

April 1, 2020

Dear Members/Supporters of Calvin Christian School,

The Lord watches over our coming and going, both now and forevermore. These are difficult times, and it has been our privilege as the board of directors to see our school find sure footing even in shifting sand.

We write today in the first of what will be regular communications from the board to the membership, through this pandemic.

Mr. Boonstra and the administration and faculty have been walking parents and students through the shift to online learning, which the board supports and has found to be a great comfort. Our school's mission has not changed, only temporarily its delivery method.

Financial Position

The board is responsible to you, the CCS Society, for the mission faithfulness and the long-term financial viability of the organization.

Led by our finance committee, the board is looking at financial forecasts not only through this school year but for 2020-21 also. It is too early to know how the economic difficulties may affect enrollment demand next year for our West 5th campus or Unity Road campus. We will update the Society in the coming weeks.

But we do know several things.

First, our educational delivery is continuing as before, through new forms and channels. We have an advantage in that our students are known by their teachers. Our teachers have worked very hard on learning plans built on relational continuity. Though our building is closed, our teachers continue to equip our students to shine. As an employer, CCS has contractual obligations and expenses that continue (salaries and benefits for our faculty and staff comprise over 75% of our annual expenditures). And while we can limit some variable costs like fuel, CCS also will see some funding from fundraising events, facility rentals, and the Re:Source thrift store interrupted.

Second, we would like to offer some tools and information for families facing financial difficulty. We know this period is difficult for all of our families. Some families have expressed questions or concerns to us regarding their tuition expectations. We know your commitment as members and parents to Calvin Christian School. We are not just an employer, and not just an education service provider. We are a Christian community committed to working with you in love through this challenge.

CCS is offering parents the ability to spread outstanding 2019-20 tuition payments over more months than usual. We invite you to reach our finance manager, Melissa Vander Wier to work out details.

The Board will continue to explore all avenues of support for families. Parents can expect another communication next week with more financial options.

The Canadian and Ontario governments have also announced major initiatives to return money directly to parents and to those who've lost income because of the shutdown and its effects. At time of writing, payments applicable for CCS families could include one-time payments per child from the Ontario government; increased Canada Child Benefit; and wage subsidies just announced by the federal government. Visit these links for more information and to find out how to apply:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/notices/coronavirus.html>

<https://business.financialpost.com/personal-finance/taxes/what-the-government-is-offering-you-in-coronavirus-related-benefits-and-how-to-get-them>

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/emergency-benefits-what-each-province-is-offering-during-the-covid-19-pandemic-1.4869158>

Unity Road Campus

The Board is studying all of our options for our new Unity Road campus, including the timing of our opening, delaying construction costs, and timing our capital campaign.

We will provide further updates in a week or two.

Membership Meeting

We continue to plan for our spring membership meeting, to be held either in person or by phone or videoconference. Please keep Wednesday, May 27, 7:30pm in your calendar as we look ahead to passing our next budget, electing new board members, and considering how Calvin Christian School can thrive in this moment. We also encourage your nominations of new board members, as we need at least three to replace retiring members. Contact boardsecretary@ccshamilton.ca.

In Closing

Calvin Christian School exists to assist parents by providing for each student a Bible based elementary education.

This is a season where we lean a little more on one leg of the classic "three-legged stool" of church, home, and school. You as parents have more added to your plates. Our faculty and staff will support you in education, and the Board will support the long-term future of Christian education for you and your children.

And we rest in the grace of Jesus Christ, who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy (Jude 1:24). May He bless the work of our hands.

Sincerely,

The CCS Board of Directors:

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