

# ACS BOARD NEWSLETTER

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ADAMS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL BOARD 2019-20		
Executive Committee	President	Ed Ophoff Jr.
	Vice-President	Joel Bodbyl
	Secretary	Brent Snippe
	Treasurer	Joe Kuiper
Members	Jason Elzinga Dan Kooienga Derek Kuiper Jed Pipe Tim VanTil	
Administrator	Rick Mingerink	
Committees (first listed is chairman)		
Building	Tim VanTil, Dan Kooienga, Derek Kuiper, Jed Pipe	
Education	Joel Bodbyl, Ed Ophoff Jr., Jed Pipe, Brent Snippe	
Finance	Joe Kuiper, Jason Elzinga, Derek Kuiper, Tim VanTil	
Enrollment	Ed Ophoff Jr., Joe Kuiper, Jed Pipe, Brent Snippe	
Federation	Joe Kuiper, Joel Bodbyl, Dan Kooienga	
Foundation *	Jason Elzinga	
Long Range Planning *	Tim VanTil, Dan Kooienga	
Publicity	Brent Snippe, Derek Kuiper	
Special Education	Jason Elzinga, Joel Bodbyl, Dan Kooienga	
Technology *	Jason Elzinga, Jed Pipe	
Transportation	Derek Kuiper, Dan Kooienga, Ed Ophoff Jr.	
* These committees have additional members from among the staff and the broader constituency. Only the Board representatives are listed here.		

## The Academic Experience

**Mr. Brent Snippe**  
Secretary, Education Committee

When pondering the academic experience (our own of years' past, our children's here and now), there are many important parts. The curriculum, classmates, and culture of the school come to mind. But one of the most important parts of a good academic experience is a great teacher. I think we can all agree that there is at least one teacher (hopefully, more than one!) that stands out in our memories, who made such a difference in our life at that time, and indelibly left a mark on us forever. A teacher who changed our lives for the better. As parents, we hope that our children will get to experience the joy of a magical teacher year after year.

As we look ahead to the upcoming 2020/21 school year, it's probably safe to say that we all have a renewed appreciation for our beloved teachers. These teachers who love our children. These teachers who love teaching our children. These teachers who did whatever necessary to continue teaching our children despite the stay-at-home order. Who had to dramatically alter the course of their teaching so that parents could oversee the learning at home. Who seemed to be available 24 hours a day to answer questions from students and parents alike. Teachers who set up Zoom meetings with their classes so that the kids could feel connected and could see their friends. Teachers who let their students know regularly that they missed them and longed for everyone to be together again. So many gestures of love that have left their marks on our children. How can we ever thank

these teachers enough for the blessing that they are to our school and our families?

Though there are many uncertainties as we look ahead towards the fall, we can be confident that the great teachers at Adams Christian School will continue to give themselves wholly to the academic experience of our children. Thank you, teachers, for your love for our covenant children. Thank you, teachers, for your work!

*"We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers," (1 Thessalonians 1:2).*

## Transportation

**Mr. Derek Kuiper**  
Chairman, Transportation Committee

As we anticipate the 2020/21 school year, not much has changed, or will change in the transportation department. We have seen a slight change with the north route picking up a few more children this year. Overall, we have gained 10 families this year, which is good news considering we have seen a gradual decline in bus use over the past few years. Other than that, the buses have been inspected, the proper yearly maintenance has been completed, we have drivers who have been trained and the routes have been planned. All of the normal routine preparations have been made and we look forward to another year of transportation. We thank our drivers, Jill Essenburg, Melissa Looyenga, Jodi Gunnink, and Ellen Kamps for their continued dedication to this work for our school.

Our buses use roughly six thousand gallons of fuel each year, traveling nearly thirty thousand miles. They service fifty families and stop roughly eighteen thousand times per school year. Some may take the busing for granted each year, and I humbly admit that being put on this committee at first I thought this was a very insignificant, mundane part of our schools operation. Upon further reflection of this, I cannot help but stand in awe of God's care guiding every single one of those miles and every stop for the protection of our children and bus drivers. We are thankful for this and it is our prayer that He will continue to do so in the coming school year.

In writing this I tried every possible way I could think of to avoid that five letter acronym that begins with C, but it is nearly impossible. We must go forward with the knowledge of our sovereign God in all of this, and be thankful that he has so determined if our children are not only able to return to school this fall, but also that we are able to utilize our transportation operations.

Let us begin the transportation season remembering the very fitting words of *Psalms 121:8* "The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore."

## I, Me, My, Mine – Oh, and My Neighbor

Mr. Joe Kuiper  
Chairman, Finance Committee

*“Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.” (Philippians 2:4)*

A new school year always brings new challenges. This upcoming school year is certainly no exception. Challenges for our school and challenges for the families of our school. Government orders, reality of facemasks, and the dreaded possibility of remote learning. Aghh!! Along with all of the challenges and frustration that will no doubt exist, we are presented with a wonderful opportunity to think of our neighbors, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Our children have a special day for it. They call it “Consider One Another Day”.

You may wonder how this article fits with the Finance Committee. Loving our neighbor is all over the finances of ACS.

- A sliding tuition scale
- A support drive that provides over twenty percent of the annual budget
- Donors who give significant amounts every year, some who did not even go to ACS or send their children to ACS, all to help us
- Educational programs only used by some, but funded by all
- Church collections
- Volunteers

The list could go on and on. All of these include the giving of God’s good gifts for the cause of another.

There are some temptations the COVID-19 situation creates that I would like to address. “I might as well homeschool if we have to do remote learning. Why would I pay tuition for this?” It may be understandable that this thought creeps into one’s mind. The thought process goes something like this: If I have to teach **my** kids at **my** home, then why would I give **my** money when I am not getting what I am used to or I deserve in return for the money that is **mine**? I, me, my, mine. But what about my neighbor? If everyone took this approach, the school would have no funding, and within a few months would be forced to lay-off all of the teachers, staff, administrator, etc., close the doors, and sell the school property. Then when in-person learning is allowed again, we are without a school building, without teachers, without one of our greatest blessings, our good Christian school. All of us. Or...I could consider my neighbor. Remember the donor who gives, every year, cheerfully, who has never, ever, even once, received one ounce of services from ACS. They remember their neighbor. They remember Covenant Christian education!

When we consider whether we wear a mask, let’s remember our neighbor. When we pay our tuition, let’s remember it isn’t just for our own family. When we consider the support drive, let’s remember our corporate responsibility toward Christian education.

What’s in it for me? Maybe nothing....except that I’ve loved my neighbor as myself. Which is good....for me.

*“..and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, it is more blessed to give than to receive.” (Acts 20:35)*

## 2019-20 Tuition Schedule

	Without Bus		With Bus	
	Total	Monthly	Total	Monthly
1 Child in Kindergarten	4,741	395	6,041	503
1 Child in School	6,950	579	8,250	687
2 Children in School	9,246	770	10,546	879
3 Children in School	10,768	897	12,068	1,006
4 or More in School	12,380	1,032	13,680	1,140

## Changes

Mr. Tim VanTil  
Chairman, Building Committee

September 1996 was the first time I had stepped foot into the little red schoolhouse known as Adams Christian School. I was an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at the time and had been uprooted as a student from Hope PR School to finish off my elementary learning at Adams. Back then our school building was barely big enough to accommodate all the students. When Adams moved to the current location many years ago, we did not even have a gym to have chapel or PE in. Today, in 2020, when I walk the hallways at ACS, it amazes me how much has changed in 24 years. The Lord has truly blessed all of us here at ACS with a growing school and a large beautiful facility. We have seen in the past few years many expansion projects. We have gone from only having one class per grade, to two classes per grade in most cases. With all these expansion projects comes upkeep. We are called as God’s children to be good stewards of that which he has blessed us with. As a building committee we are working hard to keep our facility in good working order. There are several projects that will be accomplished this summer while school is out. The masonry expansion joints and other areas of the gym will be caulked and sealed, as well as a fresh coat of paint. We have contracted Meulenburg Painting to tackle that project. Meulenburg will also be painting the interior of the gym. Once the interior painting is finished, new sound panels will be installed as well. The original part of the building is not getting any younger. As a committee we are looking into what it will cost to replace that roof. We believe the life span on that roof is between 3 to 5 years. We will continue to repair and maintain as needed until a new roof can be installed.

There are several people behind the scenes who many of you may not know even exist. We want to thank those individuals who have worked hard to clean and maintain the school building. We want to thank the maintenance supervisor for his work during the summer months fixing and buttoning up many projects in the building. Curb appeal is another aspect of building maintenance. We want to thank the grounds maintenance supervisor for all the time he has spent in the past years improving and maintaining our grounds. The new baseball diamond is a great addition to the grounds at school. The Long Range Planning committee is grateful to the Boosters Club for donating a score board which will soon be installed for use with the ball diamond. The LRP is also grateful to the Mothers Club for donating funds which will go for a new piano, as well as a few new additions to the playground.

We are thankful for all those who have made these additions and changes possible. While we have seen many changes in the world and to the school over the last 24 years, one thing has not changed: God’s faithfulness to us. We are thankful to God for leading and guiding our school through these past years as we continue to grow. May we be encouraged by the words of *Deuteronomy 31:8* “*And the LORD, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.*”