

Annual Association Meeting

MAY 4, 2021, 7:00 PM



Manhattan Christian School

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Annual Association Meeting

May 4, 2021, 7:00 PM

Agenda

1. Devotions: Ryan Ruffatto, President
2. Approval of 2020 Minutes
3. Board Elections
4. Floor Nominations for the 2021-22 Board Nominating Committee
5. Presentation of Reports from Board and Board Sub-Committees
 - Superintendent- Tim Visser
 - 6-12 Principal's- Matt Kamps
 - Facilities & Elementary Remodel Report- Travis Hamilton
 - Friends- Sharon Kamp
 - Education Committee Report- Jonathan Schutter
 - Foundation Report- Darin Hoekema
 - Twice Treasured- Kevin Smith
6. Presentation of the 2021-2022 Preliminary Budget—Mike De Vries
7. Closing Prayer

Superintendent's Report

Tim Visser, Superintendent, P-5 Principal

I ended last year's report asking for prayers that the upcoming school year would not be impacted by Covid. In my mind, it made complete sense that our theme of *See the Story; Live the Story* would include stories about traveling on the road to normal. Two weeks before school started, I realized this year was going to be anything but normal. Long hours were spent praying, adjusting schedules, creating space in rooms, rethinking cleaning protocols, developing plans for lunch, and learning from others as to how we could continue to do this thing we call school. When the day is done, this year was anything but normal; yet, I am compelled to give thanks for what God has shown us this year. Some examples:

- I miss the choruses of "Happy Birthday" ringing through the atrium during lunch, yet give thanks that we started a new habit where each child is greeted by name as they enter the school.
- I miss some of the interactions between our older and younger students, yet thankful we were able to be in school every day.
- I miss the crowds and interactions enjoyed during volleyball matches and basketball games, yet give thanks that we were able to participate in State championships with the rest of the nation being shut down.
- I miss seeing some of the rhythms of our school year, yet give thanks to teachers and others who demonstrated creativity and a growth mindset as we worked together for our students.
- I miss teachers who retired last year, yet thankful for the way our new people have contributed their unique talents to the telling of our story.

There will be a time and a place where we can reflect on *the Story* and consider how well we *Lived the Story*, but the present requires that I plan for how well we will live this out next year. We will again need to replace some key people with Mrs. Bussing, Mr. Kamps, and Mr. Vander Ark leaving us. I give thanks for the teachers God has already brought to our school and look forward to meeting the others He has already chosen for us.

In looking forward to how we will tell the story over the next five years, we need to understand the past as more than a statue to be venerated. We need to take what we value and be ready to

courageously tell our story to a growing community that has not experienced it. As the third verse of *I Love to Tell the Story* says:

*I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it, like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long*

6-12 Principal's Report

By **Matt Kamps**

I believe that the world is hungry for Christian school students who have learned to love what is good, beautiful, and true; who understand Christ's lordship in all of life; who think deeply and take action; and who walk daily with Christ. Those are words gleaned from our mission, vision, and portrait of a graduate at MCS. These words give the reason why we have all come together to educate our children at this place and in this time. It takes a big commitment of time, money, and resources to get it done, and it takes parents and teachers, board and staff, students and the community working together to get there.

I am thankful for all the ways in which I see us meeting this mission: Teachers who give their extra time to help students learn; Caring actions of students, staff, and teachers to those that are hurting; Leadership seeking God's wisdom for their decisions; Seniors with a sense of calling, ready to move on to the next step of their lives; students in drama and athletics showing off the ways that God has gifted them; classroom lessons that meet real needs for a real audience, helping students participate in God's work in the world. There are many, many things to be grateful for at MCS, and we give all the honor and glory to our creator as we think of all the 'good, beautiful, and true' things happening here.

I'm thankful for the way that the pandemic pushed us to come together and develop creative solutions to help us meet our mission in the midst of great challenges. There are things we have missed, but many more things that we have learned. One of those is flexibility- our staff, students and parents have shown how they can stretch and be versatile in new situations. This is such an important lifetime trait for us to develop in our students. The second thing is a willingness to learn, or a growth mindset. This was demonstrated this year by teachers who embraced the challenges and actually became better teachers because of them. This willingness to make mistakes and improve without fear of failure is at the heart of learning, and I'm glad to see the teachers, our learning leaders, show us what this looks like.

As we look to the future, we want to continue to keep the mission of MCS as our North Star as we work intentionally to meet it. This doesn't just happen, we have to continually reflect and re-think each part of our school in light of it. Right now, Teaching for Transformation (TfT) is the main vehicle and catalyst for doing this. Our staff has been working together all year in deepening their teaching practices through the framework of TfT. Through their deep hopes and storylines, teachers are better able to live out their callings as educators and disciplers of our students. Learning targets, connected with meaningful work for real people are giving students a

clear vision of what being a disciple of Christ and finding their calling is all about. Our throughlines are connecting and integrating our curriculum with God's story from PS-12. Over the next few years, I hope you will learn more about TtT and how it helps us become a distinctively Christian school.

There are many challenges that face our community and our life together at school. We all have a slightly different conception of why we are here in the first place. We all are thinking of the future of our children and how to raise them to be well-prepared for the challenges they will face in their lives. Pray for our administration and board as they work together. Pray for teachers as they prepare engaging curriculum and activities that glorify God. Pray that we are all humble and unified in our vision for Christian education. Pray also for the parents and students that we partner with for strength as they face the challenges that will come with living in community and taking care of each other. Please keep Manhattan Christian in your prayers, and thank God for his faithfulness and providence.

MCS has a bright future and I'm excited to see how God leads us further on towards meeting the mission. Missy and I would appreciate your prayers for our family as we follow God's leading to a new school in Nicaragua.

Grace and Peace to you all,

Matt Kamps
6-12 Principal

Department Reports

Board Report

By Ryan Ruffatto, Chairman

This year has been a marathon and we have faced many challenges due to the pandemic, but by the Lord's grace and strength we have pressed on.

School has looked a lot different this year. Students have missed out on many anticipated activities & events. Our staff has had to adapt and make huge adjustments in order to educate our kids, while also supporting them spiritually and emotionally as the world around them is in chaos.

Manhattan Christian is fortunate to have such a great team. It required a lot of extra time and effort to keep kids in person, while also making it work for students when they needed to work from home. God has blessed us with great leaders. Tim and Matt worked hard to make sure all our ducks were in a row. They were required to make tough decisions and put policies in place that were unpopular, but necessary. They supported our staff and overcame obstacles to make it as easy as possible. Our teachers and staff are amazing! They supported, coached, and cheered on our students. Our office staff worked behind the scenes to keep things running smoothly. Our kitchen staff had to make huge adjustments in order to continue to provide meals. Our maintenance and janitorial staff worked tirelessly to make our property safe & clean. We are also thankful for the effort of the ELC and Twice Treasured Thrift. It was a team effort, and they all deserve a huge thanks for their extraordinary efforts.

We are sad to say goodbye to Matt Kamps. We will miss his genuine love for our school and students, we are thankful for his time and service to us, and pray the Lord blesses him in his next adventure.

We are excited to welcome Nathanael Hope to MCS. He is going to be a great addition to our team!

I am blessed to be a part of this board, and thankful for such an incredible team. We have learned a lot, grown as a team, and we are moving in a good direction. I am looking forward to next year.

God has provided for and sustained us through this year. We pray that next year can look more normal. However, I have confidence we can face whatever comes our way, because we have a great team that relies on the Lord.

Facilities Report

By **Tim Visser, Superintendent**

The Operations Committee oversees three aspects related to the school:

Janitorial-- Gene Bennett has assumed extra cleaning duties related to Covid this year. We are thankful for the additional resources provided by State and Federal agencies used to compensate us for Covid related cleaning supplies. Todd Flikkema has helped with cleaning the MEC. We will again be looking for after school help once we get started again next year.

Transportation-- Todd Flikkema started the year out trying to adjust routes and take on additional sanitizing responsibilities to keep both the students and drivers safe. For the upcoming school year, we are planning to provide routes and services more like what we enjoyed at the start of last year. Mechanically, we have experienced very few problems other than with the Eagle bus. That bus had a series of unrelated mechanical issues that took it out of service for most of the winter. These have been repaired and the bus is operational. Finally, we have a couple of buses for sale. Please check the Weekly for more details.

Maintenance-- With eighteen acres to care for and an aging elementary wing, Scott Kimm has his hands full. We give thanks for his many talents to keep things running smoothly. Some of his work included building sidewalks, painting halls and classrooms, resurfacing floors, and countertops, care for the lawns, and pushing snow around.

Committee Projects--

- **Resurface Floors in the Eagle and MEC--** It has been a number of years since the floors have had a new top coat. This involved having the floors scrubbed and lightly sanded before having a couple of new coats of floor finish. This is something we hope to be able to do every year to better protect our athletes and surfaces.
- **Gate--** There are a number of community people that use our parking lots to connect Churchill Rd with Kunje. Because we needed to limit the capacity on our buses, we have seen an increase in the number of students biking or walking to school. We coned off the drive on the west side of the building to help keep students safe. In reviewing the

impact, we feel it will be best for us to install a gate in the driveway that will only be open for special events. We know this will take some time for the community to get used to this change, but feel the safety of our students during school hours, after school, and during the weekend is a paramount responsibility.

Friends Report

By Randy Visser – Chair

“Friends” of MCS is the booster 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.

Friends is asked to raise around \$210,000 per year. This amount is broken down into three broad categories:

General Fund: \$130,000 Tuition Assistance: \$20,000 Athletics: \$60,000

Fundraising is accomplished through the following list of activities.

- Booster Plaque Program - (Booster, Athletic Ad Boosters, Fine Arts Boosters)
- Cattle Fund Committee
- Fall Harvest Festival
- Spring Dutch Supper and Tulip Mania Auction
- SCRIP Program
- Sporting Event Concessions
- 3 on 3 basketball tournament

The “Athletics” amount of the total comes primarily from athletic activities such as the 3 on 3 basketball tournament, concessions, and the athletic portion of the Booster plaque program. The remaining fundraisers make up the support for the General Fund and Tuition assistance.

Parents with students enrolled at MCS are asked to contribute time toward the fundraising efforts. Each family is asked to sign up for jobs at the various fundraising events. Each job has been assigned a “point” value called Family Service Opportunities (FSO) and families are asked to sign up for five FSO points.

This has truly been a challenging year with regards to the fundraising efforts of the committee. In looking back at last year’s report, I mentioned we had spent time beginning to look at

additional fundraising ideas and opportunities as well as “freshening up” the events we currently hold. This past year we were forced to re-evaluate the majority of our fundraising efforts and creatively try some new and different approaches to meet COVID guidelines, fundraise, and try and maintain a sense of celebrating community and gathering which is such an integral part of our events. Our Harvest Festival became the Twelve Days of Giving. The fundraising side of this event was very successful and we heard many great comments on the ability to be able to participate in an event – even though it was in the form of a drive-through. Our Dutch Supper and Tulip Mania event has just occurred. At the time of this being written, plans are taking shape and we anticipate it to be just as successful of a fundraising effort and we will be gathering as a community for a Dutch Supper. Our Athletic event concessions was not able to operate for the majority of the year, however, through a lot of planning and work, were able to open and sell concessions for the last couple of weeks of Basketball season. This certainly helped with replacing funds, but more importantly, was a huge blessing to those attending the games and brought a sense of normalcy back in a year completely outside of the “normal”. We also charged a fee for athlete participation this year to help off-set some of the drop in gate receipts and concession income. Thank you for understanding and being willing to contribute in this manner.

Our Boosters Program continues to be successful and reaches a variety of businesses with varying advertising and sponsorship opportunities. We are continuing to look at new Booster recruitment and how to tap into a growing business economy in the Gallatin Valley. The cattle program is growing beginning to build some momentum, building on past successes.

I personally would like to thank each member of the committee as well as the heads of our events. This year has stretched us and challenged us. A tremendous amount of work and discussion went into logistically planning every detail of the events, often without knowing what regulations may or may not be imposed at the time the event takes place. A lot of our systems and methods that have been in place for years had to be completely modified to meet differing requirements and standards. This is not an easy task when planning an event for hundreds of people.

The Friends committee also wants to thank the hundreds of volunteers that participated in fundraising efforts this past school year. Often times, volunteers were asked to fill a different role than they signed up for and were expecting. Thank you for your willingness to adjust and move to where you were needed. The committee also wants to thank the many generous individual and business donors that gave freely of their financial resources. The dedicated effort of so many volunteers and abundant generosity of donors continue to make Christian education an affordable opportunity for those parents desiring to train their children in the way of the Lord.

Education Report

By Jeanette Walhof – Committee Member

The education committee consists of Tim Visser, Matt Kamps, Heidi Kuperus, Jonathan Schutter, Kurt Kimm, Marylou Sytsma, Julie Hager, Leah Brower, Sharon Kamps, and Jeanette Walhof. Thanks to all these people for their hard work and service to MCS on this committee. We have been tasked with overseeing the educational aspects of Manhattan Christian, and we have had a busy year! Here are some highlights:

- We continue to discuss our enrollment and class size.
 - A split of Kindergarten is being considered with enrollment projections
- Evaluation of our service given to Kindergarten students
 - Evaluation of learning
 - Evaluation of days in school per week
 - Polled the society to be better informed of their desires for our Kindergarten program
- Through Teaching for Transformation, we are seeking to instill that the mission of Manhattan Christian is being taught from Pre-K to senior year. Teachers are hard at work and being very intentional in helping with this process and developing “Through Lines”, Deep Hopes, Storylines, and Foundational Learning Experiences. We also approved workshop days for teachers throughout the up-coming school year to continue our work with teaching for transformation.
- With humility and reverence, we will be reestablishing our Drivers Education Program at MCHS. We are so grateful for the service of Bob Selles and remember all he did for the benefit of our students at MCS and specifically our Drivers Ed program. We also remember the gifts at talents of those who were a special part of our student body, Alex Van Egmond, Eric Eekoff, and Matthew Lucht. We are very excited to reopen the Drivers Ed Program at MCHS, however Manhattan Christian School covets your continued prayers over the families who lost loved ones in the past as well as beginning drivers and instructors in the future of this program. The program is expected to start this June.
- We reviewed and approved The Resource Room Aide Job description.
- We continue to understand the role of Proficiency Based Report Cards in the Elementary. We are working on implementing this system in our math program in the elementary, which has led to a curriculum review.

- Approved the Split of our Pre-School teaching duties and interviewed for the job.
- Approved the calendar for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Interviewed and/or Approved the filling of the...
 - Principal Position with Nathaniel Hope
 - High School English with Sydni Ayers
 - Drivers Education Position with Jeffery Bennett
 - Resource Room Aid with Jeffery Bennett

Stewardship Report

By Gloria Veltkamp –Admissions Director, Committee Member

The 2020-21 Stewardship Committee included Tim Visser, Mark Bradford, Ryan Ruffato, Darin Hoekema, Erika Kimm, Gloria Veltkamp, and Emily Chaffins. The committee's responsibilities are to oversee the admissions of the new students to our school and to manage the marketing/advertising for our school.

Marketing continues in our use of social media by making our school visible on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter. We continue to keep MCS logo apparel updated for student and community purchase through online stores and inventory on hand. New students are given MCS apparel as a welcome gift. We have had discussions on updating the website and look forward to changes happening this summer.

We were pleased to add 20 new families with 28 new students to Manhattan Christian this school year. Covid limited some classroom sizes but we are very excited to be able to provide Christian education to students in available spots! It is a joy to have families come for tours and share MCS with them. We appreciate every parent's help in spreading the word about our school. Sharing your positive experiences with others is one of the greatest marketing tools that we have. Thank you for your help in sharing these experiences with others.

Athletics Report

By Jeff Bellach – Athletic Director

As I make the first attempt at the annual Athletic Department Report, I am grateful for the many blessings that God has once again bestowed upon the athletes, coaches, and supporters of our Manhattan Christian athletics program. Obviously, this year brought about many challenges, and there were many unfortunate obstacles in place that could have hindered our opportunities to compete, but through each season our coaches, athletes, and families kept their faith in God's

plan which allowed the Manhattan Christian athletic traditions of success and witness to continue in 2020-21.

Despite MHSAA guidelines and mandates and spectator limits, our fall season saw 50 middle school athletes and 48 high school athletes participate in volleyball, cross country, and football (co-op w/MHS). Our boys and girls Cross Country teams, led by Coach Nate TeSlaa, both captured the State Class C Championships on a cold, snowy, October morning in Kalispell. For the girls' team, it was a stunning upset, for the boys, it was a dominating 5th straight State Championship. Our volleyball team, led by first year head coach Hannah VanDyk, for the 3rd straight season qualified for the State C Tournament where they would finish 26-2 and 2nd place in Class C. We also had 3 high school boys participate on the Class B State Champion Manhattan High school football team as a part of the long standing cooperative.

The start of the winter season was delayed by the MHSAA as a precautionary measure and COVID 19. This meant more schedule adjustments on short notice, and the loss of our tip-off tournament in December. Despite the delay, our winter season saw 66 middle school and 47 high school athletes participating in basketball. The boys basketball team, led by first year head coach Layne Glaus, advanced to the State Class C tournament for the 7th consecutive season where they would go on to take 3rd place at State with a 26-2 record, the 5th season in a row with 23 or more wins. The girls' basketball team also advanced to the State C Tournament. This was the 2nd year in a row of qualifying for State. The Lady Eagles went on to finish the season with a 23-3 record and finished in 4th place at State, the best record and finish for the Lady Eagles in 20 years.

As of this writing, our spring sports season is in full swing after a 1 year hiatus due to last year's spring seasons being canceled by MHSAA. Our turnout this spring is once again excellent as we have 43 middle school students and 44 high school students participating in golf and Track & Field. Our boys and girls golf teams have started the season strong and will be in contention for State Titles once again. Manhattan Christian will be the host school for the State C golf meet at Riverside Country Club May 17-19 where the boys will be seeking a 3rd straight State C Championship and the girls will be after a 4th consecutive State title. Our Track and Field teams led once again by Laura Arthun, are also off to a strong start and will be contenders again at the State level in Class C.

Along with all of the successes mentioned in the previous paragraphs, our MCS student athletes and coaches once again had many successful opportunities to display spiritual character and share the love of our Savior in the competitive arena. Were we perfect, absolutely not, nor will we ever be, but the love, guidance, and care of our Savior certainly is and always will be. Isaiah

30:21 says “Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you saying, ‘this is the way, walk in it’”. Our coaches and athletes at Manhattan Christian can be encouraged by the guiding light that our Savior is for us and can continue to strive to “walk the right way” as we compete.

Despite the many challenges, our athletes were able to play full schedules of games, with many home contests, and with at least some fans in the stands cheering. Despite not being able to have concessions and limited fans for many contests, the generosity and commitment of parents and community members made it possible for the games to go on.

Thank you to the Manhattan Christian community for the continued support of our athletes and coaches despite many obstacles, uncertainties, and sometimes frustrating guidelines and regulations that had to be followed in order to make these events happen and give our kids opportunities to compete once again.

Foundation Report

By Ron Hoekema--President

Looking for New Commitments

The MCS Foundation Board would like to thank you for considering your Foundation in your charitable causes over the last year. In a very uncertain year we received 5 annuities, one larger charitable remainder trust, and a number of cash donations and memorials totaling almost \$538,000. We are grateful!

At the end of our fiscal year last August our funds under investment totaled \$3,177,090 , and we were able to dedicate \$150,000 to the general budget for 2020-2021 and assist in our Tuition Assistance Plan (TAP) where needed. Our Mission is still to reduce tuition! This means that we began 2021 with approximately \$3.6M in investments under the prudent guidance of Ronald Blue & Company. These investments have enabled us to make annuity payments to our supporters of \$369,916.08 in 2020, and have committed to \$150000 for the school budget plus annuity payments of over \$300,000 in 2021. Our annuity obligations will continue to be substantial over the next 5-6 years, but thanks to some generous estate planning by a number of supporters will become available funds after their passing. A couple of generous estate gifts that totaled another \$42000 were also received since the first of the year. We appreciate those who include us in their wills!

The above obligations also require a substantial support base and the commitment of our community (society) is at the heart of our success as a Foundation in meeting these needs and our

mission to reduce tuition. At our March board meeting it was decided that a membership drive could substantially enhance this commitment especially since we have lost a number of members over recent years without adding many new members. New membership levels have been established as follows: Maintaining- \$100/yr., Sustaining- \$500/yr., Embracing-\$1000/yr. A letter soliciting new membership is currently going out to an expanded mailing list and many of you may have already received it. An application and letter was also posted in a recent "Connections". Your commitment will make a difference for years to come!

Please consider us in this drive! Remember us in all your estate planning, memorials, and charitable giving! Jim Soft continues to provide expertise in your planning and Ron Hoekema (406-581-1460) would love to sit down with you and talk about the benefits and possibilities.

Thank You from those serving on your board:

John Schutter, Chairman

Darin Hoekema, Vice Pres.

Don Vaniman, Secretary

Bill Kimm

Lauralee Malinauskas, Treas.

Gary Dykstra

Early Learning Center Report

By Stacey Burley & Lorna Wyatt, ELC Co-Directors

The Early Learning Center has once again felt God's amazing guidance through the 2020/2021 school year. We entered this school year with a fair amount of uncertainty of how all the COVID changes and protocol would affect our daily operations. We are extremely blessed to have parents and staff who were willing to do whatever it took to keep our doors open and everyone healthy.

Our attendance numbers are slightly lower as we were maintaining numbers recommended by DPHHS. Our facility provides care to 37 children on a weekly basis, and we will be adding 6 new infants over the next several months. We did suspend our afterschool program for this school year but will hope to have that program up and running again by the 2021/2022 school year. We continue to maintain a waiting list that currently exceeds 40+ families. For the 2021/2022 school year, most of our classrooms are at or near their maximum capacity, and we are waiting to fill the last remaining spots until we receive confirmation from our existing families regarding their future plans. We currently employ 9 women who provide the children with a safe and loving environment to learn and grow in.

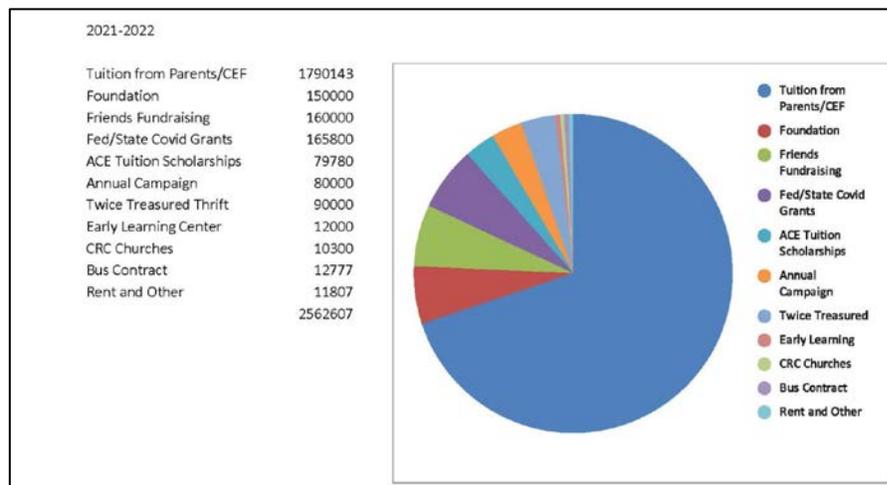
The ELC remains in the Stars to Quality program at a STAR2 level. There are concerns of possible funding cuts, but we remain hopeful that the benefits of this program will continue. There have been a lot of new changes since the first of the year regarding state required policies and procedures, and we continue to make all the necessary adjustments to remain in compliance with licensing.

We are extremely grateful to all the families we serve, and this community for your continued support. We feel so blessed to be a part of these children’s Christian education.

Finance Report

By Mike DeVries, MCS Board Treasurer

We made it through the year of Covid in healthy financial condition. The Covid-19 situation did affect our fundraising but not as much as we all feared. The PPP loan helped to bridge the gap and it has been forgiven. We thought it best to put the new Elementary plans on hold but are just starting to pick up where we left off. We have a balanced budget approved and have been able to increase salaries. We have a lot to be thankful for and look forward to another great year.



Twice Treasured Thrift Report

By Faith Dyksterhouse, Twice Treasured Thrift CEO

We had an awesome year at Twice Treasured Thrift despite all of the unknowns of keeping a nonprofit running during a pandemic. Although there were many times of uncertainty of how to handle different situations we continued to press on.

- Many of our beloved volunteers could not travel, which was a disappointment for them but a blessing for us. The weekly volunteers continued to come in with a smile (behind the mask) always looking for ways to improve what we do at Twice Treasured.
- We were given some of the parents who signed up for the Community Grant, which reduces their tuition, to help out with the day to day work. Many were willing to do whatever tasks that we asked of them in exchange for the Community Grant benefit. This unexpected help was a HUGE boost for all of us.
- Sydni Ayers, who has been a very valuable part of our team, will be moving on to be a part of the MCS staff. Although this is not a positive for us because she will be greatly missed, we are very excited for her to do what she is passionate about and use the talents that the Lord has blessed her with.
- All of our paid staff remained healthy so the day to day running of the store went along happily. There were times however, when we could not keep all the customers happy. Everyone had an opinion on everything “Covid” related or politics. Our staff and volunteers did a wonderful job of serving our customers/donors with Colossians 1:16-17 in mind, “for by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together”.
- We raised **\$90,000.00** for the school. We are humbled by the success of our work. Praise Him!

The volunteers at Twice Treasured understand that their commitment to MCS is an expression of the promise we make at baptism---to be the “village” that supports the formation and education of our children. The entire community shares the burden of Christian schooling. Older generations support younger generations giving of their time and money, grateful for the generations before them that did the same. Our prayer is that new families will be enfolded in the community.

Christian schooling is a high-investment, labor-intensive venture. It requires sacrifices and hard choices at a time when our culture does not always have that same vision. From all of us laboring together at Twice Treasured, we believe our time spent here is a wise investment in helping MCS prepare our kids to go out into the world as ambassadors of Christ but at the same time being ambassadors ourselves showing Christs’ love to those we come in contact with at the thrift store.

Annual Association Minutes 2020

**Annual Association Meeting
Minutes of the June 22, 2020 Meeting**

Manhattan Christian School

Article I

Board President Martin Kimm opened the meeting with devotions and prayer.

Article II

A motion was made and supported and carried to accept the minutes from the 2019 MCS Association Meeting. This includes the correction made on the motion from the previous year, 2019, to change the number of Non-CRC Board members from 2 to 3. This motion did not pass at the 2019 Association Meeting.

Article III

Board elections were made by ballot. There were 32 absentee ballots and 59 members present for a total of 91 ballots submitted. Newly elected board members are Darin Hoekema, Kevin Smith, and Jim Potts.

Article IV

The 2020-2021 Board Nominating Committee members are Nick Venhuizen, Glen Kamerman, Laura Hamilton, Yvonne Kimm, and Ron Hoekema.

Article V

Reports

*Tim Visser: Updated us on the current mandates and restrictions from the County Health Department relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. The CDC is advising 6' distance learning. Finding positive solutions to start up school in August is the goal. A report sometime at the beginning of August will advise parents what that will look like for our students. The financial budget looks good due to the PPP loan that was used to cover our payroll needs.

The current registration numbers indicate that we may have about 15 fewer students than last year. August may tell a different story.

*The MCS Foundation Report was given by Ron Hoekema. The continuous goal remains to build on the funds by more memberships and contributions in order to keep tuition costs down.

*Faith Dyksterhouse gave us a positive update of Twice Treasured. Her emphasis was on the relationships formed between staff as well as with some of the customers who come in to shop. She again appealed for more volunteers so the store can continue to operate smoothly. We were also informed that Sandy VanMiddendorp has decided to retire so there will be a need to hire a person to fill her spot.

Article VI

Jeanette Walhof gave thanks to the teachers, students, families, and the community effort to keep MCS as a viable, Christian school in our community. The retiring teachers represent 136 years of servant heart and teaching experience for our school.

The 3 Board members who had completed their 3-year term of service----Martin Kimm, Jeanette Walhof, and Gary Dykstra----were also thanked for their years of service.

Article VII

Martin thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting in prayer

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 Dordt, 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 (e.g. 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 (e.g. 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 and Nominees

Name	Year of Retirement	Church
Darin Hoekema	2023	Bethel Christian Reformed
Travis Hamilton	2022	Journey Church
*Jonathan Schutter	2021	Bethel Christian Reformed
Kevin Smith	2023	Bethel Christian Reformed
Sharon Kamp	2022	Manhattan Christian Reformed Church
Jim Potts	2023	Manhattan Christian Reformed Church
*Ryan Ruffatto	2021	Bozeman Christian Center
Alan Venema	2022	Bethel Christian Reformed
*Mike DeVries	2021	Manhattan Christian Reformed

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

*Retiring

Nominee Introductions

2021 Manhattan Christian School Board Nominees

Name: Ryan Ruffatto

Spouse: Alysha Ruffatto

Children: Jocee, Will, Jenna, Sam, Ollie

Educational Background (high school, college, degree):

Graduated from Billings West High school

Graduated from Montana State University with a Bachelor Degree in Marketing

Job Position: Co-Owner/Operations Manager - Great Western Insulation

Church Membership (location, years): Bozeman Christian Center – 17 Years

Church Involvement (service, etc.):

Children's Ministry (7 yrs)

Prayer Team (1 yr)

Event Organizer (4 yrs)

Chair of Missions Committee (3 yrs)

Led multiple short term missions trips

Church re-branding team (1 yr)

Deacon Board (7 yrs)

MCS Involvement:

I have 5 children enrolled at MCS

My wife, Alysha (Clark) Ruffatto, is an alumni

School Board (3 yrs)

Little Eagles coach (5 yrs)

Middle School basketball coach (3 yrs)

JV Golf Coach (3 yrs)

C-Team basketball coach (1 yr)

Perspective on Christian Education and MCS:

We feel very blessed to have the opportunity to send our kids to Manhattan Christian School. One of the best things we can do for our children is surround them with a community of believers that share in their faith and encourage them in their walk with God. We believe it's worth investing in Manhattan Christian School to give them a good education embedded in truth and giving them a strong foundation in biblical principles. It helps show them that God is in every part of their lives, including academics, and better prepares them for the world we live in.

Name: Libby Triemstra

Spouse: Rod Triemstra

Children: Christian, Isabella (8th grade) Lucca, Holland (2nd grade), Dominic and Dakota (preschool)

Educational Background (high school, college, degree): Graduated MCS 1998, attended Point Loma Nazarene in San Diego for two years, studied abroad in Florence, Italy for 1 year, and graduated from Montana State University with a BA in English.

Job Position: Co-CEO at the Triemstra Twins household

Church Membership (location, years): Manhattan Christian Reformed Church; attended my whole life and a member since high school

Church Involvement (service, etc.): Nursery committee for approximately 10 years, served/serve as a tot church teacher, help with GEMS, and currently a member of Christian Education Fund committee.

MCS Involvement: I have enjoyed volunteering in each of my children's classrooms over the years, and look forward to continuing to do that as needed for their upcoming teachers. I have also assisted as a coach on past high school girls' basketball teams.

Perspective on Christian Education and MCS: Christian Education is a community of believers joining together to model and guide our children in knowing our Savior and desiring to become more like Jesus. A Christ-centered education is one where we as parents, join with our school and church, and together nurture and lead our children in this light.

C.S. Lewis wrote, “If followers of Christ live as people with chest-strong hearts filled with God’s truth- the world will take notice.” We, as parents, have been given a great charge (and a great blessing), in the task of raising our children. We hope to instill in them God’s truth and love of our Savior.

For myself (& my husband), Christian education is a partnership with this community of fellow believers in our school and church as we seek to raise our children in His light. It is especially important to have strong Christian leadership in place during these trying times! We believe MCS, from the administrators and teachers, to all the staff, coaches, cooks, and bus drivers, is a blessing that we walk hand in hand with along this journey. It is our prayer that we do raise children and young adults that the world will notice-- may they note that the light and love of Jesus is evident in all they do

Name: Tim Dyksterhouse

Spouse: Lisa Dyksterhouse

Children: Trent, Kendal, and Kayla

Educational Background (high school, college, degree):

-High School graduate from MCS

Job Position: Self-employed contractor

Church Membership (locations, years): Bethel CRC – 58 years

Church Involvement (service, etc.):

- High school youth leader-18 years

- 2/3 year terms as Elder

- Building Grounds Committee- 20 years

- Christian Education Fund Committee since 2001

MCS Involvement:

- Building and grounds for many years

- High School assistant track coach for 16 years

Perspective on Christian Education and MCS: On Christ the Solid Rock we stand, all other ground is sinking sand...this simple truth is the foundation of all Christianity. I believe that in a culture that is increasingly becoming intolerant of believers, the importance of Christian teaching of all kinds is more important than at any time in MCS history. Controlling the minds of each of us is the devils top priority. Our prayers and support for all the MCS family is not only vital, but mandatory for each of us to battle the foe. I am thankful for such strong leadership we are blessed with here at MCS. No matter what obstacles lie ahead, we know that with the help of the family and the church, students at MCS will be well trained to not only succeed but to be shining lights wherever God chooses to place them. We are truly blessed to have MCS in this community for so many years!

Name: Stephanie Venhuizen

Spouse: Nick Venhuizen

Children: Ada (10th), Clark (9th), Owen (6th), Lena (4th), and Nora (2nd)

Educational background (high school, college, degree): I was blessed to attend MCS beginning in 2nd grade when my young parents moved their little family from Butte, MT because they desired a Christian education for us. With God's help, they provided just that. I graduated High School at MCS in 2000. After high school I spent some time with YWAM (Youth With A Mission) in a Discipleship Training School, followed by a few months in India. After YWAM I got married and soon enough started a family. However, I did revisit 1st, 3rd, 5th, and some of 8th and 9th grades again during COVID-19 Homeschool.

Job Position: My main job is being Home Base. I am incredibly blessed to spend most of my days taking care of my family and home. I have also been able to love on other people's little ones, offering childcare. Currently, my job duties include Uber rides to Churchill approximately 4 times a day.

Church Membership (location, years): My husband and I have attended Bethel Christian Reformed Church since we started our family.

Church Involvement (service, etc.): In all of my young and adult life, I have very much enjoyed being a part of a church and finding ways to be involved. I remember helping in church nursery before I could properly hold a baby. If you know me, that won't surprise you. In more recent years, I co-led our children's Tot Church program for 8 years. I have volunteered many times in Vacation Bible School, which led me to co-leading the preschool VBS for 7 years. I am

currently a lead counselor for our Awareness GEMS (2nd and 3rd grade girls), and I have been blessed to be a part of the GEMS program for 5 years now.

MCS Involvement/Perspective on Christian Education and MCS: Having five children at MCS with my high school sweetheart is really a dream come true. I see it as a privilege and never take for granted the blessing it is to provide Christian education in these very important formative years. Nick and I have the unique honor to have some of the same teachers teaching our children that taught us at MCS. That right there speaks volumes about our school community and our teachers. I love that I have been a student at MCS and am now a parent. I think that gives me great perspective. As for school involvement beyond the parent responsibilities, I was welcomed for many years into the classroom and on field trips as a volunteer when my kids were young. And in the last 9 years I have been able to co-head the MCS Harvest Festival fundraiser with a great friend. I have a passion for kids and especially their hearts. I think providing children with Christian education is a gift and I daily thank God that His plans are so good and that He continues to bless Manhattan Christian School. I would be honored to serve on the school board if that is where He leads.

Name: Beth Kamerman

Spouse: Glen Kamerman

Children: Doug (5th), Charlie (3rd), and Grant (Kindergarten)

Educational Background (high school, college, degree): MCS graduate-class of 1998

Job Position: Stay-at-home mom, seasonal work at Visser Greenhouse

Church Membership (location, years): Manhattan CRC- Lifetime member

Church Involvement (service, etc.): Tot church teacher, served on the Nursery Committee, previous member of the Evangelism Committee, served on the Pastoral Search Team, and a member of Safe Church Team.

MCS Involvement: Parent volunteer in the classroom for all three of my children, helped with Harvest Festival kids games, helped with food preparation for Dutch Supper, and volunteered at Twice Treasured Thrift.

Perspective on Christian Education and MCS: As our culture continues to stray farther away from the Lord, the need for a Christ-centered education becomes increasingly essential by

the day. All facets and subjects of our children's education should be centered on Christ: Creation, our sin nature, our redemption, and the fate of our eternity. I want my children, and all students at MCS, to learn that they can have a personal relationship with Jesus. Our children should be taught to stand up for their belief in Jesus, which should be first taught in the home but reinforced at school. More parents than ever are turning to private schools for a higher quality education, the freedom that educators have to teach about Jesus, and for their children to have 100% in-person instruction due to Covid restrictions being imposed on public schools. If the Covid crisis has taught us anything, it's that our hope is in Christ alone while we navigate the unknown and the uncertain. I feel so blessed that our students have had the privilege of being back in school full time this year and pray that things will return to a full level of normal for the 2021-2022 school year. I recently watched a documentary that talked about the fact that our children are no longer being taught these two things: common sense and values. I think that is very true. Secular society is hostile to followers of Christ, therefore, MCS must continue to prepare its students to live in a world that is not our eternal home.

Name: Bill Kimm

Spouse: Marian (Schutter) Kimm

Children: Jason (Yvonne) Kimm, Mark (Erika) Kimm, Jodi (Alan) Venema, and Lori (Brian) VanEps

Educational Background (high school, college, degree):

-Graduated from MCS in 1967

-Graduated from Billings Automotive with a technician's license in mechanics

Job Position: Owner and business partner of Kimm Seed Potatoes

Church Membership (location, years): Bethel Christian Reformed Church-Lifetime

Church Involvement (service, etc.): Cadet Counselor, Sunday School teacher, Deacon and Elder

MCS Involvement: Previous Board member (served on the Educational Committee), and currently serving on the MCS Foundation

Perspective on Christian Education and MCS: Christian education is a wonderful gift that we are privileged to give to our children and grandchildren. We show our children how much

we love them when we teach them about the Lord. Christian education begins in the home, but it is also taught in the church and in the school.

We have approximately 18 years with each child in our homes. What better gift can we give them than a Christ-centered education where they will learn to develop their gifts and to stand strong as Christians in today's culture?

Manhattan Christian School is very important to me. I attended MCS for 12 years, graduating in 1967. All 4 of our children also attended MCS for their primary and secondary education; each graduated from MCS. We will also have 9 grandchildren attending MCS in the coming school year. Christian education for our children was the best investment we ever made.

Teaching children from a Christ-centered perspective is so important in every aspect of their lives. With the chaos and uncertainty in today's world, what a blessing it is to educate our young people in the knowledge of God's Word and to equip them to stand firm in their faith no matter what battles they may face in their lives. Educating our children in a Christ-centered institution by a God fearing staff, is the right thing to do. I pray that Manhattan Christian School will continue to be a blessing to many families for generations to come.

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it. ~Proverbs 22:6

Absentee Ballot

Manhattan Christian School

Please vote for three. This will be good toward the first round of voting only.

_____	Ryan Ruffatto	_____	Stephanie Venhuizen
_____	Libby Triemstra	_____	Beth Kamerman
_____	Tim Dyksterhouse	_____	Bill Kimm

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 4 at 7:00 pm. Ballots may also be hand delivered to the school prior to the meeting, brought to the meeting, or placed in the box outside the main doors.

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