

Great Plains Lutheran High School Association May 4, 2024 Meeting Summary

The Great Plains Lutheran High School Association delegate assembly met on Saturday, May 4, 2024. The meeting was held with in-person and virtual attendance options, with 38 delegates representing 18 congregations, as well as three individual members, in attendance.

Presentation

Delegates and the Auxiliary heard a presentation by GPL's Learning Resource Coordinator, Emily Cantwell. She spoke about the training and experience that prepared her to serve in this way, and described how a variety of students are receiving academic support.

Elections

Elections are held each May. Virgil Borns, Alex Hunt, Jordan Kjenstad, Rev. Albert Meier, Nate Scharlemann and Heath Stone were thanked for their service to the Endowment Committee and Board of Directors.

David Davis was elected to the Endowment Committee, and Alex Hunt, Jordan Kjenstad, Tim Leins, Rev. Albert Meier, and Heath Stone were elected to the Board of Directors. All those nominated and elected were thanked for their willingness to serve.

Report Highlights

- Treasurer Jeremy Holmen noted that a change in how some of our funds are held is resulting in increased interest income. He also noted that income and expense items for fiscal 2024 are in line with budget projections.
- President David Maertz noted that we currently have 136 students enrolled, will graduate 27 seniors, and anticipate an incoming freshman class in the mid-thirties. He asked that everyone pray for current and future students, tell the GPL story, and encourage families regarding enrollment of students at all grade levels. President Maertz also noted that we are looking forward to welcoming our new Principal, Kyle Bender, this summer.
- Campus Pastor Karl Schauland noted the whirlwind of activities taking place in the final months of the school year as well as efforts to provide

guidance along the way. This includes sitting down with each senior to discuss and plan for graduation and future endeavors.

- Among numerous mission advancement efforts, Director of Mission Advancement Jeff Roloff spoke about recruitment efforts in our Lutheran elementary schools and congregations, including presentations at confirmation classes. He also encouraged delegates to offer the questions and ideas that will help us improve and grow.
- Chairmen from our five standing committees commented on tasks accomplished over the previous six months and items to be addressed in the months ahead.

2023-2024 Proposed Budget

A budget of \$2,351,054 (5% increase) was approved for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. This budget maintains a support goal of \$185,000 from association congregations and income from students totaling \$1,230,450, based on the projected enrollment of 143 students.

Praises Continued

Delegates heard an update regarding plans for a four-classroom addition to our school. The budget estimate for construction is \$1,611,352. The total cost including all fees and furnishings is estimated to be \$1.8 million. This addition will include:

- The classrooms we need for current and future academic needs
- Remodeling an existing classroom for needed office and meeting space
- Upgrading the façade of the school entrance

Delegates were also provided with an update regarding the *Praises Continued* campaign to raise the funds needed for this project. To date we have received \$1 million in gifts and pledges. We are also blessed to have undesignated estate gifts which can be allocated for this project, enabling us to go forward without taking on any additional debt.

The delegates approved the recommendation of the board to go forward with the project, utilizing up to \$900,000 in estate gifts.

Groundbreaking is scheduled for June 12 in conjunction with the Dakota-Montana District Convention.

Thank you for your prayers and support!