

LSCE Executive report to School Council, February 28, 2018

I want to start by highlighting some work of our Finance Team. To give you a bigger picture, Covenant gets financial support from Alberta Education not just for teaching staff but also for the building (this building support is the rental or lease agreement you may have seen mentioned in the paper). Nonetheless, we recognize that the Christian component costs money—money for training (like Mr. Ward’s trip highlighted in the Chronicle 2 weeks ago), money for memberships (in PCCE, CSI, etc.), money for staff (Lisa Gatzke, bus drivers, etc.). And we are still responsible for capital costs for our building, like expansion. So no one should be surprised that sending children to Covenant means paying more than if kids went to a public school. And, as a general rule, people value what they pay for.

At the same time, we are not an “elite” school. We know that parents send their children here because they are interested in Christian education, not because their family is in a specific economic range. And when the Alberta economy is in a downturn, we know that some of our families are affected. So our Finance Committee has been working on policies to provide bursaries for families in need—for families in particularly difficult circumstances, we as a Society can help share their burden. Families receiving bursaries pay fees at a reduced rate, for a specific length of time. We have more clearly outlined the process to apply for bursaries—the final details are worked out with each family on a case-by-case basis. We also have a bursary program available for those in Christian ministry (pastors, chaplains, etc.), and we’ve clarified that policy.

Now we get to budget time, when we are trying to ensure that the Society meets its financial obligations, raises funds for expansion, manages debt (both now and for the future), and keeps fees affordable. Please keep our Finance Team in your prayers as they prepare the first draft of the budget. The Executive also reviews the budget, and then we present it to you, the Society, at the Annual General Meeting in May.

In terms of expansion, we have received approval from the Christian Reformed Church’s Extension Fund for our loan. We already have a loan with this organization (for when we bought out Ebenezer Church), and they provide good interest rates and payment schedules. We have also added some members to our Facilities Team, and they, along with a rep or two from Black Gold, will be going to see the unit we want to buy. Every indication we have from the seller points to the unit being in good condition, but now that the weather has warmed up, it will be good to take a look. We have also heard back from fire officials, and it looks like we will have to build a fire wall, which we can do quite easily. So we continue to move forward.

Finally, we will hold our annual general meeting in early May. We have two Executive members whose terms have expired (Dan Lake and Thina Ritter) so we will be looking for nominations soon. If you would like more information about the position and the characteristics we are looking for, please contact me. The AGM will include updates from myself on behalf of the Society, Donavin on behalf of the school, Grant Dakin on Society finances/budget. So we will need to have quorum (25 members) attend.

As always, if you have any questions about this report or any other work the Executive is doing, please call or email me (780-986-6067 or emeet@shaw.ca). Thank-you for your participation at School Council and your support of Covenant Christian School.