of MCS is the booster and fundraising branch of MCS. Each year, Friends is asked to raise funds for the school in order to help bridge the gap between tuition receipts and actual operating costs.

Our annual fundraising goal is \$350,000, which is broken down into three broad categories:

- **General Fund:** \$230,000
- **Athletics:** \$110,000
- **Fine Arts:** \$10,000

This fundraising is accomplished through the following activities:

- Booster Plaque Program (Booster, Athletic Ad Boosters, Fine Arts Boosters)
- Cattle Fund Committee
- Fall Harvest Festival
- Spring Dutch Supper and Tulip Mania Auction
- Sporting Event Concessions
- 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament
- PK-5th Fun Run
- Annual Golf Tournament

The “Athletics” portion of our goal comes primarily from activities such as the 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament, concessions, the Annual Golf Tournament, and the athletic portion of the Booster Plaque Program. The remaining fundraisers support the General Fund and tuition assistance.

Parents with students enrolled at MCS are an essential part of these fundraising efforts. Each family is asked to sign up for jobs at various events, with each role assigned a “Family Service Opportunities” (FSO) point value. Families are asked to sign up for five FSO points annually.

2025-2026 Year in Review

God has truly blessed us again financially during the 2025-2026 school year. We are thrilled to share the following highlights:

- **Fall Harvest Festival:** As one of the school's flagship fundraisers, the festival had a phenomenal year, raising \$105,000—an increase of nearly 10% over last year's total.
- **Dutch Supper and Tulip Mania:** This continues to be a staple event for the school, bringing patrons from not only around the state but across the country! The two events raised \$160,000 for the school. The highlight of the evening was the Reverse Auction where, as a community, we raised \$116,000 specifically for the classroom remodel project. This project will provide MCS with the necessary space to accommodate our growing student population.
- **Sporting Event Concessions:** Our concessions had another great year, serving thousands of happy customers, including families and athletes of the 5B district tournament. We started the year by updating the concessions kitchen with a new commercial dishwasher and steam tables to comply with current health codes. Despite the cost of these upgrades, concessions netted an impressive \$53,000!
- **Boosters Program:** Our Boosters Program continues to be highly successful, with giving reaching \$102,000. We would like to extend a special thank you to Erika Kimm for her many years of dedicated service to this fundraiser. Moving forward, we are continuing to explore new Booster recruitment strategies to tap into the growing business economy in the Gallatin Valley.
- **3-on-3 Tournament:** The tournament continues to be a giant success, bringing 71 teams from all over the state to hit the hardwood. Games tipped off at 8:00 AM, and our dedicated crews were still working 12 hours later.

Looking Ahead: The PK-5th Fun Run

We are looking forward to the Fun Run coming up in May. This is always a great fundraiser that gets the kids involved in raising money for a cause that directly benefits them. This year, funds raised through the Fun Run will directly support literacy growth in grades PK-5. Our goal is to continue strengthening a love of reading while increasing access to high-quality, engaging literacy resources for all students.

Some of the specific initiatives include:

- Adding classroom Yoto players to support listening comprehension and independent literacy engagement.
- Expanding our collection of Yoto library cards to provide students with rich, diverse reading experiences.
- Increasing access to technology through additional interactive boards to enhance whole-group instruction and student engagement.

The Friends committee wants to thank the hundreds of volunteers who participated in fundraising efforts this past school year. The dedicated effort of so many volunteers and the abundant generosity of donors continue to make Christian education an affordable opportunity for parents desiring to train their children in the way of the Lord.

Education Committee Report

Anna Lynn Alberda - Board Liaison for Education Committee

The members on the Education Committee this past school year were: *Mallory Brown, Caroline Cok, Bridget Dykema, Heather Hope, Nich Pertuit, Jen Scott, Nathanael Hope, and Lacey Kutyllo*. Thank you to each one of these members for their commitment to guiding the various educational programs at Manhattan Christian by giving Annual Association Meeting

of their time, thoughts and talents to maintain and improve the Christ-centered education that we strive to provide the families at M.C.S. These are some of the areas we focused on this past year.

- We reviewed the policy of the Education Committee and welcomed new members: Caroline Cok and Jen Scott.
- Curriculum review cycle: We are in the third year of a five-year rotation and we were tasked with evaluating Social Studies and Business Education. After reviewing several social study curriculums for elementary and middle school. It was determined that a change was needed at the elementary level. The committee chose two curriculums that were presented to elementary teachers for comments. Studies Weekly was approved as the new program to begin this coming school year.
- Cell Phone Policy: Last year we began to read and wrestle with the use of cell phones at school. We continued this year working to make sure that the policy put in place would be clear and questions could be answered. A policy is now in place for this coming school year.
- Accreditation CSI: We are in the process of being accredited by Christian Schools International for grades K-12. This study will be complete in 12 to 18 months.
- Spiritual Life Director: We interviewed a couple of candidates during the year but we are still searching for the right individual.
- The school calendar for the year 2026-2027 was discussed and approved.
- Faculty Interviews for 2026-2027: We are so thankful to have interviewed and filled the art and middle/high school music positions. There has been some internal movement within the faculty so there are a couple positions yet to fill.

Thank you for your continued support for Manhattan Christian School. We are truly blessed to serve the school in its mission to provide an education for students that enables them to see God in every square inch of his creation and give Him the glory. We ask you to keep our committee in your prayers.

Stewardship Report

Ben Holst - Board Liaison for Stewardship Committee

Members: *Lexi Glaus, Gloria Veltkamp, Sadie Donaldson, Kendal Walhof, Ben Holst, Nathanael Hope*

The Stewardship Committee is responsible for MCS branding, marketing, and admissions. In the last year we have undertaken the following activities:

1. MCS Gear

In an effort to provide a greater variety of MCS clothing and gear, the committee supported a move to include a more diverse offering of Eagles wear through the office.

2. Admissions

Gloria Veltkamp continues to lead our admissions program. The admissions program includes communication with interested families, coordination of school visits, completion of applications, scheduling of family interviews, new family orientation, and follow-up.

Family interviews are conducted by Nathanael, Lacey, and Gloria.

Current K-12 enrollment is 326. Estimated enrollment for 2026-2027 is 339, with family interviews continuing.

3. Social Media

Lexi Glaus works behind the scenes to keep our social media accounts active and attractive, in addition to a number of other communications you receive regularly. We see social media as a useful tool that can simultaneously inform MCS families and share the diversity of MCS activities with potential MCS families. Stay tuned for updates in the coming year.

4. Podcast

Lexi has continued to post episodes through the school year. The podcast can be accessed through Spotify. Search Manhattan Christian Network to start listening.

Athletic Department Report

Layne Glaus - Athletic Director

Our athletic programs at Manhattan Christian School continue to provide meaningful opportunities for students to glorify God through their talents and gifts. We are deeply grateful for the tremendous support from our community; our fans are unmatched in their loyalty and encouragement of our Eagles. While our fall, winter, and spring sports programs continue to thrive in competition, we are most thankful for the commitment of our coaches and athletes to honor God in how they conduct themselves both on and off the field.

Last year brought many accomplishments across our programs. In the spring, the boys track team captured their second Class C State Championship under first-year head coach Mark Eekhoff. The girls track team also had a strong showing, earning a second-place finish at the Western C Divisional Meet. Boys golf secured second place at the state meet for the second consecutive year, while the girls team finished third.

In the fall, both cross country teams performed exceptionally well at the state meet, exceeding expectations. The boys placed third, and the girls finished fourth. Our volleyball team finished with an outright 12c regular season and tournament title, won the divisional title, and was back at the state tournament.

Under first year coach Ryan Ruffatto, the girls basketball team saw great growth throughout the season and finished the last ten games with a 7-3 record while playing their best basketball at the right time with a strong showing at the divisional tournament. The boys basketball won their 8th straight divisional title, made their 12th straight state tournament, and reached the state semifinal game for the 6th year in a row.

In football, our third season brought its share of challenges, particularly due to key injuries. However, the team responded with resilience, using adversity as an opportunity to reflect Christ-like character and point others to our Lord and Savior.

Participation:

High School

Football	16
Boys Cross Country	4
Boys Basketball	25
Boys Track	7
Boys Golf	14
Volleyball	21
Girls Basketball	19
Girls Track	17 (*3)
Girls Golf	6
Girls Cross Country	12

* (Unified Track Athletes)

Middle School

MS Football	24
MS Boys Cross Country	7
MS Boys Basketball	31
MS Boys Track	20 (1)**
MS Boys Golf	14
MS Volleyball	45
MS Girls Basketball	40
MS Girls Track	35 (5)**
MS Girls Golf	4
MS Girls Cross Country	5

** (from Amsterdam)

As we look ahead to next year, we hope to see even greater student engagement in supporting one another at athletic events through energetic and respectful cheering. We are especially excited that both volleyball and girls basketball anticipate fielding three teams, something we have not been able to do in several years.

We remain committed to using athletics as a platform for the holistic growth of our student-athletes: developing Christ-like character, modeling biblical sportsmanship, and fostering resilience and humility.

Foundation Report

Don Vaniman

In the past year (24-25) our Foundation has been blessed with annuities totaling \$111,295. We realize this amount is considerably less than previous years in the light of economic conditions and we also know that a considerable amount of our funds have been diverted to MCS by way of the Montana Scholarship Fund and the “Building on our Blessings Fund”. We are especially grateful to several of our elderly (over 65) constituents who continue to provide 80-90% of our income by way of annuities.

Although our focus has been on our 45-65 age group because we really need to add this income to maintain or continue to provide the level of support that we once did; we have only had minimal success in this area. Three years ago we picked up 7 new annuitants in this category but we continue to push for this to happen in order to service those that have committed in the past. We also continue to seek “grass roots” memberships which helps pay some of our advisory costs with Yellowstone Foundation. We do also need growth to service our obligations and our commitment to provide a substantial gift to the MCS budget. We are especially thankful that the markets have done well and Ronald Blue Trust has done a great job in managing our investments in a conservative

manner. Giving to an endowment continues to have great benefits in leveraging your charitable giving to MCS (especially in the state of Montana) and we encourage you to talk with your tax advisor or financial advisors about the possibilities of diverting some tax dollars to MCS.

Finance Committee Report

Brendan Leep - Board liaison for the Finance Committee

Manhattan Christian School has, year after year, experienced God's blessing. We don't take for granted the generosity that comes from the community every year. There has been immense sacrifice from each generation to keep MCS financially viable and the oversight of the finances isn't one that anybody on the board or Finance Committee takes lightly. Thank you for your support through another year!

In addition to the community at large, we want to specifically thank members of the Friends Committee, the Foundation, and Twice Treasured Thrift. There are many hands at work regularly that provide financial blessing and stability to MCS.

The Harvest Festival, Campaign Dinner, Tulip Mania, and many other fundraisers have continued to succeed and provide tremendous help to our mission at MCS. Specifically the Campaign Dinner provided strong support for our budget while simultaneously raising funds for the building project—what a blessing! In addition to that, the board and finance committee felt greatly encouraged by the many people who generously supported the basement remodel project during the Reverse Auction at Tulip Mania.

The Reverse Auction raised over 30% of the funds needed to complete the basement remodel. By reducing the funds needed to complete this project, MCS will be able to maintain a healthy balance on hand for facility improvements and maintenance going forward.

The Finance Committee alongside the Operations Committee has approved several purchases this year that have improved the existing MCS facility and equipment. A few of these improvements are a new boiler system, improved network infrastructure, a whole school security camera system, two-way radios for our school buses, window tint for the elementary, and upgrading our janitorial equipment.

This last November we hired an independent accounting firm to do an audit of the school's finances. We are nearing the completion of that audit and intend to hear their findings soon. The feedback we have received so far has been a positive reflection on the school's financial management. Janelle has worked very hard to be a good steward of the financial assets at MCS. In addition to all the regular accounting work, she does a lot of work behind the scenes to make sure we are prudent with MCS's funds. We are grateful for those efforts!

For example, all the donated funds that have been received for the MCS's Building Project (Building On Our Blessings) are currently being held in CDs safely earning between 3.7-3.75%.

Due to the ever-increasing cost of living and competitive hiring environment, we are continuing to extend financial resources to the administration to hire the necessary staff. To do that and to meet our other budgetary necessities we have approved a 5% (\$525) tuition increase for this upcoming school year.

Due to the increase in competition for the MT Education Tax Credits, we were only able to raise \$161,000 this year which is down from \$358,000 last year. The state of Montana caps the amount available and that statewide limit was reached in just 6 minutes. 90% of these funds go towards tuition assistance over a 3-year period. There is a new federal program coming that is supposed to operate similarly to this program and we are planning to participate when it becomes available.

Looking ahead, MCS is implementing a new teacher salary pay scale beginning in the 2027-28 school year. We are thankful for the Ad Hoc Committee led by Ben Holst that developed this new system. The pay scale encourages professional growth from our teachers. In addition, Ben—along with input from the rest of the board—has designed a financial projection tool that allows MCS to make budgetary decisions looking several years ahead. Having tools like this helps MCS make wise decisions and see how those decisions could affect the school long term.

	24-25 Actual	25-26 Projected	26-27 Budget
Tuition Revenue (Less Discounts and Financial Aid)	\$ 2,220,520	\$ 2,472,000	\$ 2,923,400
Contributions and Fundraising	\$ 870,650	\$ 923,000	\$ 884,000
Tulip Mania Designated Gift	\$ 120,186	\$ 117,700	\$ 125,000
Transfer 24-25 Designated Gift to 25-26	\$ (100,000)	\$ 100,000	
Transportation Revenue	\$ 81,288	\$ 78,000	\$ 73,000
Other Revenue	\$ 124,127	\$ 123,000	\$ 44,000
Total Revenue	\$ 3,316,770	\$ 3,813,700	\$ 4,049,400
Personnel Expenses (excluding Food Service)	\$ 2,503,264	\$ 2,872,700	\$ 3,097,032
Instructional/Admin Expenses	\$ 227,398	\$ 329,000	\$ 388,450
Facilities Expenses	\$ 379,627	\$ 426,000	\$ 441,418
Transportation Expenses	\$ 116,184	\$ 162,000	\$ 122,500
Total Expenses	\$ 3,226,474	\$ 3,789,700	\$ 4,049,400
Purchase Activity Bus and Small Bus	\$ 70,322		
Montana Qualified Education Contributions	\$ 358,120	\$ 161,000	

Members of Finance Committee include:

Brendan Leep, Kendal Walhof, Dani Knudsen, Steve Bussis, Nathanael Hope, Janelle Gustafson, and Joel Westa.

Twice Treasured Report

Faith Dyksterhouse

As we approach our 10th anniversary, it is a wonderful opportunity to look back and appreciate the many blessings we have experienced along the way. The journey of Twice Treasured Thrift began with a small group of dedicated individuals who believed that starting a thrift store would be an excellent way to raise funds for MCS.

In those early years, we faced many uncertainties. There were countless questions and often no clear answers in sight. Despite some challenges, our community persevered. Through devoted prayer and the willingness of many people, we gradually found our way. Today, we can celebrate how far we have come, thanks to the commitment and faith of everyone involved. Twice Treasured has earned the honor as being one of the best thrift stores in the state!

Upon reaching our tenth anniversary, we feel that our thrift store model is very effective in raising funds for MCS. After purchasing the property in 2024, the board has focused on planning for the future. The following

items are the steps that were taken to improve the shopping, donating, and working experience at Twice Treasured Thrift.

- Recognizing the importance of a safe environment for everyone at Twice Treasured, we made the decision to install security cameras throughout the store. This important goal was achieved through the teamwork of Tom Hubers, Scott Elders, Ron Freswick and Bob Kincaid, who made this project a reality. We are grateful to Mike Flikkema, who donated some of the equipment for this project.
- We have a much-improved donation area thanks to Rod VanDyken. Rod worked around our busy donation schedule to create a safe and customer-friendly donation area, which includes a new home for our dumpsters. Because of his dedication to Christian education, Rod generously donated his time and ALL the materials to make this needed improvement. THANK YOU!
- We updated the lighting in both buildings. The guys from Kredit Electric managed to install the new lighting, while working around displays and shoppers! The new lights look great!
- We replaced the well-used washer and dryer.
- We also needed to replace the heating unit in the processing building.
- Raised \$200,000 for the school. Covered all costs of wages, insurance, property tax, store payment and other costs related to the business.
- One thing we did NOT do was scoop snow! Our faithful crew of volunteers had the season off.

Gratitude and Community

Twice Treasured could not exist without the efforts of so many! It is fitting, after 10 years, to acknowledge the volunteers that joined the store at the beginning and are still helping. Many, if not all, are involved in the Harvest Festival and Dutch Supper/Tulip Mania as well. It is wonderful to see parents joining the volunteers and paid staff, working together to help raise the money that is needed for Christian education. It is important to also recognize those volunteers that we lost. Sharon Danhof, Norma Heys, Dick Flikkema, Kim Sinnema, Nikki Leep, Eileen Burke and Jack Vander Molen. We are amazed every day by the people that go out of their way, with no connection to our school, to help us in our fundraising efforts. We also give thanks to God for the many opportunities that come our way, to minister to people through Twice Treasured Thrift.

Deuteronomy 28:12 “The Lord will open the Heavens, the storehouse of His bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless the work of your hands.”

Twice Treasured Board Members: Martin Kimm (President), Tom Hubers, Sherwin Leep, Patrick Luther, Laura Pertuit, Kevin Smith, Jason Kimm (Board Rep.), Faith Dyksterhouse (CEO).

Building Committee Report

Travis Hamilton

As I look back through my notes from last year, I realized two common themes that came through in all of our meetings: fundraising and the energy—or lack of energy—surrounding the project.

We have pursued every avenue of fundraising that we could imagine, from private donors to grants, bonds, and loans. However, with the current economic state of our farm community, competing projects, and overall Annual Association Meeting

instability, fundraising has not been what we had hoped and prayed for. To date, we have been able to raise roughly \$1.2 million in cash donations and \$1.5 million in pledges. With a total phase one project cost of \$9 million, we are still a long way from our goal.

We have come to the realization that this may not be God's plan or His timing. Consequently, the board will be seeking alternatives and guidance from the association. As it says in Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

This endeavor started about eight years ago, and there have been countless people who have contributed to this project. I cannot name everyone for fear of missing someone, but we would like to specifically thank Randy Visser, Darin Hoekema, Joel Westa, Christian James, Chase Dyksterhouse, Nathanael Hope, and Lacey Kutyllo for their dedication.

MANHATTAN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

2025 Annual Association Meeting — Minutes

May 6, 2025 | 7:00 PM

Call to Order: 7:05 PM

Opening Prayer: Kendal Walhof

AGENDA ITEMS

Approval of 2024 Minutes

Motion to approve the 2024 Annual Association Minutes was made by Jeanette Walhof, seconded by David Kimm. Motion passed.

Board Elections

A balloted vote was held to select three board members from a panel of six. Brett Heidema, Libby Triemstra, and Brendan Leep were selected.

2025–2026 Board Nominating Committee

Following nominations from the floor, and a balloted vote these individuals were identified as members of the Nominating Committee: Tim Flikkema, Kale Knudson, Nate Kammerman, Martin Kimm, Jeanette Walhof, and David Kimm.

Head of School's Report — Joel Westa

This was Joel Westa's third and final year as Head of School at MCS. Key highlights:

- The strategic plan continues to guide the school's focus. The elementary/middle school building project is the primary initiative, having raised just under \$1.7M in donations and pledges this year.
- Foundations have been contacted who require \$2.3M in cash and \$7.5M in pledges before committing their funds.
- Transitions: Farewell to Shayla Van Dyken, Anna Brewer, Micah Forsythe, Miranda Rudd, Jackie VanDam, and Nancy Gabel.
- New staff additions: Meghan Mitchell (2nd grade), Genevieve Morrison (Kindergarten), Abbi Mulder and Michelle Nibbelink (Middle School), and Cooper Dixon (counselor). Search ongoing for music teacher and Spiritual Life Director.
- Carla Walhof is on special contract while continuing her fight with leukemia.
- The Early Learning Center (ELC) will close; preschool and kindergarten will move to that facility.
- The MCS high school is fully accredited by OPI. CSI accreditation for the whole school is under review.

Elementary and Middle School Principal's Report — Lacey Kutyllo

Lacey reflected on her first year at Manhattan Christian, highlighting:

- Exceptional teaching that nurtures students both academically and spiritually.
- Attended the Principal Development Institute (PDI) through Christian Schools International.
- For 2025–2026, the ELC closure will allow relocating preschool/kindergarten, freeing space for elementary and middle school growth. Age-appropriate playgrounds and enhanced security are among the expected benefits.
- God has blessed the school with wonderful faculty for the 2025–2026 school year.

High School Principal's Report — Nathanael Hope

Nathanael reflected on God's provision and the year's highs and lows:

- Thankful for Lacey Kutyllo as PK-8 principal and Joel Westa's mentorship.
- An abundance of high-quality applicants were interviewed and hired for the coming year.
- Principal Hope will be stepping into the Head of School role while continuing as 9–12 Principal.
- MCS was founded 118 years ago and continues its mission as a Christ-centered school serving Christian families in the Gallatin Valley.

Spiritual Life Director's Report — Micah Forsythe

Key activities and highlights from the Spiritual Life Director:

- Added a Spiritual Life Update section to the weekly MCS email, focused on intentional discipleship of students.
- 1st Annual Pray-Serve Day: Coordinated with five local churches; included an hour of prayer for pastors, leaders, missionaries, and congregants.

- Meetings included faculty interviews, school-level 1-on-1s, and church relations outreach. 33 churches are represented at MCS.
- Chapel highlights: All-school pep rally for basketball state tournament, Caroline Cobb concert (April 9), National Honor Society Ceremony (April 23), final Buddy Chapel (April 30), elementary chapel (May 14), Grandparents Day and High School Awards Ceremony (May 21).
- Teaching: Junior Bible (CSI 'Exploring Ethics' curriculum), Senior Bible (apologetics), and maturation class for 5th and 7th grade boys.

Board Report — Darin Hoekema

- Welcomed Lacey Kutylo as PK-8 Principal; choir and band toured to Rehoboth Christian School.
- Nathanael Hope will step into the Head of School role; continuity being developed despite role changes.
- Micah Forsythe served as Spiritual Life Director; the role is being refined as MCS seeks his replacement.
- In January, the board met with elders from Manhattan CRC and Bethel CRC to improve cooperation.
- Building on Our Blessings project remains a priority despite economic uncertainty.

Facilities Report — Scott Kimm

- Kitchen remodel completed (3+ months).
- Front parking lot shared with Manhattan CRC was reseal coated.
- ELC playground brought up to certification standards; sand replaced wood chips.
- Several rooms were recarpeted; warranty work completed.
- New Grasshopper tractor purchased for mowing.
- Second boiler repaired after four years; boiler control is now manually operated by Scott Kimm due to a burned computer board.

Friends Report — Jen Scott

Members: Chase Dyksterhouse, Steve Van Dyken, Justine Van Dyke, Aly Feddes, Jen Scott, Tami Leep, Racquel Skillman, Joel Westa.

Friends raises \$300,000/year: \$180,000 General Fund, \$100,000 Athletics, \$20,000 Fine Arts.

Key fundraising results:

- Harvest Festival: Raised \$97,000 (approximately 20% increase from prior year).
- Dutch Supper and Tulip Mania Auction: Raised \$60,000. Reverse auction raised \$70,000 — \$55,000 to support Carla Walhof and \$15,000 the general fund.
- Athletic Concessions: \$48,000 (first year led by Sadie Donaldson and Raquel Skillman).
- Booster Plaque Program: All-time high of \$108,000.
- K-5 Fun Run (upcoming): Proceeds directed to the Building on Our Blessings campaign.

Education Committee — Anna Lynn Alberda

Committee Members: Ben Holst, Nathanael Hope, Lacey Kutyllo, Kurt Kimm, Mallory Brown, Heather Hope, Bridget Dykema, Nich Pertuit.

Key topics addressed:

- Curriculum Review (5-year cycle): Focus this year on Science and Foreign Language. Mystery Science selected for elementary; middle school science search continues. Spanish program: Savvas adopted for middle and high school. New language arts curriculum (Studysync) selected for middle school.
- Cell Phone Policy: Reviewed MCS internet rules and cell phone policies from peer schools. Study to continue.
- Social Institute: Approved with details to be determined.
- Foreign Exchange Students: Program reviewed; opportunity beneficial but requires careful consideration.
- 5-Day Kindergarten: Decision made to continue with the current 3-day or 5-day model.
- Faculty Interviews: Several completed; still filling a couple of positions.

Stewardship Report — Ben Holst

Members: Lexi Glaus, Gloria Veltkamp, Sadie Donaldson, Joel Westa, Kendal Walhof, Ben Holst.

- MCS Gear: Available through Game One store and seasonal online stores.
- Admissions: Led by Gloria Veltkamp; includes family communication, visits, interviews, and follow-up.
- Social Media / Podcast: Lexi Glaus manages social media. MCS podcast launched (episodes Mon & Wed); continuing.
- Marketing: Word of mouth remains most effective; the community is encouraged to share MCS with others.

Athletics Report — Layne Glaus, Athletic Director

Participation numbers across high school and middle school were strong. Highlights:

- Football (2nd year): Finished undefeated regular season, won southern division title, first playoff appearance.
- Cross Country: Boys and girls both finished 3rd at state. Coach Te Slaa honored by state and national associations.
- Volleyball: Finished first in 12c regular season standings; did not advance to state tournament.
- Girls Basketball: Made it back to the state tournament after a comeback in the challenge game.
- Boys Basketball: 11th straight state tournament, 4th straight state title game (lost).
- Track: Boys finished 2nd; girls competed with lower numbers.
- Golf: Boys 2nd at state, girls 3rd at state.
- Middle school volleyball: 50 participants. Middle school boys and girls basketball had 35 and 40 participants respectively.

Theme for next year: 'Many members, one body.' Focus on integrating strength training across programs.

Foundation Report — Don Vaniman

Annual Association Meeting

MCS Foundation was formed in 1986 by four grandparents to reduce tuition. Current Board: John Schutter (President), Darin Hoekema (VP), Don Vaniman (Secretary), Dani Knudson (Treasurer), Bill Kimm, Gary Dykstra (Trustees), Ron Hoekema (Development Officer).

- Montana Tax Credit for Endowed Philanthropy Law allows individuals to write off up to \$15,000/individual (\$30,000 for couples) from state taxes when donating to a Montana charity.
- The Foundation pays ~\$350,000/year to annuitants and donates 5% of net equity to the school. The Endowment Fund grew from \$120,000 to as high as \$7,300,000.
- Jim Soft passed away last year. Sara Hofer (Yellowstone Boys and Girls Foundation) has taken over Annuities and Charitable Remainder Trusts.
- In 2024, the Foundation received \$205,000 in cash annuities and \$85,000 in stock annuities (\$290,000 total).
- Since 1992, the Foundation has donated over \$4,300,000 to MCS operating funds. Last 10-year average: \$500/student/year.
- As of April 1, 2025: 87 dues-paying members. New members needed — please join!

Finance Committee — Jonathan Schutter

Members: Jonathan Schutter, Steve Bussis, Brendan Leep, Kendal Walhof, Joel Westa, Nathanael Hope, Janelle Gustafson.

The school finished the year in a strong financial position. Key highlights:

- Tuition increase recommended to offset inflation; 77% of operating costs are salary/benefits.
- An Ad Hoc committee assembled to study salary structure and develop a pay scale format.
- Key reserve accounts established and moved to higher-yield financial accounts.
- Land note paid off using Tulip Mania proceeds.
- New activity bus and small 15-passenger bus purchased from reserves.
- Montana Educational Tax Credit increased from \$167,000 to \$358,000 (90% to be used for scholarships over 3 years).
- Alliance for Choice in Education (ACE) program financial changes expanded qualifying families.

Twice Treasured Thrift — Martin Kimm, President

Twice Treasured is entering its 10th year of operation. Key updates:

- The property was purchased last year, continuing to plan improvements including a security system.
- Board members reviewed and reaffirmed the original mandate from the MCS School Board.
- Long-term volunteers (10 years of weekly service) were recognized; the last 2 years averaged \$200,000/year in contributions to MCS.
- Twice Treasured Board is working on the MCS Strategic Plan.
- Board Members: Martin Kimm (President), Kevin Smith, Tom Hubers, Tami Flikkema, Patrick Luther, Sherwin Leep, Jason Kimm (MCS Board Rep.), Faith Dyksterhouse (CEO).

Building Committee Report — Travis Hamilton

The Association approved the remodel concept and budget one year ago. Updates:

- Architects and engineers are turning conceptual Phase 1 plans into construction documents (currently 80% complete).
- Partnering with R&R Taylor Construction; they will reach out to subcontractors for bids once plans are finalized.
- Building on Our Blessings Fundraising Campaign launched this winter.

Estimated Cost of Phase 1	\$9,335,000	Currently 18% funded for Phase 1. Forty-one individuals committed to giving.
Pledges & Gifts	\$1,685,968	
Remaining Balance to Raise	\$7,664,032	

- Boiler controls failed this winter — boiler was manually operated all winter. The building committee recommends replacing 1 boiler and controls this summer. A new boiler will be incorporated into the new building.
- Gas service will be moved to the south end of the elementary school this summer to allow construction to begin without interrupting heating.

STRATEGIC PLAN OVERVIEW — Joel Westa

The MCS 2023–2028 Strategic Plan outlines six goals:

- Goal 1: Deepen Spiritual Life — Create/resource Spiritual Life Director position; robust Bible program; vibrant chapels; service opportunities; full-time counseling.
- Goal 2: Increase Academic Rigor — Curriculum reassessment; MAP Testing; AP course expansion; national accreditation (CSI/CESA); hire Elementary School Principal; faculty development.
- Goal 3: Facility Improvement — Building campaign (new elementary wing/MS refurbishment); land use planning; safety/security upgrades (new entry system complete, emergency app complete, armed response ongoing); football facility lighting/bleachers.
- Goal 4: Financial Planning Strategy — 3-year budgeting; adequate reserves; manageable tuition growth plan; outsource payroll; grow endowment; hire Development Director.
- Goal 5: Re-establish Fine Arts Excellence — Examine faculty roles; reassess music requirements; increase financial support; establish Speech/Debate Team.
- Goal 6: Establish Marketing/Enrollment Plan — Determine enrollment structure; create marketing budget/plan; update website (complete); establish new registration procedures.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned: 8:25 PM

Closing Prayer: Darin Hoekema

MCS Constitution Articles I, II & III

CONSTITUTION OF MANHATTAN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of the school shall be Manhattan Christian School.

GOVERNING AUTHORITY

The Association.

ARTICLE II

BASIS

The basis on which the school is founded is the infallible Word of God interpreted in accordance with the Reformed tenets and in agreement with the three Standards of Unity: the Belgic Confession, the Canons of Dort, and the Heidelberg Catechism. The following statements will help to clarify this article as to what it means for education:

1. The ultimate basis in the Scriptures of the Old and New testaments which we believe are the written Word of God, the revelation of the Triune God; the truth by which He enlightens our understanding of God, man, and the universe; and the infallible authority by which He directs and governs all of our activities, including the education of our children.
2. The foundation of Christian education is in the Creator-creature relationship as taught in the Bible. Imbedded in creation is the pattern of our educational task: understanding the universe, communication with God, and creative performance.
3. We acknowledge the disruptive effect of sin, man's estrangement from God, and his blindness to the true meaning of life. We heartily acknowledge the restorative work of Jesus Christ (Col 1:16-20), His reconciliation of the world to God, and the redemption of our life in its entirety. This implies the necessity of a distinctive and peculiar dimension in our educational task, namely, to direct and guide the child to commit his heart to Christ, the Truth.
4. The primary responsibility for education rests upon the parents (Deut. 6:6-9, Eph. 6:1-4). They may delegate a part of this responsibility to an institution that is able to carry forward this God-given task. While standing in place of the parent, the teacher, as a servant of God, exercises authority in the performance of his office in educating the child in the school.
5. The child, created in the image of God, is regarded as a spiritual-physical creature who through grace is capable of learning the laws of God's creation and knowing and obeying the truth of God's Word. He is, as image-bearer, regarded as a social creature standing in relation to his fellow man, having moral, intellectual, and emotional needs.
6. The total educational program of the Christian school is designed to orient the child to a life in Christ, through his culture, for fellowship with and service to God and his fellow man.

ARTICLE III

OBJECT

The object of this Association is the establishment and the maintenance of a school in which instruction is given in harmony with the basis of this Association.

By-laws Concerning Membership and Absentee Voting

Association Membership

1. Any person who has reached the age of 18 and subscribes to Articles II and III of the Constitution may become a member of this association.
2. Members of the Association are eligible to vote at any duly called meeting of the Association.

Absentee Voting

Ballots signed by Association members will count on the initial vote only.

Current Board of Trustees

Name	Year of Retirement	Church
Anna Lynn Alberda	2027	Bethel Christian Reformed
Brett Heidema	2028	Manhattan Christian Reformed
**Darin Hoekema	2026	Bethel Christian Reformed
**Ben Holst	2026	Bethel Christian Reformed
*Jason Kimm	2026	Bethel Christian Reformed
Brendan Leep	2028	Grace Bible Church
Libby Triemstra	2028	Manhattan Christian Reformed
Jen Scott	2027	Journey Church
Kendal Walhof	2027	Bethel Christian Reformed

Thank you for your years of service to Manhattan Christian School!

*Re-upping

**Retiring

2026 Nominee Introductions

Name: Brittany Braaksma

Spouse: Rob Braaksma

Children:

Reno Braaksma (3rd), Davis Braaksma (1st)

Educational Background:

I attended Bozeman High School and received my Bachelor's Degree from Montana State University. GO CATS!

Job Position:

I own and operate BNB Services, LLC, a local bookkeeping company. I also serve on the Board of Directors as Treasurer for the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce.

Church Membership:

My family and I are members of Manhattan CRC.

Church Involvement:

I am the Chair of the CEF (Christian Education Fund) Committee and have been involved with various children's ministries throughout the years. I recently began serving as a middle school youth group leader and have loved getting to know these students while encouraging them in their walk with Christ.

MCS Involvement:

For the past 2 years, I have served as a Harvest Festival Chair. I truly enjoy serving our school in this role and have been blessed to work alongside the best people to make this event a successful fundraiser for MCS. While this is my only formal position, I am always eager to help out where I can and value the time I get to spend in the school community with our wonderful faculty and students.

Perspective on Christian Education and MCS:

My perspective on Christian education was shaped early in my relationship with my husband, Rob. As I got to know his friends, I was struck by their kindness, authenticity, and genuine love. Over time, I came to understand that these qualities were deeply rooted in their education at MCS. Seeing that lasting impact helped me recognize how important it is for children to be grounded in Christ from a young age. I believe a Christian education provides a strong and lasting foundation that shapes well-rounded individuals who positively impact their communities, live out their faith, and reflect Christ's love through their actions.

Name: Chase Dyksterhouse

Spouse: Kylie Dyksterhouse

Children:

Brynlee (6th Grade), Quinn (4th Grade), Layton (Kindergarten)

Educational Background:

Attended Manhattan Christian School K-12. Received an Associates degree in Secondary Education Eastern Wyoming College, Finished Schooling at Boise State University with a Bachelors in Construction Management.

Job Position:

Owner/Project Manager R&R Taylor Construction Inc.

Church Membership:

Bethel Christian Reformed Church

Church Involvement:

Served as a Deacon 2018-2021, participated in church small groups, sang in a small singing ensemble.

MCS Involvement:

Coached middle school basketball, 2 years coaching boys C basketball team, Chair of the Friends committee 2021-present.

Perspective on Christian Education and MCS:

As a third-generation student and now a parent at MCS, I know this school is about so much more than books. What truly makes MCS special is the community. We have experienced the highest highs and the lowest of lows, but the Lord's faithfulness to this family has always surpassed understanding.

While the opportunity to learn through the lens of faith is fantastic, the greatest lesson is watching this community care for and love one another. That foundation is something our students will carry with them forever, whether they stay right here in Gallatin County or head halfway around the world.

Name: Anthony Hart

Spouse: Katie Hart

Children:

Oliver Hart (2)

Case Hart (K)

Educational Background:

Graduate of Manhattan High School

Bachelors of Science in Psychology and Minor in Spanish Language from Montana State University

Job Position:

A part of the team at Schutter Brothers

Church Membership:

Bethel CRC

Church Involvement:**Current:**

7th grade Sunday School leader

Tot Church volunteer

Past:

Pastoral search committee member

High school youth group co-leader

Worship committee member

MCS Involvement:

No significant active or former involvement

Perspective on Christian Education and MCS:

So rarely do I receive a phone call from Nate Kamerman that when I saw I had missed his call my heart skipped a beat. I immediately thought, “Oh no, what happened? Who’s in trouble?” It was with apprehension that I called him back to receive the unexpected but wonderful news about a nomination as candidate to the school board. It is a great honor to have the confidence of the nominating committee and current board members. What becomes of my nomination is in the Lord’s hands but I am encouraged to have this opportunity to share my perspective on Christian education and Manhattan Christian School.

Not long ago, as my son Oliver was preparing for kindergarten, it struck me that Katie and I would no longer be the only consistent influence in his life. While this understanding came with much trepidation, I was comforted to know that the new influences in his life--faculty, staff, other parents and classmates--shared our same values. I realized that we would now have others working alongside us to teach our son the truth of scripture and to help him live a God-glorifying life. This knowledge made us very confident in enrolling him at MCS.

With Oliver in school, I’ve had an opportunity to interact with other school families, and with that another realization: Christian education extends beyond the classroom and even beyond the students. It is modeled and reinforced by the broader MCS community. I witness examples of this fellowship as a parent: a chat during student drop off and pick up, a greeting in the school hallways, catching up on the week during a sporting event, and working with others to put on Tulip Mania and the Harvest Festival. Modeling Christ-centered fellowship for younger members of the MCS community can be as instructive as anything they learn in the classroom, and something I want to be intentional about, whether as a school board member, a fan in the stands, or a proud parent.

If elected, my goal as a school board member would be to continue to further the school’s vision and mission while meaningfully contributing to the culture and community at Manhattan Christian School. My

prayer would be that I remain faithful to the scriptures if I am called up to help shepherd the school through the complexities of the days, weeks and years to come.

Name: Jason Kimm

Spouse: Yvonne Kimm

Children:

Willem (21 - MCS alum), Benjamin (20 - MCS alum), Eliza (18 - MCS Senior), Joshua (15 - MCS Sophomore), Sarina (14 - MCS 8th Grade)

Educational Background:

MCS Alum, Dordt College with a BA in Agricultural Business and Plant Science.

Job Position:

Co-Owner/Operator Kimm Seed Potatoes

Church Membership:

Lifelong member at Bethel Christian Reformed Church

Church Involvement:

Middle School Sunday School Teacher (10+years), served as an Elder, led High School Youth Group for 6 or 7 years, occasional musician.

MCS Involvement:

Alumni, parent of 5 children who attended or are attending MCS, served on the Finance Committee for a few years before my first School Board term('13-'16), nearing completion of another School Board term ('23-'26), and involvement with Twice Treasured Thrift Board.

Perspective on Christian Education and MCS:

Manhattan Christian exists as a societal institution extending the parent's ability to fulfill the exhortation to raise our children in the training and instruction of the Lord. It recognizes the vocational gift of teaching given to our staff. It fulfills the promises that we, both as parents and church members, make at baptism to instruct our children in the Christian faith and to lead them by example to be Christ's disciples. As MCS stands behind parents to support them in raising their children, it also stands behind the Church as a means to assist the congregation in fulfilling the promises made to, 'help instruct them in the faith'. Doing these tasks requires teaching God's two books, his Word and his world. MCS exists then to nurture our children in obedience to Christ in the understanding of His Lordship over all of life.

Name: Kale Knudson

Spouse: Danielle Knudson

Children:

Molly (8th grade)

Claire (6th grade)

Russell (4th grade)

Educational Background:

Highwood High School

Chemical Engineering, B.S, Montana State University-Bozeman, 2001-2005

Doctorate of Medicine, University of Washington School of Medicine, 2010-2014

Job Position:

Internal Medicine Physician, Bozeman Health

Medical Director, Stillwater Hospice

Church Membership:

Bethel Church

Church Involvement:

Small group leader

MCS Involvement:

Little Eagles coach

Perspective on Christian Education and MCS:

Although I graduated from high school, college, and medical school, none of my education took place within a Christian system. In addition, I did not accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior until I was 21 years old. Because of this, when our family moved to Bozeman five years ago, Christian schooling was not initially on my radar. It was my father-in-law—an experienced school administrator in the Gallatin Valley—who encouraged us to consider it, recognizing the values my wife and I desired to instill in our children as well as the strong track record of Manhattan Christian School. By God's providence, our children have now attended Manhattan Christian School for the past four years. From the very beginning, we have been deeply grateful for how warmly our family was received—the school and broader community have been remarkably welcoming and supportive of new families like ours. We ultimately chose MCS for several key reasons: its smaller but strong learning environment, its commitment to integrating biblical faith into understanding God's world, and the strength of its leadership and teaching staff.

I do not come from a background in business, entrepreneurship, finance, or education. However, if God graciously places me in a role as a board member, I would bring a God-centered, pragmatic perspective shaped by experiences outside the traditional Christian school setting. As the school continues to grow and welcome more families from beyond the Gallatin Valley, I believe this perspective can be valuable. I prioritize teamwork, deference to expertise, and hold a strong conviction in the importance of faith as we work together to solve problems and guide the school forward.

Name: Kevin Smith

Spouse: Jodi Smith

Children:

Austyn Smith (Sophomore), Kelsee Smith (8th), Violet Smith (4th), and Blayke Smith (2nd)

Educational Background:

Manhattan Public School (K-12), Montana State University (Undergraduate & Graduate Program)

Job Position:

Project Manager at Schlauch Bottcher Construction Inc.

Church Membership:

Bethel CRC, since 2005

Church Involvement:

I was a Cadet Councilor for 6 Years, and served on Church Council as a Deacon for 3 years.

MCS Involvement:

MCS School Board (2020-2023), Twice Treasured Thrift Board (2020-current).

Perspective on Christian Education and MCS:

As a parent, I've seen firsthand the meaningful impact a Christ-centered education can have on young people. I believe it is critical for faith to be introduced and nurtured at home, but it is strengthened when those same values are consistently reinforced at school. When biblical principles are woven into each classroom, students are given daily opportunities to see how their faith connects to every part of everyday life. This partnership between home and school plays a key role in building a strong and lasting foundation of faith.

Through my experience with MCS, I've seen how intentionally incorporating Scripture, prayer, and worship into daily lessons and student activities supports both academic growth and spiritual development. These practices create an environment where students can deepen their understanding of the Bible, grow in their faith, and develop a personal relationship with God. I believe these qualities represent a deeper and more meaningful measure of success than the awards and recognition that are often emphasized in today's world.

Serving on the school board in the past, along with volunteering in other capacities at MCS, has been an incredibly rewarding experience. It has allowed me to see more clearly how MCS partners with families to reinforce biblical values, integrate faith into everyday learning, and help students build a strong foundation that guides them in all areas of their lives. Through this experience, I have developed a deep appreciation for the school's staff and administration, and I strongly encourage others to get involved and contribute to strengthening and supporting the mission of MCS.

Absentee Ballot

Manhattan Christian School

Board Nominees

Please vote for three.

_____	Brittany Braaksma	_____	Jason Kimm
_____	Chase Dyksterhouse	_____	Kale Knudson
_____	Anthony Hart	_____	Kevin Smith

Absentee Ballots must arrive in sealed envelopes with the voter’s signature both printed and signed on the outside. Ballots must be delivered to the school no later than Tuesday, May 12 at 7:00 pm. Ballots may also be hand delivered to the school office prior to the meeting or brought to the meeting.

Voter must be an Association Member of record; your signature must be in the Association membership book. Call the school if you are not sure of your status.

IMPORTANT ABSENTEE BALLOT INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. Please put your absentee ballot inside a sealed blank envelope.
- 2. Place inside a second envelope.
- 3. **Sign** and seal the outside envelope.