



The Link



Vision: Training covenantal children for a life of thankful and obedient service to God and our neighbour

MISSION: TO ASSIST PARENTS IN:

- 1| *Covenantal*: Bringing up covenant children in the fear of the Lord
- 2| *Antithetical*: enabling and encouraging covenant children to fulfil their cultural tasks in this world.
- 3| *Confessional*: Revealing and declaring the triune God so that the covenant children rightly confess and serve Him as Prophets, Priests, and Kings through a Scripturally sound curriculum.
- 4| *Unity*: Demonstrating the unity between home, church and school.

INSIDE:

Chairman Report

Principal Report

From the desks of Grade 5

Calling all Field Day volunteers!



Upcoming Events

- May 18 Ascension Day Assembly
- May 19/22 PD Day
- May 27 Baseball Tournament
- May 30/31 Kindergarten Day
- June 9 Field Day
- June 9 Track and Field
- June 20 Year End class trips
- June 23 Grade 8 Graduation

"The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness; He will quiet you by his love; He will exult over you with singing."

ZEPHANIAH 3:17

Chairmans Report

Colin Meerstra

With great thankfulness we may enter another spring season in the knowledge that He has risen! Death and sin have been vanquished by the redeeming work of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, and we may approach every new day with great joy. It is wonderful that we may operate our school under the blessing of our risen Lord.

continued..

THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE BEGINNING OF KNOWLEDGE

In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.' "Then they remembered his words. (Luke 24:5-8)

...The work of the Board and its various committees continues. Finding the necessary staff for the next school year is proving to be a challenge, as there is a shortage of qualified teachers. We are mindful of the Lord's provision and the hard work of the Education Committee in recruiting, interviewing and hiring these new staff.

At our most recent Board meeting we had a presentation from Jackie Deboer as the MCS Governor at the Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College

(CCRTC). We received an update on the accreditation process they are going through, and we pray with them for a favourable result to that application, DV, in the spring of 2024. We encourage our membership to prayerfully and financially support the CCRTC, especially given the teacher shortage we have just mentioned! We are also very thankful for the work Jackie does on behalf of MCS.

As noted in a recent email, the Spring MCS Membership meeting is to be held on Thursday,

June 8 at 8pm at MCS. Please plan to attend as we will be voting on the budget for the 2023/2024 school year, as well as presenting an update on the fundraising and plans for the expansion. Please familiarize yourself with the meeting information package when it comes out so you can come prepared.

The regular committee reports follow. We pray for your continued support for the work of the teachers, the board and its committees.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Proverbs 3: 5, 6

By the time you are reading this, April is drawing to a close and we are on the cusp of May. It is easy to take life for granted. Each morning we wake up and each night we go to sleep, and life happens between those two points of reference. There are occasional blips on that map...we catch a cold or a flu, we struggle with various things, but then, things go back to normal. Some things are bigger than others...some of us have lost a loved one since our last LINK, and life has changed, but then we find the so-called

'new normal' and move forward once again. It's an easy trap to get caught up in. And it's natural, especially since we are affected to our core by our sinful nature. Each day blends into the next, and life goes on.

So much more reason for us to be thankful for the many checks and balances that God has put into our lives. We have our personal devotions, our family devotions, Sunday worship, Christian schools, the broader reformed community, and the list goes on. The book of Proverbs spends a

lot of time (as does all of Scripture) resetting our focus. By our sinful nature we look to our own reasoning, we calculate based on a cost-benefit analysis, we often look for our own achievement. In short, we live as though God is not in our lives. But the text above is straight to the point: *Trust in the Lord with all your heart...* How often is it that we 'carry God in our back pocket' as though He is a contingency plan? Consider King Ahaz, the father of Hezekiah. He goes on a trip to Damascus and sees an impressive

altar that he has rebuilt in Jerusalem. But, he keeps God's altar around back 'just in case' (see 2 Kings 16). How often do we not lean on our own understanding of things? We reason things out, we evaluate the pros and cons, and we come to a reasonable conclusion. When Israel entered the Promised Land they did the same, and were punished for allowing the Gibeonites to live with them...they didn't consult God.

And so, with these examples, as well as many more in Scripture, we see how we are God dependent. The call is to trust in Him, and then all things will go well. As He teaches us in Romans 8, He works all things for good and for His purpose.

We have seen that care over the last two months at MCS. Classes could continue, and, in spite of a number of snow days, learning could also continue. There were some extra curricular activities:

the Science Fair (both local and League level), the Basketball Tournament and the Chess Tournament. Additionally, we had our regular assemblies and the parent Spring Open House. It was wonderful to see so many of you at the school for one, some, or all of the above events. As a parent supported school, it is of absolute importance so have that visible interaction. And that isn't just for your children. It is amazing how that support energizes teachers in their work! So, thank you for taking the time to make these events.

As we look to the final 2 months of the school year, there remain many things to learn. I have often heard that the year slows down in expectations as we approach the end. While I've heard this often, as a teacher I've noticed the opposite over the years. Things pile up and there is a lot of pressure to 'get things done.' We also have a PD Day in May. This is in conjunction with 8 other schools. This year DACS is hosting the

PD day. We will be looking at collaboration at various grade levels. The grade 7&8 students also look forward to the annual baseball tournament at the end of May...this tournament is always a highlight. As the calendar turns to June, our grade 8 students look eagerly toward the Arowhon Camping Trip. This is a most worthwhile trip; both enjoyable and educational. I will also put a plug in now for Field Day. It is scheduled for June 9, and in order to make it a success we need many volunteers. If you can help us out, please email the office with your interests and availability. (see the ad found later in this LINK)

One final note, Grade 8 Graduation is scheduled for 8:00PM at Fergus North Church on Friday June 23. Come and join us to celebrate another year in God's service.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

TRISH SMITH

Spring has sprung, or is springing, depending how you look at it. There is renewal in creation as things come to new life, trees are budding, the gardens are seeing the perennials coming up and birds are busy building nests. A beautiful time to remember God's continual guidance in our schools. As Ed Comm, we have the privilege to do class visits throughout the spring and we see

God's work in progress in the classrooms as well. We are thankful for the school's vibrant love for the Lord, as we see it on the displays throughout the classrooms, as we hear it in the singing, and in the eager readers as they open scriptures.

The Lord also reminds us of his guidance and faithfulness as the

Ed Comm has been busy with interviewing, calling, and reaching out to prospective staff members. This current year, we have been without a Music Specialist in our senior grades but we are excited that Deanna Linde will fill this role next year! We have hired Shannon Scheper as a full time Educational Assistant to help fill the needs of next year's Grade 4

class. Patricia Bouwman is moving from Grade 5B into Grade 6A to accommodate the double class that will be moving up. Marsha Hoeksema is currently working in Grade 8 as an EA but she will be moving into the teacher role in Grade 6B for three days a week. We are thankful that Keith Sikkema has been found willing to teach Grade 6B the other two days. Jaclyn Sikkema has been teaching Mondays in Grade 2A for a number of years, and this year she is teaching in Grade 1B.

Next year, she will be focusing her energy on Grade 1B so we are excited that Danielle Vanleeuwen will be able to teach one day in Grade 2A. Helene Nobel continues to be an asset as a nurse for two days in Grade 1 but as she plans to hang up her nursing shoes, we are thankful to have found Jennifer Kottelenberg eager to fill that role for the next school year. That leaves us with one major role to fill, a Grade 2B teacher. We are thankful that we have one part-timer who has

given verbal commitment, but in order to make it work we still need to fill the other days. We are thankful for the people whom we reached out to, who have thought and prayed about whether this is where the Lord is calling them at this time. We are thankful for those who are now considering this commitment, and we pray for them. We are thankful for the signs of spring, as this is the Lord reminding us that he guides all things, and that we can rest in the confidence that he will provide.

PR REPORT

Happy Spring!

Another few months gone by, another few months of MCS staff and students being provided for and cared for and kept safe. So often we take 'the daily' for granted without much thought. It is wise to remember what a blessing we have to trust that our children can freely go to school, be trained in a Godly manner, and come home safely every day. We ask that you continue to pray for our school, both in thankfulness for the care our Father has provided, and for continued guidance and safety upon our society.

We are looking forward to our Annual Spring Meeting, Track and Field, and PR BBQ. They are all fairly close this year, all within 24 hours! We have had good feedback on hosting the BBQ on Track and Field day, so we have done it again this year. Check off your calendars, mark up your fridge, or chat with Alexa and Siri; and book yourself busy June 9th at 5:30PM. Decent food, great company, and a perfect opportunity to show our appreciation to those non-parental members who are faithfully and willingly helping us keep Christian education affordable! We also are working

JOSEPH VANGROOTHEEST

towards a second Arthur Rep, that church is growing faster than our Rep can handle and she is eagerly anticipating the help!

We encourage you all once again in your conversations and social events to promote our school, the blessing of freedom to have the school, and the importance of supporting it. We as PR are limited in our ability to reach out to new members effectively, yet there is so much room for community growth!

Wishing you the Lord's blessings.

Things are rolling along nicely at MCS from a financial perspective. It's hard to believe that we only have 2 months left in this fiscal year! The board recently approved the budget that was presented to it and it will now be going to the membership for approval at the upcoming membership meeting on June 8.

I would also like to remind those that need financial assistance, that Harvest is accepting applications June 1 to July 31. It is very easy to apply for this assistance and everything is kept very confidential. Please go to their website, harvestfoundation.ca and

click on the tuition assistance tab for more information. It provides qualified families with financial assistance of either 20, 35 or 50% of their annual tuition cost. Several families in our area already make use of this assistance.

As I am also part of the capital campaign committee, I would urge those that have said they would support the expansion but have not done so yet, to please fill in the pledge form you received. If you have misplaced your form, please email me for a replacement. Also, feel free to contact me should you have any questions. We are very strongly

encouraged that over 175 people & businesses have donated or pledged toward the expansion so far! It is quite a blessing to be part of the communion of saints where Christian education so is highly valued! We are investing in our children but more importantly also in the future of the church. I would also like to thank all those that were called to be part of the fund raising campaign. Your help and expertise was very much appreciated!

Thank you all for your continued prayers and financial support.



Harvest Foundation exists to minimize the cost of Reformed Christian school tuition in Ontario. We provide the following support tools...

- 1) School Endowment Fund...
generates interest for a long period
- 2) School 5 year Deployment Fund...
steps interest plus 20% of capital each year
- 3) Direct Tuition Assistance...
provides a 20, 35 or 50% tuition reduction to qualified families
- 4) Harvest Kingdom Builder Deposits...
offers unique savings/interest donation combination



Contact our executive director to learn more.
info@harvestfoundation.ca | 289.309.1466

FROM THE DESKS OF GRADE 5

The students of grade 5 really enjoyed writing different types of poems, using creative words and making things rhyme. Limericks were a very fun poem to write and a favourite of most of the students! We have also been very excited about spring and the warm temperatures that come with this. So, we decided to write for you Limericks about our favourite parts of Spring!

Once there was a man from Spain
Who was sitting in the rain
He saw a ugly bird
Who sat with a herd
And got squished by a crane.
~ Aldrik

There once was a tiny kitten
Who should have lived in Great Britain
He hated the rain
It was a big pain
This is what the cat has written.
~ Jakob



There once was a frog named Brad
Who liked to jump on the lily pads
Every rainy day
He came out to play
This made him feel very glad.
~ Victor

The season of spring is now here
There are a lot of young deer
The flowers are blooming
The children are booming
And there is much to see and hear.
~ Benjamin

There once was a soft dog
In the meadow he saw a fat hog
He saw a pink flower
But it started to shower
The soft dog hid under a big log.
~ Mariah

There once was a little snake
He went to the oven to bake
He baked a muffin
It tasted like nothin'
The snake forgot how to bake.
~ Michael



My favorite animals are worms
Some people think they're full of germs
Big, huge worms are very pink
But you can die them in ink
Although they almost always squirm
~ Hannah

My favorite season is spring
When it comes it may even bring
A flower to sprout
Or cause a kid to pout

Oh, the favorite season of spring.
~ Clarissa

I love spring because of foxes
Foxes love to sleep in boxes
Foxes are fluffy
Their fur is puffy
But they do not like mailboxes.
~ Arianna



Baseball is a good part of spring
When you are playing, bees can come
and sting
In spring it can get hot
In spring things can get wet and rot
That's when birds like to sing.
~ Chad

There once was a fuzzy bunny
He loved to sit where it was sunny
He had a cotton tail
He liked to jump on the rail
All his friends thought he was funny.
~ Layla

Spring is a cheerful time of the year
Everything pops up to appear
Caterpillars shout
Nobody will pout
This is when everyone will cheer.
~ Thomas

I like to play ball in the spring
I step to the plate and I swing
It's out of the park
The dogs start to bark
And the choir begins to sing.
~ Blake



There was a bird named Bob who was fat
He had a best friend who was a cat
They went to the lake
And ate chocolate cake
They were full and that was that.
~ Mark

Chickens are fun, I love them very much
They live in a house that looks like a hutch
They like to eat seed
Can run a stampede
If only they could speak Dutch.

~ Desmond

There was once a tall bullfrog
He went for a long hard jog
It took him all day
He went the wrong way
He ended up at toad's bog
~ Gage

There once was a bird named Bob
Who was eating corn on the cob
He got some corn on his face
Forgot to tie his shoelace
Then tripped and slipped on a cob.
~ Kailey

There once was a silly duck
Who was a humongous suck
His name was Fred Led
He loved his big bed
He got stuck in a pile of muck.
~ Payton

I love the season of Spring
When I hear all the flowers sing.
It's a beautiful scene
With the grass that's so green,
And the birds all spreading their wings.
~ Madison



Rushing water from snow everywhere,
So much water, I can't help but stare.
It is always rushing,
And is always gushing.
This is all in God's almighty care.
~ Lexie

I welcome you to a beautiful spring.
When the beautiful birds always sing.
New life is there
flowers scents fill the air.
Come see all the wonders of spring.
~ Kerry

Hear the big loud thunderstorms roar
Watch it- it's never a bore
The big wind gets stronger
The storm goes for longer
The rain comes down in a big pour
~ Gavin

Now that it's springtime- there's a nice breeze

When it's raining, it's still quite a
freeze
I'm very thankful
So very thankful
Now it's a very good smelling breeze.
~Levi

Spring is in the air- time to play
Hopefully the sun is here to stay
I like a good hike
I like to ride my bike
I like to lay on the grass
every day.
~Alec



Oh, as the beautiful flowers bloom
Like the middle of bright June
The baby animals,
And the melted channels
Oh, when the beautiful flowers bloom
~Carly

There once was a little baby hog
Oh who lived in a really big bog
He loved the rain a lot
No one can ruin this thought
He always got lost in fog
~Lukas

There was an old man who liked lots of
rain
But the man always had lots of pain
He saw big black bears

And big trees- full of pears
He always went outside to the grain
~Mea

When the first thunderstorm comes
Then you hear the first bird hums
The plants will not wither
There will be a loud river
And people will praise God in song
~Ryker

It is green in the bright light in spring,
When you see the fast, loud birds sing,
You see the little worm,
In the dirt the worm squirms,
Well the bird catches the worm in its
wing.
~Blake



Melting snow, rivers full of water
Every day is getting hotter.
Birds are building their nests
Then taking a long rest.
It is God that gives us the water.
~Avery

The new grass is finally green,
and the pretty daffodils are seen.
More flowers will come,
since springtime has sprung,
and the earth is getting more green.
~Kiera

You can hear the sound-the waters
moving
It sounds so very, very soothing
The grass is bright green
There is birds that I've seen
It's nice to wake up in the
morning!
~Nikara



I was walking around in the spring.
While I was walking I heard a thing.
I looked around,
And then it was found.
A beautiful blue bird was singing.
~Jude

When it is a rainy spring day
outside is to muddy to play
But when the sun is out
please do not ever pout
but enjoy this beautiful spring day
~Sarah

Now springtime has come- warmth is
near
I am happy the snow will
disappear
Clang clang comes the rain
It's springtime again
It's a beautiful sound for your ears
~Malachi



Field Day
JUNE 9 2023
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
CONTACT OFFICE@MCSFERGUS.CA
TO VOLUNTEER BY MAY 19 2023
GRADES 1-6

Calling all Parents/Grandparents/ Willing and able persons! Field day 2023 is looking for your help! Please contact the school office by May 19 2023 and let the secretary know if you are available for the full day or for a half day.

1. Opening by Chairman
 - 1.1. Scripture Reading (Ps 46); Singing (Ps 46: 1,3), and Prayer
 - 1.2. Roll Call: Rod Dykstra, Richard Hoeksema, Henk Huijgen, Dustin Hutten, Colin Meerstra, Marnix Sikkema, Trish Smith, Morris Thalen, Kevin Vanleeuwen, Joseph Vangrootheest
2. Established Agenda
3. Minutes - approved with a few corrections
4. Short Report - no changes
5. Matters arising from Minutes - no matters arising that are not further on in the agenda
6. Decision Book Item - no changes
7. Reports
 - 7.1. Education
 - 7.1.1. Recommendation to move one staff to a permanent contract as she is past the 2 year probation contract period.
 - 7.2. Principal's Report
 - 7.2.1. Received document from Acacia group - "*Protect and maintain your organization's Christian character.*" A discussion was held concerning the school's policies around enrolment, staffing, etc, and whether they were sufficient in our current culture or could be susceptible to challenges. An ad-hoc committee was struck with the following mandate: To review our existing policies in line with the recommendations from the Acacia group, and to come back to the Board with any recommendations.
 - 7.2.2. Recommend to have the special enrolment policy be reviewed by the adhoc committee as well.
 - 7.2.3. OPA meeting: notes attached from the meeting, no questions.
 - 7.3. League/Harvest
 - 7.3.1. League Survey - completed during the meeting.
 - 7.3.2. Harvest Invitation - Meeting April 27th - 1 board member will attend
 - 7.4. Public Relations - no meeting until next month, no member changes, nothing to report.
 - 7.5. Executive
 - 7.5.1. Capital Campaign Committee Update - fundraising is sitting at \$2.35 mill, the money invested in Harvest is included in this number.
 - 7.5.2. Building Committee Update - updated on the progress, RFP's are out. Final drawings should be done in the next couple weeks.
 - 7.5.3. Meeting with URC adhoc education group
 - 7.5.3.1. We had a good meeting and discussion with them. We would be willing to help them where needed.
 - 7.5.4. Executive activity report to the Board - reviewed
 - 7.5.5. Plan for Spring Membership Meeting - approved draft agenda
 - 7.6. Property - work night, no meeting
 - 7.7. Transportation - approved for name for one committee member replacement.
 - 7.8. Annual Calendar - reviewed
 - 7.9. Discussed one letter received from a member.
Principal left the meeting - 10:10pm
 - 7.10. Finance
 - 7.10.1. Finance Report - looking good, we are ahead of budget at this time.
 - 7.10.2. Finance Minutes - one questions that finance is looking into and will report on next month
 - 7.10.3. Draft Budget - some of the areas that could be reduced as discussed at the last meeting were applied. Voted by show of hands - all in favour
8. Correspondence
 - 8.1. Incoming - Invitation Letter from Harvest, one letter received from a member
 - 8.2. Outgoing - Nothing outgoing at this time.
9. Next Meeting: **Mar 20th, Apr 24th, May 23rd or May 29th**
10. Closing (Ps 46:5)
 - 10.1. Closing Prayer – Dustin Hutten
 - 10.2. Adjournment 10:25 PM

1. Opening by Chairman
 - 1.1. Scripture Reading (Ps.33); Singing (Ps.33:1), and Prayer
 - 1.2. Roll Call: Rod Dykstra, Richard Hoeksema, Henk Huijgen, Dustin Hutten, Colin Meerstra, Marnix Sikkema, Trish Smith, Morris Thalen, Kevin Vanleeuwen, Joseph VanGrootheest, Absent with notice: Kevin Vanleeuwen
2. Established Agenda
3. Minutes - approved with minor revision
4. Short Report - approved
5. Email Conversations to be recorded: 1. Approved general contractor for the addition. 2. Approved 3 applications that were received for the EA positions, and 1 for the nurse position.
6. Matters arising from Minutes
 - 6.1. Report from the Adhoc committee for Policy Review, future item.
7. Reports
 - 7.1. Education - Still looking for 2 full time teaching positions. Have started making calls for part-time options.
 - 7.2. League/Harvest
 - 7.2.1. No league meeting since our last meeting, next meeting is Mar 30th.
 - 7.2.2. Harvest meeting in April
 - 7.3. Public Relations - Update on the membership list. The budget for the MCS BBQ is approved.
 - 7.4. Executive
 - 7.4.1. Capital Campaign Committee Update - The fundraising has pretty well plateaued now. Will send another newsletter soon.
 - 7.4.2. Building Committee Update - General Contractor has been chosen - Tambro construction. SPA is almost completed and permitting will continue from there.
 - 7.4.3. Executive activity reported to the Board
 - 7.4.4. Plan for Spring Membership Meeting - date set for June 8th. Building committee to prepare a presentation.
 - 7.5. Property
 - 7.5.1. They had an email meeting to discuss the facility rental. Highlighted some changes and attached to the drive. The changes are approved.
 - 7.6. Transportation
 - 7.6.1. Names proposed for new committee members are approved.
 - 7.7. Annual Calendar
 - 7.7.1. Teachers list is not quite finalized yet so the contracts can't be completed until that is done.

Principal left the meeting - 8:26pm.

 - 7.8. Finance
 - 7.8.1. Finance Reports - everything is on track
 - 7.8.2. Finance Minutes - Proposal for compensation to the bookkeeper, accountant and secretary. There were a few questions for finance to discuss and come back with a new proposal.- 8. Correspondence - none
- 9. Next Meeting: **Apr 24th, May 29th, June 19th**
- 10. Closing (Ps.33:6)
 - 10.1. Closing Prayer – Marnix Sikkema
 - 10.2. Adjournment 8:43 PM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Dustin Hutten, Secretary/Harvest Foundation Representative	dustinh31@gmail.com
Henk Huijgen, Ed-Com Liaison/LCRSS Rep	huijgeh@gmail.com
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Kevin Vanleeuwen, Transportation Chair	exactconstructionltd@gmail.com
Rod Dykstra, Property Chair	rod@stationearth.com
Morris Thalen, Property Liaison/Public Relations Liaison	morrithalen@hotmail.com

STAFF

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Mrs. Jaclyn Sikkema BEd (AM Tue-Fri)	Grade 1B	jsikkema@mcsfergus.ca
Mrs. Helen Vanderwoerd, BA (Tue-Fri)	Grade 2	hvanderwoerd@mcsfergus.ca
Mrs. Jaclyn Sikkema BEd (Mon)	Grade 2	jsikkema@mcsfergus.ca
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Ms. Hannah Medemblik Dip Teach	Grade 4	hmedemblik@mcsfergus.ca
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Ms. Katherine deJong, Dip Teach	Grade 6	kdejong@mcsfergus.ca
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Mrs. Nicole Hutten	Office Administrator	office@mcsfergus.ca
Mrs. Pauline Knot	Custodian	

STANDING COMMITTEES

To sign-up as a member, contact your local representative or contact Joseph VanGrootheest
Phone: (519) 760-5998 Email: josephvangrootheest@gmail.com

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Trish Smith, Chairman
Henk Huijgen, Board Liaison
Carolyn Feenstra
Tim Swaving
Joyce Tenhage
Robert Hutten
Richard Hoeksema, (Ex Officio)
Wayne Bartels (Ex-Officio)

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Marnix Sikkema, Chairman
Joseph VanGrootheest, Board Liaison
Tom Lodder (Arthur)
Jeff Hutten (Elora)
Walter Kingma (Fergus Maranatha)
Gary Nijenhuis, Jr. (Fergus North)
Chris Feenstra (Grand Valley)

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Rod Dykstra, Chairman
Morris Thalen, Board Liaison
Kenton Bouwman
Mitchel Dewitt
John Nobel
Lambert Reinink
Craig Vanveen

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Kevin Vanleeuwen, Chairman
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