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The Messenger

MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

Summary of AACNS National Legislator's Conference in Washington, D.C.

September 12, 2013

I arrived home last night from Washington, D.C. and the AACNS Legislative Conference held there. Thank you for the privilege of being able to go each year to this conference. What a blessing to be able to lobby our Congressmen and find out what is really going on in our nation's Capitol.

There are four issues that we lobbied and distributed letters regarding:

Early Education – It is on our President's agenda to offer free preschool for four- year olds by the end of his second term. Furthermore, the government's plans to 1). reduce the autonomy of all schools to select their own curriculum, 2). require state or federal licensure for preschool teachers, and 3). implement national kindergarten testing, are all things that we lobbied against at the offices of our MN delegation.

ESEA Reauthorization – Historically, seven



(Continued on page 2)

Educator's Convention Oct. 2 - 4 in South Bend

This year's Great Lakes Christian Educator's Convention takes place at Community Baptist Church in South Bend, IN. This year's theme is "Pressing Forward" and all the details can be found at this site: <http://www.glcec2013.com>.

Speakers for the general sessions are: Dr. David Pennington, Senior Pastor at Community Baptist Church in South Bend, IN; Dr. Bob Loggans, Senior

Pastor at Calvary Baptist Church in Watertown, WI; and Dr. Doug Jackson, Senior Pastor at Community Baptist Church in Saginaw, MI.

There are quite a variety of workshops to attend during the breakout sessions. For full details, please see the website, but a listing of workshop titles is included below:

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reauthorizations have taken place as the bill has been known by different names. The most recent being President Bush's "No Child Left Behind." The problem with another reauthorization is that discussions, so far, have not included any exemptions for private schools. We lobbied for those exemptions. I had appointments with legislative aides in charge of education at the office of Representatives Paulsen, Ellison and Walz. There is a definite difference in the viewpoints of our Democratic Representatives on the four issues mentioned here. In Representatives Ellison and Walz's offices, I was heard, but strongly disagreed with. A seed was planted in both places as discussions are beginning to take place about ESEA in both houses of Congress. H.R. 5 and S.1094 have been written and introduced in both houses of Congress to add private school exemptions. Democratic Representatives and Senators are fighting the exemptions. Representatives Bachmann, Paulsen and Kline were already on board with us and support the exemption language. Legislative aides from Representatives McCollom and Peterson's offices were unavailable to meet with me.

The **HHS Mandate** is being fought in the courts. In Obamacare, the HHS Mandate does not allow for individuals to "retain the

right to provide, purchase, or enroll in health coverage that is consistent with their religious beliefs and moral convictions." There are some 37 cases that are pending on some aspect of this mandate. The good news is that the Supreme Court will most likely hear this case soon. Liberty Counsel, The University of Notre Dame, and Hobby Lobby are three of the 37 organizations that have brought cases through the courts on this issue. The Democratic Representatives are confident that all efforts to challenge the mandate will fail. Aides from Representatives Walz and Ellison were quick to point that out to me. Should this mandate go through, we will lose a huge chunk of our religious freedom. Christians will not be able to live out their faith in the public arena on matters of conscience. Where will this lead? Perhaps we will only be able to practice our faith in the confines of our church walls, but will we be able to share our faith and our convictions in our everyday life in secular society?

Rearing its ugly head again, but not gaining a lot of momentum is the **United Nations Rights of the Child**. It is the Administration's desire to follow the mandate of the United Nations regarding the upbringing of our children. In response to this, many conservative leaders in Congress have brought up the Parental Rights Amendment again. It is not clear whether there will be a push on this issue from the Administration this

MACS Calendar 2013-14

October 3-4 – Great Lakes Teacher's Conference
in South Bend, IN

October 24-26 – MACS State Volleyball and Soccer Tourney
at Rosemount

November 1 – Choir Festival at Fourth Baptist

January 24 – Student Leadership Conference
at Fourth Baptist

January 28 – Legislative Breakfast at Kelly Inn in St. Paul

February 6 – MACS Speech and Bible Festival at Woodcrest

February 27 – March 1 – MACS State Basketball Tourney
at Fourth Baptist

March 6 – MACS Jr. High Festival

April 4 – MACS Fine Arts Festival at Fourth Baptist

April 4 – MACS Annual Meeting at Fourth Baptist





term, but we are talking about it now with our Congressmen. The American Association of Christian Schools (MACS is the state chapter) communicated that "Parents should be allowed to direct the upbringing of their children and that American legislators, not international tribunals, must make the public policy for all American families and children."

Overall, the battle lines have been drawn between the conservatives and the liberals in Congress. Not much is being accomplished through traditional standards of passing bills, so the Administration is working hard to pass its agenda by means of the courts and grant competitions like the Early Education Grant that our state won two years ago. We continue to fight the ECIP's (or Early Childhood Indicators of Progress) as a result of the grant. In Governor Dayton's Education Bill, which passed at the end of the last session, private schools do not have an exemption regarding the ECIP's that have already been written by the state. Many of these objectives are simply generally accepted expectations of what children should be able to do at the preschool age. But many of the already written ECIP's do not belong. They were written to indoctrinate children about gender issues, tolerance, etc. In discussion with several of our state legislators over this issue, we found out that these indicators, or objectives would be rewritten in the coming months. I met with the person (at the MN Dept. of Education) who was given that responsibility back in late July. She continues to assure me that we will be invited to public meetings that are scheduled to be held in the coming weeks. It is at these public meetings that we are going to need a strong presence and response. We must not allow this agenda to dominate our early education system.

In the same way, the "Safe Schools Act" (a.k.a. Anti-Bullying Legislation) is an effort to accomplish the same objective. A grass roots effort is underway to educate the public about the dangers of this bill. You can research this bill on your own at the following website: www.mnchildprotectionleague.com. This bill will change the face of public education and eventually affect private schools. This act takes power away from districts to control their curriculum and mandates that issues related to gender and tolerance be at the forefront of the educational process. This undermines what many parents are teaching at home as well as what should be taught in our schools.

Currently, private schools have a very weak exemption in place. We are pushing for a full exemption and will communicate with you soon regarding action that will need to be taken.

In our state, there continues to be a real push to implement an agenda which will cause the gay lifestyle to become an accepted, normal part of MN life within a three-year period. This attack is moving ahead with full force against pre-K thru 12 education. It has strong support in our legislature as well as from our governor. We must pray and take action so that we don't lose the battle in the moral education of our children. We can no longer sit idly by and say that this will not affect us in our Christian schools, home schools, and church bubbles. We are in the process of losing this battle, but the fight is not over. We must engage soldiers and get down on our knees and pray and we must become active in the fight. The indoctrination of our children in our government-run schools is on-going and millions of dollars are prepared to be released in this onslaught if the "Safe Schools Act" is passed. Please educate yourself and become involved in the process.

I was able to learn many things on this trip and wish I had about a week to just sit down and write. I continue to learn more about how the new worldview of "Postmodernism" is affecting culture. I also heard a wonderful defense of "marriage" (from a secular viewpoint) from Ryan Anderson (Heritage Foundation) and want to include some of his thoughts in my worldview presentation spoken about in our recent MACS meeting. There is so much to do and so many time constraints.

Thank you for your interest in legislative issues and I will update you as I have news. God bless.

~Alan J. Hodak, FBCS Administrator & MACS Executive Director



GRANITE CITY BAPTIST ACADEMY TOURNEY

Granite City Baptist Academy recently hosted their 26th annual soccer/volleyball tournament. It was a great two days (Praise the Lord!) Following are the results from this year's event.

SOCCER	W	L
Chisago Lakes	3	0
Heritage (Karlstad)	2	1
Faith (Foreston)	1	2
St. Cloud / Twin Points	0	3
ALL-TOURNAMENT		
Alex Brink – Chisago Moresse Chatman – GCBA Shawn Golightly - Heritage Bryton Hanson - Heritage Christopher Johnson - Faith MVP: Cris O'larte – Chisago Lakes		

VOLLEYBALL	W	L
Faith (Foreston)	3	0
Twin Ports / St. Cloud	2	1
Chisago Lakes	1	2
Redstorm	0	3
ALL-TOURNAMENT		
Faith Britton - Faith Rachel Kirkwold - Chisago Caitlyn Nisly - Redtorm Sarah Shold – Twin Ports Aquinnah Tchop – Twin Ports MVP: Ashley Johnson - Faith		

We appreciate the attention of all during the Friday challenge, as well as the good Christian testimony on and off the field. Having had such a fun tournament, it's exciting to look forward to next year. - Dennis Campbell



(Educator's Conference, Continued from page 1)



Session I

Creating Fun and Lasting Memories in Kindergarten (*Kindergarten*)
 Developing a Scope and Sequence (*Admin, Elem Sec*)
 School Office Tips and Talk (*Admin*)
 Communication Skills Every Classroom Should Teach (*Elem, Sec*)
 Time Management and Organization (*General*)
 Four Years or For Years (regarding Student Athletes) - (*General*)
 Add Spark to Your Science Class Without Blowing Up the Lab! (*Elem, Sec*)
 Faith of Our Fathers (*General*)
 Arithmetic Games and Ideas (*Kindergarten, Elem*)
 Ditch the Dictionary: Vocabulary Instruction that Works! (*Elem*)
 Unique Strategies for Unique Learners (*Elem, Sec*)
 Biblical Integration Across the Disciplines (*General*)
 School Spirit for Christian Schools is more than Rah-Rah (*Sec*)
 Multi-Grade Classrooms (*General*)
 Ideas for Implementing Elementary Spanish in Your School (*Elem*)
 Three Keys to Make Learning Easier and More Meaningful for your Students (Developing Background Knowledge) - (*Elem*)
 The Newtown Effect: School Safety Standards for Today's Christian School (*General*)

Session II A

Teens ... Technology ... Training (*Sec*)
 Cash, People, and Risk Management (*Admin*)
 What is Historical Thinking? (*Sec*)
 Utilizing your Christian School as a Platform for Outreach (opportunities within the community) - (*General*)
 The Importance of Critical Thinking (teaching and modeling) - (*Preschool*)

Teaching Games (*Elem, Sec*)

Getting Organized! (de-stress your life!) - (*General*)
 Don't be the "Boring Chorale" (all levels)
 A Spoonful of Sugar Helps the Medicine Go Down! (using Music in the classroom) - (*General*)
 Grace, Meet Truth: A Theology of Discipline (*General*)
 Rubrics and Grading: Reviewing Online Homework (*Sec*)
 Helping Teens Become Lifelong Readers (*Sec*)
 JH and SH Incivility in the Classroom? (classroom behaviors) - (*Sec*)
 Students + Algebra ÷ Work = Fun? (*Sec*)
 Sexting and Child Abuse Prevention (*General*)

Session II B

Conducting Calisthenics (for musicians)
 Working Effectively with Parents & students, Pt. 1 (*General*)
 e-Resources for Classroom Teachers (*Elem, Sec*)
 The Professional English Juggler (*Elem, Sec*)
 The Teacher's Heart (*General*)
 Implementing Survival techniques for the First Year Teacher (*Admin*)
 Creating a Successful Science Fair (*Elem, Sec*)
 K5 Learning Centers (*Kindergarten*)
 Bible Time: Affecting the Heart, Effecting the Action (*Kindergarten, Elem*)
 I Didn't Tell You to Read That! "Tricking" Students into Reading (*Elem, Sec*)
 Communication Without Confrontation (*Elem*)
 Math That Matters: Making Math Meaningful for Your Students (*Sec*)
 Discussion Methods in the Classroom (*Sec*)
 Learning Styles—How to Match Curriculum and Methods to your Student's Needs (*Elem, Middle School*)
 Ideas for Implementing Elementary Spanish in Your School (*Elem*)
 Great Expectations: More Than a Novel (*Elem*)
 Before the Beginning: Readiness for Beginning Instrumental Music (*Elem*)

Session III

Stretching the Play Budget (drama department) - (*General*)
 Working Effectively With Parents and Students, Pt. 2 (*General*)
 e-Resources for Classroom Teachers (*Elem, Sec*)
 Surviving Middle School: Tips for Parents, Teachers and Students (*Elem*)
 Fun, Cheap, and Easy Educational Games and Activities (*Elem*)
 The Corruption of Competition (*General*)

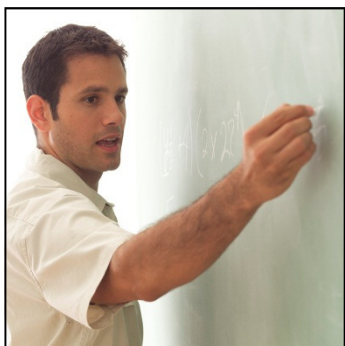
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(Educator's Conference, Continued from page 5)

Putting Science Into the Hands of Your Students (*Elem, Sec*)
 Biblical Principles Supporting Capitalism (*Pastors, Admin, Sec*)
 Attracting Attention and Keeping It (*Kindergarten, Elem*)
 Traffic Light writing: A Strategy for Improving Students' Writing in the Elementary Grades (*Elem*)
 Keeping It Simple: Easy Tips for a Better Year (*Kindergarten, Elem*)
 Mastering Multiple Choice Questions (*General*)
 The Intelligent Design Movement (*Sec, General*)
 The Hero's Journey (helping students understand literary structure and character development) - (*Sec*)
 The Pacing Teacher and Death by Power Point (engaging your students) - (*General*)
 Perfectionism in Education (*General*)
 Music and Morality: Connecting the Dots (*General*)

Session IV

Using Peer Observers and Clinical Observation Cycles (*Admin*)
 Online Learning: Friend or Foe? (*Sec*)
 Balance Amidst Business: Suggestions for the Working Mother (*Women*)
 Teaching Boys vs. Teaching Girls (*General*)
 Enabling vs. Teaching Responsibility (*General*)
 Using PowerPoint in the Science Classroom (*Elem, Sec*)
 BJU Press Technology Solutions, Part I (*General*)
 Facts and Fun Wonderfully United in Kindergarten (*Kindergarten*)
 Reading Through the Textbook: As Easy as P.I.E. (*Elem, Sec*)
 Understanding Autism (*General*)
 Comprehension-based learning (*General*)
 Bioethics for Christian Schools (*Sec*)
 Growing in Wisdom and Stature During the Preschool Year (*Preschool, Kindergarten*)
 Using a Flipped Classroom: Flippable Moments of Learning (new teaching methods for Jr. High and High School students) - (*Sec*)
 Can We Play a Game in Math today? (*Elem, Sec*)
 Some Core Concerns (the impact of the Common Core Initiative on your school) - (*General*)



Session V

Women's Session—God-Centered Living
 Men's Session—Running to Win the Prize

Session VI

Text-less Teaching of Constitutional Government (*Sec*)
 Writing Goals and Objectives (*General*)
 Creating Your Own History Documentary (*Sec*)
 Creating Readers and Novel Approaches to Novels (*Sec*)
 Knowing God—*Ladies Only*
 Sports vs. Spirituality (*All*)
 Connecting: A Key to Success (*General*)
 BJU Press Technology Solutions, Part II (*General*)
 Improving Comprehension Techniques (*Elem*)
 Math Munchies (teaching math with food!) - (*Elem, Sec*)
 Reclaiming Lost Instructional Time: Working on your Classroom Transitions (*General*)
 Top 20 Tech Tips: Improve School Efficiency, enhance Social Media, Increase Income and Reduce Costs (*Admin*)
 Rubrics and Grading: Reviewing Online Homework (*Sec*)
 Why and How You Should Teach Your Students Etiquette (*General*)
 How Do You Deal with Conflict? (*General*)
 Writing is Elementary, My Dear Teacher (*Elem*)
 Aesthetic Instruction: It's Elementary (*Elem*)

Session VII

Vouchers and the Future of Christian Education (*General*)
 Musical Mayhem (*General*)
 AACs Accreditation Basics (*General, Admin*)
 Doing Local History (*Sec*)
 Sit Right Down and Write Someone a Letter (*Sec*)
 Skill-Based Classroom Activities for Preschoolers (*Preschool*)
 No Time! No Room! No Equipment! - No Problem! (*Elem*)
 Shepherding a Team (*Pastors, Admin, Staff & Teachers*)
 O God Our Help in Ages Past (*General*)
 Making Each Day Count! (*Kindergarten, Elem*)
 Grace & Truth, Meet the Classroom: Case Studies for a Theology of Discipline (*General*)
 Resources to Help Integrate Technology in the Classroom (*General*)
 What's Now, What's New, What's Coming for you in 2013-14! (*Admin*)
 A Strong Foundation—Presenting the Gospel and Assurance of Salvation (*General*)
 Mission Impossible? - Teaching Modesty in the 21st Century (*Ladies*)
 K5 Learning Centers (*Kindergarten*)
 Learn to Read: Read to Learn (*Elem*)
 Music and Morality: Connecting the Dots (*General*)

It should be an excellent conference!



The Minnesota Association of Christian Schools

2013-14 School Information Report & Membership Enrollment Form

Enrollment forms and fees are due by Fri, Oct. 18. Please mail to the MACS Office,
900 Forestview Lane N, Plymouth, MN 55441. Checks made payable to MACS. Thank you.

School Name			Year Founded		
Mailing Address			School Phone ()		
City	State	Zip	School Fax ()		
Street Address (if different from above)			Website		
Sponsoring Church (if any)			Church Phone ()		
Church Address			Church Fax ()		
Pastor			Pastor E-mail Address		
Administrator/Principal			Administrator/Principal Email Address		
Administrator's Home Phone			School Secretary		
High School Principal			Elementary Principal		
Preschool/Child Care Director					
Was your school an AACCS member during the 2011-12 school year? (Circle one) Yes No					

Pre-School (PS)		Elementary (EL)				Junior High (JH)		Senior High (SH)	
0-1 yr		K5		4 th		7 th		9 th	
1-2 yr		1 st		5 th		8 th		10 th	
2-3 yr		2 nd		6 th				11 th	
K4		3 rd						12 th	
PS total		EL Total				JH total		SH total	

Please Complete Entire Form.

Please show number of students in each age or grade:

Total Student Enrollment (PS-12) _____

SCHOOL MEMBERSHIP DUES
<p>Total Number of Students & Faculty Members x \$8.00 = _____</p> <p>TOTAL DUES ENCLOSED = _____</p>

Total Faculty (Full & Part Time Teachers, Administrators, Coaches, etc) _____

What Best Describes Your School?

Individualized (ACE, Alpha Omega, etc.) Traditional (BJU Press, A Beka Book, etc.)

Video: A Beka _____ Other _____ Satellite: _____ Other _____

Combination: _____

Does Your School Offer:

Special Education program? YES NO

Home School division? YES NO

Boarding School? YES NO

Legislative Information:

U.S. Congressional District #: _____

U.S. Congressman's Name: _____

ADVANCED SCHOOL SEARCH INFORMATION

County	Up to 5 Cities in Surrounding Area
Please list the names of up to five neighboring communities from which you draw students. When someone searches the AACCS web site for schools in these communities, your school	

MACS STATEMENT OF FAITH

Each member of the Association shall subscribe to the following Statement of Faith:

We believe that the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments, was given by inspiration of God, and is our only rule in matters of faith and practice.

We believe in creation, not evolution; that man was created by the direct act of God and in the image of God.

We believe that Adam and Eve, in yielding to the temptation of Satan, became fallen creatures. We believe that all men are born in sin.

We believe in the Incarnation, the Virgin Birth, and the Deity of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We believe in His vicarious and substitutional Atonement for the sins of mankind by the shedding of His blood on the cross. We believe in the resurrection of His body from the tomb, His ascension into Heaven, and that He is now our Advocate. We believe that He is personally coming again.

We believe in His power to save men from sin. We believe in the necessity of the New Birth, and that this New Birth is through the regeneration by the Holy Spirit. We believe that salvation is by grace through faith, plus nothing--minus nothing, in the atoning blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

We believe that this statement of faith is a basis for Christian fellowship, and that all born-again men and women who sincerely accept it can and should live together in peace, and that it is their Christian duty to promote harmony among the members of the Body of Christ, who are walking separately from the world both in theory and in practice.

We further believe in the Biblical doctrine of ecclesiastical separation, and therefore believe that churches and Christian schools should not be associated with, members of, or in accord with organizations or movements such as the World Council of Churches, the National Council of Churches, the Modern Charismatic Movement, or the Ecumenical Movement.

CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

The signature below affirms agreement with the Statement of Faith, with the above understanding and that proper action of its governing board has been recorded.

SIGNATURE _____ Date _____