



School Board Update

March 2024

Dear Hudsonville Christian School Community,

It is already the end of March! Good Friday is coming, along with Easter and Spring Break, and we are praising God for the great things He has done this academic year.

Thank you to those who attended last week's HCS Society Meeting. Your presence highlights your commitment to our school's mission and our students' success. Your prayer and partnership help us as a Board to serve you to the best of our abilities.

As we move forward, I am excited to share with you some of the highlights from the Society meeting and look ahead at School Board initiatives that will further reinforce the Christian education we provide. We invite you to explore the report and to contact any of our School Board members with any questions or concerns.

Warm regards,

Chad VanSomerén, President
Hudsonville Christian School Board

Key Activities

The primary focus of the School Board over the last few months has been to move forward with active educational, security, building and grounds, and financial projects. Most significantly, budget planning has occurred, with the official budget being proposed and approved for 2024-25. Here is some information presented at the March 18 Society Meeting for you to be aware of.

1. **School Board Member Updates for 2024-25.** Two new members were voted onto the HCS School Board: Brian Mast (At-Large) and Mike VandenBerg (Zutphen CRC). We appreciate the many Society members who applied—we are blessed to have a community willing to serve in this way! We thank Joel VanNoord and Evamarie Eggebean for their years of service on the HCS School Board. Join us in praying for Brian and Mike as they begin their 3-year term.
2. **2024-25 Budget Approved.** For the 2024-25 Academic year, the HCS budget was approved for \$8,706,000. This budget includes a 3.75% increase in tuition costs over the previous year. Along with many slight adjustments, this increase is adjusted for inflation, provides raises for staff and teachers, and allocates resources for new and existing campus maintenance. The budget has been reviewed in detail, revised to be

trustworthy, and prayed over as we steward the resources God has given us and pursue the call He has clearly given us. A detailed budget can be found in the [2023-24 HCS Society Booklet](#).

3. **Faith Campaign Update.** As we reviewed our accounting, a clerical error was identified in the total fundraising amount pledged for the Forward in Faith campaign, resulting in a shortfall of \$750,000. Yet, the amount raised, with grants and an existing PPP Loan, still provides HCS with the financial support to proceed with our building project without additional fundraising. Measures have been taken to prevent future occurrences, and we praise God for His hand of provision throughout the Faith Campaign.
4. **HCS Constitution Suggestions Proposed.** As part of an ongoing assignment, a Constitution Committee has provided a number of suggested updates to the HCS Constitution to ensure our mission, foundational principles, and language are clear and up-to-date. Some of the leading suggestions were reviewed during the Society meeting, including:
 - A potential name change to "Hudsonville Christian School" from "Hudsonville Christian Society School" in our constitution. Though primarily a technical change, this is a change to note.
 - An update to the level of financial contribution necessary to become HCS Society members for those outside or parents, teachers and employees. Currently set at only \$5, likely to reflect a percentage of tuition from a specific period, the committee suggests creating a more current, timeless scale to correlate with tuition rates. The proposal is for 10% of tuition.
 - Establishing a 2-term (3 years per term) limit for School Board members allows for training/establishment of people in roles and on projects but safeguards HCS from rotating a large number off at one time.
 - Updates to Article 8 to provide a more clear notation of the three reformed doctrinal standards we affirm. Though HCS already operates within these doctrines, additional language can help ensure our reformed tradition is unmistakable.

A complete list of the suggested Constitutional changes can be picked up in the HCS Administrative Office. We will provide additional information on the process and your opportunity for input in the coming months.

Looking Ahead

In the coming months, the School Board will continue to invest in the ongoing efforts mentioned above. In addition, our focus will be on:

- **Middle School Expansion & Renovations.** The expansion construction will be completed next month and renovations to existing areas will conclude this summer.
- **Constitution edits.** The committee will continue to review the Constitution, bring edits to the board for discussion and any approved edits will be brought for a vote at a future Society Meeting..
- **Foundation for Transformation.** Teachers and staff at HCS are planning a trip to Israel in **2025**, to provide better opportunities to make the Bible come alive in the classroom for students.
- **New Church Engagement Committee.** This committee will explore and unpack ways that HCS can better partner and engage with churches.

We covet your prayers in these main areas.

The 2023-24 HCS School Board

We would value connecting with you if you have any questions or ideas you would like to put before the HCS School Board. Reach out to any of our School Board members using the contact information below.

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