



Manitowoc Lutheran High School Federation Meeting

MLHS PRESIDENT REPORT
Ps. Jason Hacker

MANITOWOC LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL USES ITS GOD-GIVEN GIFTS TO HELP EACH STUDENT BECOME THOROUGHLY EQUIPPED FOR PATHS OF SERVICE TO OUR REDEEMER.

MAY 10 2025

Observation, Experience, Assess

Two weeks ago, I just poked my head out of my office into the main office. Besides the amazing, faithful office staff, there at the hub of our school “ops” were about a half dozen teachers, laughing and smiling. That is not to say we do not have challenges going on right now, but I sense such a positive energy in our halls as we head into the end of this school year.

Since I arrived this time last May, I have now had the time to see and experience our ministry first hand. There are some things that I will still need time to assess, but things are moving forward quickly and there might not be the luxury to wait for the “customary” amount time a leader usually takes before driving toward a certain path.

The three areas that are going to be of particular focus for me in the short term are:

#1 Recruitment

Mr. Holper and Admissions are doing great work managing all of the opportunities our future Lancers have with us and representing the school at the Lakeshore Lutheran Schools. Some vulnerabilities have been exposed and some great ideas have been put forward.

Our enrollment is significantly connected to enrollment at LLS. 90% of our current enrollment has matriculated from LLS. Enrollment trends in the LLS still show a fairly significant bump in their lower grades that will continue through. But, eventually, we will have to expect a stable/level student population. Birth rates in our region and all over the state have continued to fall again. The reality is that there are just fewer children.

Enrollment Data

Percentage of students non-WELS	26 (9%)
Percentage of students unchurched	5 (1.8%)

Percentage of students in WCPC – 49% (projected for 2025/26 is 50%)

Projected incoming freshman for 2025-2026 is 85 students (graduating 57 – net increase of 28 students)

Total projected enrollment 302



#2 Federation Relations

I have been working on the makeup of our delegates and how delegates are selected by each congregation. As of now, there are about 40 vacant allotted delegate positions. Of course, congregations are able to select fewer delegates than their allotment, but my concern is following the spirit of the bylaws.

I am also working on firming up how we solicit commitments, receive, and record congregational funding support for the school. The main challenge is the varying budgeting and fiscal procedures of the congregations; i.e. calendar year or fiscal year?

We are excited that the federation is expanding with the addition of St. Paul's, Green Bay as an advisory member of the federation.

International Program

Mrs. Ruediger has been working very hard on making the IP her "own." This has required a lot of trying to figure out past practices. Since this area does not fall under any other academic, admissions, or Board of Control committee categories, I am fitting the IP more under my direct supervision as we work to cast a vision of the future of the IP.

The Big Challenge

Increases in enrollment and stability in enrollment projected at 320 through the 2032/2033 school year has exposed need for physical/campus space. The MSPC requested direction from the Admin Team to evaluate and prioritize needs to support growing and sustained student population. The Admin Team presented three tiers to the MSPC:

Tier 1 (12-18 months)

Classrooms
Main Office
Fitness Center

Tier 2 (24-36 months)

Performing Arts/Worship (possible reconfig/renovation of AUX gym)
Student Housing

Tier 3 (long range)



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Multi use indoor athletic facility
Football field/track (contingent on trailer park)

The Servants

Of note is the retirement of Mr. Wayne Foelske after 42 years of faithful service to Jesus, the last 26 at MLHS. We give thanks that Jesus gifted our ministry with such a dedicate servant. Other ministry anniversaries that are going to be observed at the end of the school year:

Hacker	20
Hulse	20
Muchka	20
Scharf	10
Stuebs	20

Mr. Corey Marohn has accepted the call to Trinity, Brillion and will transition soon. Implications for Lakeshore Lutheran Schools and MLHS curriculum director are still being assessed.

Mr. Mark Stein and Mr. Bob Buss will be moving to the area in the coming weeks as they begin to take up their work to start the next school year. Mrs. Rachel Holper will also begin with Foods and support the online ASL classes until she completes her ASL teaching certification.

Additional positions to be added are a "full" time lunch person, learning coordinator assistant, and international program assistant/study hall supervisor.