

2021 IACS Board Retreat Meeting Bluegate Garden Inn @ Shipshewana January 14-15, 2021

Day 1

Members present:

- Dennis Ice, Kenny Roll, John Allen, Kevin Suiter, Rory Bond, Kevin Plew, Brent Floyd, Daniel Stevens, Chuck Phelps, Lee Atkinson, Jeremy Wilhelm

I. Prayer and Devotions – Chuck Phelps

- Dr. Phelps gave a brief overview of the Book of Habakkuk and made some present-day applications and a reminder to put our trust in the Lord as He works His work.

II. Introductions

III. Minutes – Secretary John Allen

- Motion was made by Daniel Stevens to accept the minutes. Seconded by Kenny Roll. Accepted unanimously.

IV. Financial report – Kenny Roll

A. Financial Statements

1. Updated financial statement was presented.
2. Income and Expense Projections
 - a) Teacher Convention (50 attendees with NC; \$500 income)
 - b) Fall Tournament
 - c) FABA – expecting 50% or less in participation.
3. Student Dues
 - a) Last increase came four years ago (2017-2018)
 - b) Recommendation of increase from \$13 to \$14 in fall 2021

- Motion was made by John Allen to raise student dues to \$14, (fall of 2021) with an increase for the next two years of 50 cents per year and then revisit this in winter of 2024. Seconded by Chuck Phelps. Passed unanimously.

4. Investment Balance (Merrill Lynch) - discussion and possible disbursement
 - Dr. Phelps anticipates an estimated \$4,000 loss overall after less income from COVID and balanced with less outgo.
 - Kenny Roll suggested that we transfer funds from our investments to the checking to carry us through the rest of this year.
 - Dr. Ice is going to initiate the transfer of \$32,600 that was approved at the April meeting this next week.
- B. 2021 Housing Allowance Authorization for Dr. Dennis Ice
 - Motion was made to authorize \$27,000 by Kenny Roll, seconded by Daniel Stevens. Passed unanimously.
- C. Authorization of \$500 for Tim Schmig, AACSLegislative Director for AACSGreat Lakes
 - Motion made by Kenny Roll, seconded by Brent Floyd to continuously authorize and include in the AACSL budget line. Motion carried without objection. (This was already voted on in January 2020.)
- D. Insurance Certificate Review (completed)
- E. Business Entity Report Review (address change has been made.)

PHONE CONVERSATION with Eric Miller of Advance America.

- He discussed with us what is going on in the State of Indiana
- He told us of the ongoing emergency powers of the Governor for over 300 days.
- He urged us to contact our legislators about some of the proposed bills.

V. Membership (See documents posted)

- A. Student/Faculty number = 3482; down from 3801 in 2019-2020, a difference of 319 students.
- B. Total 24 schools; no new schools this year.
- C. Loss of four schools
 1. Community Christian School, Connersville - Attendance was way down

2. Hebron Christian Academy, Hebron - withdrew
 3. Hope Baptist School, Dillsboro - Dr. Ice was unable to contact the school. May be closed.
 4. Neighborhood Academy, Indianapolis - Attendance was down and the school was not happy with the cost of the Iowa testing.
- D. Prospective Schools (former and new schools)
1. Frankfort – Changed to a board run school from a church run school.
 2. JayCountyChristianAcademy, Portland – Has been considering membership for several years.
 3. Three Oaks Christian School, Decatur – Contact is Lydia Fox (LFox@threeoakscs.org).
 4. Additional recommendations from Board Members
- VI. IDOE and State of Indiana laws
- A. Eric Miller State House Legislation for 2020 session and beyond - joining us for conference call at 5:00 PM on Thursday (see highlighted summary above).
 - B. New IN Secretary of Education – As of Jan. 11, Katie Jenner, appointed by Gov. Holcomb, has replaced Dr. Jennifer McCormack, Supt. of Public Instruction (previously an elected office)
- VII. Executive Director’s Report – Dr. Kevin Suiter
- A. INPEA Resources
 - They have many helps that would be of benefit to our schools.
 - B. Website Review (suggestions for improvement)
 - Significant changes to web page. **Nice job!**
 - C. Payroll Service Update
 1. We are now using MinistryWorks out of Fort Wayne.
 2. Formal partnership – at no cost to IACS.
 - D. Corporate Documents Review

- Dr. Suiter mentioned that our Doctrinal statement that states our position on homosexuality, gender identity, etc.
- We may want to visit this in our April meeting.
- We ought to investigate our 501c3 status. We are a “domestic charity.” We don’t have a 501c3 designation.
- It was mentioned that Josh Hershberger may be able to help us.
- Applying for 501C-3 status - \$2,000 expense request
- Chuck Phelps made a motion to approve up to \$2,000 for 501c3 status. Second by Brent Floyd. Motion carried.

E. I-Learn 2021

- Still scheduled for this spring.
- You can use non-certified teachers
- Change in accountability grades

F. Iowa Achievement & Cognitive Ability Testing

- Talk it up at our schools. These tests offer much more insight into student learning.

VIII. IACS Meetings

- A. Pastors and Administrator’s Meeting with Recognition of Dr. Ice – Thursday, April 29, 2021 – at Colonial Hills; details pending.

Day 2

Day opened in prayer by Lee Atkinson

VIDEO CALL with Jeff Walton (AACCS President).

- School Improvement ideas
 - A school choice study has shown that Christian schools are underperforming public schools.
 - Dr. Walton investigated this issue and found some generally applicable ideas to help.

- Our schools have often involved with school choice programs, **but have not considered the measuring stick.** (Which would be the I-Learn Test.) We have not paid attention to state standards. We have enrolled large groups of students who are under achievers. All nationally norm tests are based on common standards across the states. Public schools focus on teaching those specific standards and thus do better. If we want to achieve better performance, we need to teach the state standards.
- Another issue is the need to hire academically qualified people. Schools that hire under qualified people consistently have underperforming students.
- We have to genuinely evaluate data. We have to use this information to effectively improve assessment for students and classes.
 - Are our Christian textbook publishers paying attention to the state standards? Bob Jones has historically paid better attention to this. A-Beka Books has in recent years done better with this. If you use A-Beka Books you will have to supplement more helps to fill the gaps. (Teachers pay teachers, Kahn Academy).
- COVID & Education
 - Learning Loss webinar from Department of Education. Jim Blue did the webinar.
 - Average learners because of COVID have lost much progress in reading and math. Christian schools have an opportunity to reach out to dissatisfied parents.
- Concluding thoughts
 - Threats of incoming administration. Religious liberty and “anti-science.” The tip of the spear will be Christian colleges.
 - Next will be limitation of school choice for K-12 schools that don’t approve of gender-identity issues, etc.
 - “Coming out of COVID stronger” podcast. 1. Communication 2. Learning technology that works 3. Effective assessment 4. Take care of your people.
- Discussion was made about the idea of hiring someone or putting a committee together to address the gaps in our curricula. We will think this over and come at our

April meeting and strong recommendation for accomplishing this feat. Hire someone to synthesize the coordination effort.

B. Administrator's Roundtable – June 1, 2021

1. Location?
2. Submit recommendations for discussion items to Kenny Roll

IX. New Business

A. Improving our Schools – Discussion with Jeff Walton Ex. Director of IACS – Joining us by conference call @ 8:30 AM. (see summary above)

B. Special Election

1. Vice-President – Open Ballot

- Lee Atkinson was voted to be the new V.P.

2. New Member of the Board – Recommendations received

- a) Justin Wilderman
- b) Matt Elliott

- Motion by Chuck Phelps, seconded by John Allen to ask Matt Elliott to join the IACS board. Motion approved.

3. Two additions to the Athletic Committee – Recommendations received

- a) Small school – Jeff Pope
- b) Large school – Zach Gore

- Motion by Daniel Stevens, seconded by Lee Atkinson to ask Jeff Pope and Zach Gore to be on the athletic committee. Motion approved.

C. Shifting paid INPEA membership from Crosspointe to Colonial Christian in Aug. 2021.

D. Homeschool Sports Policy – Mr. Kevin Plew

- Suggested change is that homeschool students must take at least one class.
- Discussion followed considering the pros and cons of this change. We went around the table to express various views by board members.

- Kenny Roll suggested that under the present rules, that the names of players be submitted in September membership list. That keeps out

any surprises. All agreed.

- Kevin Plew will go back to Athletic Committee to further discuss these issues.

E. Appointment of IACS Secretary. Dr. Suiter recommends Miss Rebekah Lewis.

- Jeremy Wilhelm made a motion to hire Rebekah Lewis to be the IACS secretary, Rory Bond seconded the motion, Motion carried.

F. Fall 2021 Teachers' Convention Options

1. September 24- 25, 2020 at Schaumburg or **September 30 & October 1** in Temprence, Michigan @ Stateline Christian School.
2. Discussion about relocating our meeting to Michigan.
3. Tim Schmig available for a conference call between 11 AM and noon.

- John Allen made a motion to join with Michigan on the three year rotation, Rory Bond seconded the motion. Motion carried.

X. AACCS Ministries

A. AACCS L.E.A.D. Conference – February 1-3, 2021, Chattanooga Tn. -- VIRTUAL

B. AACCS Youth Legislative Training Conference - July 5-9, 2021

1. \$350/student
2. Indiana gets 2 - 3 students and has budgeted \$750.

C. AACCS Legislative Conference – September 13-15, 2021, in Washington, DC

D. Accreditation and Re-accreditation teams for 2020-2021

1. Union Bible Academy (Westfield), Nov. 16-17, 2020 (completed)
2. Chapel Hill has been postponed.
3. Plum Creek Christian Academy, February 22-24, 2021
4. Covington Christian School, April 5-6, 2021
5. Accredited IACS Schools – 16 of 24 schools (see posted document)

- E. AACS needs funds for new office space. (Suggest IACS send \$500)
- XI. Updates on previous and yearly information
- A. Athletics – Kevin Plew, Director
 - B. 2020 Soccer and Volleyball Tournaments
 - C. 2021 Basketball Tournaments
 - D. Fine Arts, Bible & Academic Competition - Kevin Suiter
 - 1. Senior High at Colonial - Virtual
 - 2. Middle School at Suburban - Virtual
 - 3. Colonial will handle online registration for both levels.
 - 4. Academic and Bible Testing online
 - 5. Bible Quizzing – delayed from March 11 until May (date TBA)
 - 6. Responsibilities and Remuneration
 - 7. FABA Manual update
 - E. AACS/IACS Student Leadership Conference, September 20
 - F. Calendar 2020-21 and 2021-2022
- XII. Closing comments & prayer
- Being no further business. Daniel Stevens closed the meeting in prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Allen