



Annual Society Meeting

March 11, 2010

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**ANNUAL SOCIETY MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2010 - 7:00 P.M.**

- I. Opening Prayer and DevotionsHarley Jongekrijg
Board President

- II. Minutes of the 2009 Annual Society MeetingDeb Van Heck
(Presented for information only, page 2) Board Secretary

- III. President’s Report.....Harley Jongekrijg
(Presented for information only, page 3) Board President

- IV. Finance Committee ReportJeff Wyrick
(Presented for information only, page 4-5) Finance Committee

- V. Report on which nominees received at least 50 percent of the vote
(See pages 6-7)

(2010 Nominees: Steve DeWitt, Carey Koele
Returning Board Members: Joel Cooper, Lisa Schoonveld)

- VI. Select new Board members

- VII. Report on number of votes for and/or against budget proposal.....Jeff Wyrick
(See pages 8-9) Finance Committee

- VIII. Fundraising and Planned Giving Report..... Bill Huizenga
(Presented for information only, see page 10) Director of Advancement and Promotion
Loren Sall
Planned Giving Director

- IX. Principal’s ReportBill Van Dyk
(Presented for information only, see pages 11-17) Principal

**ANNUAL SOCIETY MEETING
MINUTES
March 12, 2009**

- I. Steve Konyndyk, Board Vice President, opened with devotions and prayer.
- II. Votes were tallied. Those elected to the Board for a three-year term are Tracy Boetsma, Jim Edewaard, Steve Konyndyk and Deb Van Heck. The budget was also approved by a unanimous vote.
- III. Bill VanDyk, Principal, offered closing comments and prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Van Heck

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE ZEELAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL SOCIETY

The Christian school is the expression of the Christian philosophy of life. It brings together one's faith in God and what it means on a daily basis. At Zeeland Christian, our values "to love God, love kids, and teach like crazy" encompass this philosophy.

It is through the love for God and kids, and the passion for teaching that transforms and refines the mind impacting students for lifelong lessons.

We are aware that Christian education means sacrifices in other areas of life and we commend you for making the choice. We look forward to working with you another year as together we strive for the following:

- Strengthening of the promise that God exists and that God has revealed Himself in Jesus Christ, the Bible, and in creation
- An ongoing awareness that God's existence makes a difference for every day decisions
- Unchanging principles of truth that allow us to enjoy God's beauty and grace while holding firm to our values and convictions
- The continuation of working on being selfless with a servant's heart
- Stimulating the minds of children creating intellectual curiosity, and development of God – given gifts
- The development of the unique potential of every student to be used by God in their own personal way

Together, we can work with the next generation to get them to the place of asking "What can I do to contribute to society in the name of Jesus Christ?"

Please join me in continued prayer for the Zeeland Christian School community through the rest of the year and the next.

Privileged to Serve,

Harley Jongekrijg
Board President

FINANCE COMMITTEE'S REPORT TO SOCIETY

The Finance Committee meets on a monthly basis to review Zeeland Christian's budget and to go over receipts. The Finance Committee focuses specifically on the area of tuition. The Committee also spends time looking at ways to contain costs here at Zeeland Christian and makes sure that money is being spent in a stewardly way.

Income at Zeeland Christian comes from many sources, like SMP (Sustaining Membership Plan), individual gifts, and gifts from business. We also have a very active Parents' Club that raises a significant amount of money. But by far the biggest percent of our income, approximately 90 percent comes from tuition receipts. As a Finance Committee, we'd like to thank all those who have given so generously to Zeeland Christian in the past year.

Information from Finance Committee

- **Salary**

Salaries will be maintained at the present level for the 2010-11 school year.

- **Insurance**

Insurance is projected to go up 5-7 percent.

- **Books and Supplies**

Even in this economy, the price of books continues to go up significantly. This year we have to replace our math curriculum.

- **Maintenance**

Our building is in excellent shape and has been very well maintained. But with any facility on 18 acres and comprising more than 130,000 square feet, there are always maintenance items that pop up unexpectedly.

- **Computer Equipment**

Our One to One Laptop Program and our technology in every classroom is a huge blessing, but there are also significant costs associated with this. We are using a variety of methods, including a \$150 fee for middle school students, to help cover this cost.

- **New Programs**

Our Spanish Immersion Program will be expanding into fifth grade next year. The cost of the Spanish Immersion Program is more than offset by the additional students who attend Zeeland Christian in Spanish immersion and family members who are part of our English-speaking classes.

- **High School**

Holland Christian is projecting a slight increase this year, which will be reflected in the high school tuition on our sliding scale.

- Endowment

As you can see from the budget, the endowment number is significantly down. The reason for this is the stock market in the last year resulted in less revenue than we have received in previous years.

- Class size

Over this past year the Board has recognized that there are some classes that were too small and not covering their expenses. As result of this, we are increasing class size for next year to be as stewardly as possible.

- Budget

This year our budget was based on more students than we actually received. Next year we will base our budget on fewer students than we are projecting to make sure that our budget is accurate.

- Sliding Scale

The family mix in our sliding scale has a significant impact on tuition revenue. The mix of families for next year brings in less revenue than the mix of families for this year. Therefore, some of that will have to be made up with an increase in tuition cost.

- Ditto

At this point it looks like Ditto revenue will continue to increase. We praise God for this support.

- Tuition

Based on the above information, the School Board is projecting an increase in the cost of education of approximately \$250 in the sliding scale. This is reflected to various degrees and you should check where your family fits on the tuition schedule.

As a Finance Committee, we are very willing to try to help any families that are facing financial hardship because of the difficult economic times that we are in. If you have a question about the kind of help that we can provide, please don't hesitate to call a member of the Finance Committee.

ZCS BOARD NOMINEES

2010 NOMINEES



Steve DeWitt and his wife Melissa are members of Ridge Point Community Church. They have four children at Zeeland Christian School: Zach in fifth grade, Jace in third grade, Logan in second grade, and Luke in kindergarten. Steve graduated from Zeeland High School and Hope College. **Occupation:** Steve is employed by Request Foods as Sales, Director of Purchasing and Quality. **Church Involvement/Activities:** Steve is currently a Winning At Home Board member and has previously served as a youth group leader. **Thoughts on Christian Education:** “Christian education has been a real blessing and positive experience for our family. We are thankful to be a part of a Christian school that is centered on God’s word, provides quality education, and supports the values we strive to teach at home.”



Carey Koele and his wife Kimberly attend Faith Reformed Church. They have two children: Christian in fifth grade and Evan in second grade at Zeeland Christian. Carey graduated from Sheldon High School in Iowa and Northwestern College. **Occupation:** Carey is a financial planner and owner of Koele Godfrey Investment Group. **Church Involvement/Activities:** Carey currently serves as a pastoral care elder and an HCJB World Radio Board member. He is involved in the Zeeland Rotary where he is a past president and is a former Board member of Good Samaritan Ministries. **Thoughts on Christian Education:** “We are blessed to have the opportunity of a Christian education for our family. The commitment the entire ZCS staff demonstrates with their love of Jesus and growing in Him is evident right as you walk into the building. The teaching of all subjects from a

Christian perspective helps our children see God at work in His world. It is also teaching them to respond in obedient service to Him. What a wonderful lifelong gift to receive!”

RETURNING BOARD MEMBERS



Joel Cooper and his wife, Amanda, attend Third Christian Reformed Church. Their children are Leah, in second grade, and Maggie in Kindergarten at Zeeland Christian. Joel graduated from Zeeland Christian, Holland Christian and Grand Valley State University. **Occupation:** Joel is employed as Director of Procurement at JR Automation Technologies LLC. **Church Involvement/Activities:** Joel has previously served as both secretary and chairman of the deacons, and on Executive Leadership Group. **Thoughts on Christian Education:** “As my daughters grow, I have a deep desire for them to receive an excellent education; one that is encompassed by a distinctively Christian worldview, a worldview that reflects the principles of love, justice, mercy and community as taught by Christ. This teaching, we believe, should happen at home, church, and school.

At school Amanda and I hope for teachers and staff that will pray with our children during good times, bad times, and normal times and will pray with us for our children.”



Lisa Schoonveld and her husband, Tim, attend Calvary Church. They have three children. Kenedy is in fifth grade and Eli is in second grade at Zeeland Christian, and Teagan is at home. Lisa graduated from Zeeland High School and Hope College. **Occupation:** Lisa is a homemaker, and works part-time in the worship department at church. **Community Involvement/Activities:** Lisa is a mentor to a local teen mom through the Young Lives program. In the past she has served as a Sunday school teacher. **Thoughts on Christian Education:** “Being a graduate of a public school, I have to admit, I did not see the value of a Christian education. My family’s experiences with Zeeland Christian have completely changed my beliefs. I see now what a blessing it is for my kids to be able to see Christ in all areas of their lives. I realize now how priceless it is for

them to have teachers and role models that love Christ. It is an honor for our family to be involved in Christian education.”

**ZEELAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
PROPOSED 2010-11 BUDGET**

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
<u>Receipts</u>					
Tuition	\$3,718,224	\$3,934,866	\$4,156,771	\$4,254,578	\$4,392,358
Churches	40,000	40,000	35,000	25,000	25,000
Parents' Club	130,000	130,000	130,000	120,000	110,000
SMP	25,000	25,000	20,000	20,000	5,000
Rent	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Miscellaneous	0	0	0	0	0
Interest	5,000	5,000	10,000	5,000	5,000
Individual Gifts	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	15,000
Industrial Drive	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
Endowment	88,000	94,000	99,000	95,000	64,253
Special Needs	60,000	60,000	60,000	55,000	55,000
Preschool	175,000	180,000	215,000	215,000	220,000
Ditto	<u>80,000</u>	<u>90,000</u>	<u>110,000</u>	<u>110,000</u>	<u>110,000</u>
<u>Total Receipts</u>	\$4,376,224	\$4,613,866	\$4,890,771	\$4,954,578	\$5,046,611
<u>Disbursements</u>					
Salaries	\$2,241,358	\$2,374,753	\$2,431,174	\$2,482,724	\$2,479,424
Preschool	159,662	206,613	214,817	231,364	226,390
Insurance	48,000	50,000	55,000	58,000	58,000
Utilities	120,000	124,000	124,000	125,000	120,000
Books & Supplies	56,000	56,000	62,000	68,000	70,000
Admin. Supplies	29,000	31,500	31,500	33,500	33,500
Building					
Expenses	105,000	125,000	135,000	135,000	135,000
Janitorial Supplies	10,000	10,000	10,000	12,000	12,000
Dues & Seminars	45,500	48,500	50,500	53,000	53,000
Holland Christian	1,175,295	1,188,000	1,358,280	1,337,490	1,490,797
Resource Room	325,000	335,000	350,000	350,000	300,000
Miscellaneous	13,000	13,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Copier Expense	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Library	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
Bad Debts	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Promotion	13,000	13,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Athletic Dues & Supplies	<u>4,500</u>	<u>4,500</u>	<u>4,500</u>	<u>4,500</u>	<u>4,500</u>
<u>Total Expenses</u>	\$4,379,315	\$4,613,866	\$4,890,771	\$4,954,578	\$5,046,611

TUITION SCHEDULE FOR 2010-11

	<u>Tuition</u>	<u>Monthly (12) Payments</u>	<u>Quarterly Payments</u>
<u>Grades K-8</u>			
Kdg. Only	\$4,670	\$390	\$1,168
1 Child	6,834	570	1,709±
2 Children	10,251	855	2,563±
3 Children	12,643	1,054	3,161±
4 Children	14,351	1,196	3,588±
<u>Grades 9-12</u>			
1 Child	8,560	714	2,140*
2 Children	12,839	1,070	3,210*
<u>Combinations</u>			
G1, H1	11,545	963	2,887*±
G1, H2	14,771	1,231	3,693*±
G1, H3	17,069	1,423	4,268*±
G2, H1	13,707	1,143	3,427*±
G2, H2	16,163	1,347	4,041*±
G2, H3	18,034	1,503	4,509*±
G3, H1	15,257	1,272	3,814*±
G3, H2	17,243	1,437	4,311*±
G4, H2	20,375	1,698	5,094*±
ACTUAL ZCS COST	\$5,695±	Last Year	\$5,435
ACTUAL HCHS COST	\$7,133*	Last Year	\$6,930

± A \$150 charge per student will be added to all middle school students for laptop fees.

* A \$370 charge per student will be added to all HCHS students for activity fees and laptop fees. This amount is tentative as of 2/4/10.

Zeeland Christian School is a covenantal family made up of many parents. Many years ago the School Board decided that it would implement a sliding tuition schedule that would allow parents with more children to pay a lower percent of the cost of education. What this means at the present time is that a family with one child pays more than 100 percent of the cost of education; a family with more children pays less than 100 percent.

This system has worked extremely well over the years, but recently we have faced some problems with the system when the last child in a family is in high school and the family wants to enroll directly with Holland Christian to save money. What we as a school society are asking is that if you want to be part of the sliding scale program, you commit to it and stick with it all the way through the time when your children leave the system whether that is in eighth grade or twelfth grade. This way we can continue to provide this service for our families and continue to provide quality Christian education for the children in this community.

FUND RAISING and PLANNED GIVING UPDATE

The Blessed To Be A Blessing campaign continues the third year, which was supposed to be a final wrap-up. Unfortunately, we have been given notice by some of our donors that they will be unable to fulfill their pledges this year.

\$286,000 was collected in calendar year 2009 and nearly \$2.3 million has been collected so far of our total campaign of \$2.7 million for Blessed to Be a Blessing. We now have an outstanding balance of \$233,000 to collect this calendar year. We continue to work with those donors and hope that they will eventually be able to complete their expected gifts. Additionally, \$175,000 for continued laptop computer upgrades and debt reduction must be raised. We ask for your prayerful consideration of ZCS as you fulfill your pledges or make additional donations in this coming year.

Both our Business and Industry Drive and the Holland/Zeeland Community Foundation Endowment Fund saw increases in donations. These dollars go to the general fund, which allows us to keep tuition affordable. The Business and Industry Drive garnered \$51,418 up from last year's \$26,810 while the Community Foundation Fund rose from \$87,000 to \$94,415 in 2009. For this past year there was a total gain of \$188,000 and we now have \$675,446 in our Community Foundation fund, an 18 percent gain. However, we are still overcoming a 27 percent drop in our balance from previous years.

The internal ZCS Endowment fund, as well as the Special Needs Endowment Fund, continues to post gains as it recovers from significant losses. These Funds, overseen by the Endowment Committee and managed by Barnabas Foundation, saw fewer losses than the market norm due to our conservative approach.

Additional good news is we are ramping up for a very solid auction event that will occur Friday, April 16 at ZCS. We hope to top last years \$53,000 but we need you to join us! We will start with a pig roast and chicken BBQ and have some great silent and live auction items available for you. We hope to see you there!

We also remind you that if you have not made a pledge, written ZCS into your estate plan or given a one-time gift to ZCS it is not too late to do so! Supporters of ZCS can receive FREE and CONFIDENTIAL estate planning through the Barnabas Foundation. We know that God is faithful and He has cared for our school these past 95 years. We pray that you can be a part of this opportunity to advance His Kingdom.

We want to say thank you to all who have so generously given of their time and their resources to our various activities and if you have not seen our new facilities, please stop by the school and take a tour.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Huizenga
Dir. of Advancement and Promotion

Loren Sall
Dir. of Planned Giving

**Principal's Report
March 11, 2010**

I. Enrollment Information

A. Present Enrollment:

Threeschool	80	First	84	Fifth	91
Preschool	154	Second	73	Sixth	70
Young Fives	38	Third	70	Seventh	58
Kindergarten	70	Fourth	54	Eighth	69

B. Projected Enrollment:

Threeschool	95	First	70	Fifth	54
Preschool	200	Second	84	Sixth	91
Young Fives	40	Third	73	Seventh	70
Kindergarten	85	Fourth	70	Eighth	58

II. Facilities

We are in our second year of using our 6,500 square feet of additional classroom space. This space has been invaluable this last year because all of the classrooms are full and we praise God for that. Our school building was built entirely with donations. These donations are above and beyond tuition money that is collected from parents. As a school system, we would like to thank the community for its continuing generosity. Our three-year Blessed to Be a Blessing campaign is wrapping up. There are only a few donations that are still outstanding.

This past year we've also had the opportunity to remove a house in back of school and expand our parking lot. This created a much safer environment for the parents and the students.

Zeeland Christian School began in 1915 when the School Society purchased property on the corner of Cherry and State. In the mid-fifties, the school added a building on Central Avenue, and then in 1982 moved the entire program to the Central Avenue location where it has been since then. With the new addition, Zeeland Christian will have 126,000 square feet of education space. We are also blessed with a great sledding hill in back of school. With over 250 sleds in our sled shed, we have a great time in the winter getting exercise by walking up the hill and having fun sledding down the hill. Our property also has two ball diamonds, two soccer fields, and lots of playground equipment. Zeeland Christian's property is used not only by Zeeland Christian but also by Zeeland Recreation and the rest of the community. In addition to the 18 acres on Central Avenue, Zeeland Christian presently owns 74 acres on the southeast corner of 112th and New Holland. This property is in the process of being sold and new property being looked at to the south and east of our present location. Zeeland Christian has a commitment to potential future growth and wants to prepare wisely for this growth in cooperation with Zeeland Public School and Zeeland Recreation.

The halls and walls of Zeeland Christian tell the story of God's faithfulness. If you have an opportunity to walk through the school, you'll see lots of pictures and Bible verses on the walls in the hallways and in the classrooms. When people come into our building, we want not only the staff and students to tell the story of God's faithfulness, but also the

walls and halls. Our educational facility reflects our belief, beginning with the standing stone in the front hallway which reminds us to tell stories of God's greatness. There's also a stained glass window in the front hallway that shows children at Jesus' feet and reminds us that that is our goal – to bring kids to the feet of Jesus. We also have a mural that shows how the Holy Spirit needs to fill the hearts and souls of everyone in this building. We would like to encourage you to take the opportunity to walk through our building and experience not only the education that's going on, but also the spiritual messages that come from the staff, students, and the facility.

III. Preschool

This year there are 285 children enrolled in preschool. The Spanish Immersion Program continues to be a well-received option for parents enrolling their children in preschool. The Drenthe program is another option that serves families living in Drenthe and the surrounding rural communities. Zeeland Christian's preschool program has been a blessing in the Zeeland community, and we pray that we will continue to work hard to the honor and glory of God.

IV. Resource Room

The resource room program continues to meet the needs of many students, teachers, and parents through assessments, support, and direct instruction. This program, with support from the Christian Learning Center, offers help for about 60 students with learning disabilities, behavioral issues (ADD), and other related concerns. After an assessment is completed, the parents and staff generally meet with Doug Bouman, the CLC school psychologist. This program is administered by Janelle Sievert and assisted by Phyllis Patnott.

Zeeland Christian began a program for higher-level thinking students six years ago. Phyllis Patnott staffs this program. Phyllis has experience in adapting curriculum and supporting teachers in integrating higher-level thinking activities into their classrooms so that students who are gifted are challenged to use their God-given potential. Currently, Zeeland Christian is working with other Christian schools through the Christian Learning Center to develop this program further.

V. Reading Recovery Program

Three ZCS teachers have been trained in Reading Recovery. Currently, Sherri Tibbe is the Reading Specialist. She services the first and second grade classrooms and oversees Vicki Bouman's work in grades 3-5 as well as Elizabeth Varela's work with Spanish immersion students. Janelle Sievert is trained and services a first grade classroom along with her duties in the Resource Room. Judy Zwiep is trained and uses her knowledge while teaching in a first grade classroom and serving as Language Arts Curriculum Chairperson.

VI. Counseling Program

We have been blessed with an excellent counseling program here at Zeeland Christian. Jim Heeres, middle school assistant administrator, has a degree in counseling, and Dr. David Winstrom helps us out on occasion, and we have also been blessed with the help of Lindsey Iverson, who is a social worker formerly employed by Bethany Christian Services. Doug Roskamp, who is a social worker at Zeeland Public Schools, also assists

our students.

VII. Inclusive Education

Inclusive Education is a part of Zeeland Christian's educational support services. We offer programming for children who have a variety of disabilities. Children with autism, cognitive impairments, physical disabilities, emotional needs, and other developmental delays can find a place of acceptance and belonging in the heart of the general education classrooms. Friendships and educational growth take place each day as we live together as one body in Christ.

We currently serve over 50 children as part of this program, and we have well-trained staff members who daily meet their needs. In partnership with the Christian Learning Center and support services from Zeeland Public Schools, this program has shown tremendous growth over the years.

VIII. El Puente Spanish Immersion

Zeeland Christian has continued its El Puente Spanish Immersion Program, now in its fourth year. The program currently enrolls students in one to three classes each from three-year-old preschool to fourth grade. Our program model is being used in many other schools around the Midwest. The purpose of a Spanish immersion education is to teach the students Zeeland Christian's curriculum but do all of the teaching and classroom interaction in Spanish. By using this educational technique, students will become fluent in Spanish by the time they reach fifth grade. El Puente is committed to immerse children in the Spanish language and its various cultures in order for them to be better equipped to demonstrate Christ's love to our increasingly global involvement.

IX. One to One Laptops

Over the last several years it has been the goal at ZCS to integrate technology into learning in the middle school. One major step of that goal was to put technology into the hands of the students. Giving the students laptops has allowed us to incorporate technology in the regular classrooms at any time of the day. Information is now at our fingertips, and we have increased the ability for students to collaborate with each other and communicate with teachers. The goal continues to change as we look for ways in which students can reach out beyond our school walls and place their work on a larger stage. Technology is becoming a larger part of all of our lives. We want to continue to look for ways in which technology can change and reform this world for Christ. Technologies like weblogs and wikis and organizations that help classes around the world connect over the internet are part of the vision for technology in the years to come. There is a desire from teachers and students to reach out and make those connections thanks to having the technologies in their hands.

X. Music Education

We are excited about our music program here at Zeeland Christian. The classes are taught by Dave Brummel and Matt Veenstra. Dave's responsibility is elementary general music classes and band. Matt's responsibility is the choir program. The bands and choirs perform in churches as well as school concerts. The band also marches in several local parades including the Pumpkin Parade, Tulip Time, Great America, and Memorial Day. We are also in our fifth year of our jazz band program.

XI. Physical Education

All the students in kindergarten through eighth grade have an opportunity to get involved in physical education on a regular basis. Beth Roels teaches kindergarten P.E. Susan Miller meets the physical education needs of students in grades 1-8 on a weekly basis. She addresses areas of physical fitness, team and individual sports, and movement concepts with the P.E. classes. The “Jingle Jog” has become a P.E. highlight for elementary students. We also have health and fitness classes for middle school students.

XII. Art Education

The opportunity to be involved in art classes this year at Zeeland Christian is really a blessing and something the students enjoy doing. Our art classes are taught by Lynn Groothuis, Tara Meeuwssen, and Amy Luce. The results of this art program are proudly displayed throughout the school and really make the halls and classrooms at Zeeland Christian an enjoyable place to visit. Middle School art can also be seen at artsonia.com. We have a beautiful space to display our artwork in the front entry. If you have a chance to stop by and take a look at it; I’m sure you’ll enjoy it.

XIII. Academic Extracurricular Activities

Some of the examples of these programs are Destination ImagiNation, Spelling Bee, and Art Club.

XIV. Athletic Activities

ZCMS students have the opportunity to participate in either intramural and/or interscholastic sports. The interscholastic sports program is a part of the A.O.K. Christian Athletic League. It includes these Christian schools: Byron Center, Legacy, Dutton, Heritage, Hope, Moline, and Zeeland. The league offers basketball, baseball, soccer, softball, track, and volleyball. Joel Nagelkirk, the athletic director, oversees these activities. In addition, ZCS is in a cooperative athletic program with Holland Christian Middle School. This allows ZCS students to participate in football, swimming, cross country, lacrosse, boys’ tennis, and competitive cheer.

XV. Curriculum

Zeeland Christian continues to develop and maintain its classroom curriculum to provide a quality, well-researched, well-rounded education for its students. This year we have focused on updating our social studies curriculum to meet state grade level expectations. We also have focused on our writing curriculum to evaluate best practices and implement them into our classrooms. We continue to incorporate technology into our classroom learning and to review data from our students' assessments to better our instructional strategies.

XVI. Testing

Zeeland Christian uses the MEAP tests and common assessments to evaluate the general quality of our curriculum and academic program here at Zeeland Christian.

XVII. Middle School

Jim Heeres, middle school assistant administrator, is in charge of the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade program. Working in grade level teams and utilizing block scheduling has

enabled our staff to develop a progressive and effective middle school. The focus on positive relationships with students has led to the development of small group Bible study, worship class, service projects, and camp experiences. The positive attitudes of staff and students have created a Christian learning environment where education takes place in a natural yet effective way.

XVIII. Media Center

The ZCS media center continues to grow as an information center for students and teachers. Students regularly come to enjoy literature, do research, and learn research skills. Using information from teachers, students, and outside book resources, the media center regularly adds new books relevant to curriculum needs and recreational reading. Keri Rees and Ardeane Koetsier staff the media center.

XIX. Additional Information

Our motto here at Zeeland Christian is as follows:

Challenge the mind,
Nurture the spirit,
Encourage obedience to Jesus Christ

It is very important to all of us that everything that we do here at Zeeland Christian needs to follow this motto. To us as a staff, that means that we first dedicate everything that we think, do, and say to the honor and glory of God. We then focus on understanding our students so that we can teach them in the most effective ways possible. Much of our staff meeting time is spent on creating the best curriculum and developing the best teaching methods possible.

This year, we're using a variety of devotionals for our staff devotions. We begin and end the week with the Sh'ma, which says that we as a school staff love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul and with all our might.

A. Communication is very important to the staff at Zeeland Christian. Zeeland Christian communicates in the following ways:

1. The "School Bell" goes out 6-8 times a year to all parents and supporters of Zeeland Christian.
2. The "Blue Note" goes out weekly to all families who attend Zeeland Christian and to many local churches.
3. The staff in preschool through eighth grade sends weekly newsletters home. These are often sent electronically to email sites so that parents are sure to have an opportunity to read them.
4. All of the staff members are using the internet to share important information with parents also. We'd like to encourage as many parents as possible to receive information through the internet so that we can use less paper.
5. We begin the year with a Hillside Prayer and Praise Service. This is a great worship experience and an inspirational way to begin the new year.
6. On the second Wednesday of our school year, all teachers in first through eighth grade have an open house. This is a great time for students to show off their classrooms and for parents to meet the teachers.
7. Parent/teacher conferences are scheduled for both the fall and the spring.

- We encourage all parents to get involved in both sets of conferences.
8. We encourage parents to get their Parent Portal access. This online computer access program, provided through Zeeland Public Schools, allows parents to access their students' school information such as assignments, attendance, and report cards.
 9. There's a lot of information that goes home. It's very important to us that any information that can help us as teachers comes back to school also. Communication from home to school is a very important part of the educational process, and we encourage you to contact the teachers and other staff if there are any concerns or ideas that you may have.
- B. Zeeland Christian staff continues to spend time on the web site keeping it up to date. We are very happy with our web site and its reflection of our school. We would encourage all of you to access the web page at www.zcs.org and get as much information from it as you can.
 - C. Grandparents' Day is a great event here at Zeeland Christian. This year we had over 800 grandparents attend this special day. Both the students and the grandparents enjoyed the time they could spend together.
 - D. The Parents' Club is an organization at Zeeland Christian that raised over \$110,000 last year. This is vital to our survival, and we certainly encourage everyone to get involved.
 - E. Zeeland Christian and Holland Christian have joined forces to create a resale store called Ditto. This store is located on Eighth Street just west of US31 in Holland. So far, Ditto has raised approximately \$125 per student in both the Holland Christian and Zeeland Christian systems. Your support of Ditto both in the form of donations and purchases will guarantee its future success.
 - F. Zeeland Christian is blessed with wonderful support from local churches. Last year these churches donated almost \$25,000 to the general fund budget to help defray the cost of tuition.
 - G. Zeeland Christian is owned and operated by the parents who send their children here and supporters who make financial contributions. Once a year this group of supporters appoints Board members to serve on a thirteen-member Board. Please take the time to say thank you to the Board members who dedicate their time and energy to direct Zeeland Christian School.
 - H. Community worship is an important part of every day at Zeeland Christian. All the classes begin the day with devotions and have an opportunity to talk to God through prayer several times a day. The middle school students also have chapel or small group Bible studies each week. We also have all-school chapels once a month. Family groups made up of students in first through eighth grades get together for fellowship and for service activities. We praise God for these opportunities.
 - I. The staff at Zeeland Christian is a group of hardworking professionals. Our teachers are leaders in their field and spend much of their personal time becoming better educated in the latest education advancements. Our teachers are often asked to be presenters at educational conferences.
 - J. Education at Zeeland Christian would be impossible without the support of parents. Parents are a vital part of the program here at Zeeland Christian. By working together as a team, we can give the students the best education possible.
 - K. Our T.R.I.P. (Tuition Reduction Incentive Program) program continues to run

very smoothly. Deb Vanden Heuvel is in charge of running the program, and it is supported by many loyal volunteers.

- L. Moms In Touch has been active this last year at Zeeland Christian. We thank them for keeping the school in their prayers.

XXII. Closing

Our theme for this year is “Light the Spark of Faith.” This theme was selected at Leadership Camp last year by our eighth graders and is based on II Timothy 1:6-7, which says, “For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.” This theme and these verses have been great for us to remember in this school year. Lighting the spark of faith is the very reason that we do what we do at Zeeland Christian. Please join us in praising God for the opportunities that we have every day to light the spark of faith in the lives of children and other people in this community.

As a school system we have been blessed once again this year. We pray that God will continue to use us as a blessing in our community and around the world.

Sincerely,

Bill Van Dyk
Principal

BALLOT

New board members receiving a majority of votes will be selected by lot.

Vote for each person you approve of within a group			
Vote for at least One			
Steve DeWitt		Carey Koele	
Vote for One		Vote for One	
Joel Cooper		Lisa Schoonveld	
Approve budget _____ Yes _____ No			

The two members who had the option of retiring at the end of their three-year term have agreed to serve an additional term. Based on Board policy, these members need a simple majority of the votes to be appointed for an additional term.