

SCHS Board Nominee



Jason Brinks

SPOUSE: Jodi
EMPLOYER: Oxford Financial Group, LTD
CHURCH: Seymour Christian Reformed Church
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CHILDREN: Kate (10th @ SCHS), Jack and Sarah (@ Calvin University)

WHY DO YOU FEEL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IS IMPORTANT?

Christian Education has helped to mold and grow our three children in their knowledge and love of Jesus Christ. Through Dutton Christian Schools and SCHS, all of our kids have been taught about what it means to be a follower of Christ and they have had mentoring and modeling from the teachers, staff, and volunteers throughout their education. This is critical in their faith formation and has prepared them for the next steps of maturing and being a Christian in a broken world. The ultimate responsibility for their education falls on us as parents, but part of our effort is choosing Christian Education for our children. We are very happy with our experience so far and are thankful for the quality of Christian schools we have available to us.

EDUCATION AT SOUTH CHRISTIAN IS BASED ON A REFORMED UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE AND THE WORLD. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO YOU, AND HOW DOES THIS MAKE SOUTH CHRISTIAN DIFFERENT FROM OTHER PRIVATE OR PAROCHIAL HIGH SCHOOLS?

My point of view on the importance of SCHS teaching from a Reformed Christian base is centered on the foundation that it provides for the education and development of the students. There is constant pressure for Christians to adapt, change, and evolve to what the world is saying and doing. If we do not have a foundation to stand on, the school and all of us will lose our way. I have witnessed grace and discipline being taught by the teachers and modeled by coaches and staff. The Board and Admin have led through some very difficult times in the past 5 years and it was clear to me that without a Reformed foundation, it would be far more difficult to address situations.

HOW IS YOUR LIFE CHRIST-CENTERED?

I wake up every day as a sinner and try to do my best to live like Christ. It impacts everything I do as a husband, father, friend, and in my daily work.

WHAT SPECIFIC SKILLS OR ABILITIES DO YOU SEE YOURSELF BRINGING TO THE BOARD? (Examples might include education, legal, finance/budgeting/planning, building facilities, fundraising, promotion or marketing, strategic planning, interpersonal skills.) ALSO, IDENTIFY ANY LEADERSHIP OR VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCES YOU HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN.

I have a lot of experience in finance/budgeting/planning as well as building and facilities from my previous roles on boards and committees. I have led boards and committees as president and chair and have been a leader in my firm as a mentor and owner. To the extent that it is helpful and needed, I have also had a lot of opportunities to mentor students in their faith, family, emotional, and mental health. It has been one of the most rewarding experiences in my own faith to be able to walk alongside these students.

WHAT CHALLENGES DO YOU SEE FACING CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN GENERAL (AND SOUTH CHRISTIAN SPECIFICALLY) IN THE COMING YEARS? FEEL FREE TO SHARE IDEAS YOU MAY HAVE FOR FACING THESE CHALLENGES.

Christian education must be one of Satan's biggest challenges so it stands to reason that he would constantly be attacking our community.

These attacks will continue to come internally from parents and students that will challenge our standards, policies, practices, etc. as either too traditional or not traditional enough. Having a strong Board and Administration that are knowledgeable and disciplined in the goals of SCHS is one of the best defenses for these attacks. Proactively, we can openly communicate and reinforce the standards that guide the school and the decision-making. Sin hides in the secrecy, so being appropriately open and transparent about the current and future plans for the school is important.

Attacks from outside our community could be changes to funding programs, mandates, or other government programs that affect our freedom to teach at a Christian school. They could also be as simple as rumors being spread about our school and/or community. Again, transparency is one weapon against these attacks. Proactive approaches can be as simple as how we are viewed by others. How we act in public, on athletic fields/courts, how our spectators treat other campuses, etc. Each has the ability to improve or destroy the opinion of what we teach and how we operate.

The horrific slide of society and how we respond to children and adults who are experiencing emotional and mental issues will also be a growing challenge for us. In particular, the issues around gender and same-sex attraction/relationships will both attack us internally and externally. We have to be prepared to approach each situation with Christ's love and humility at the forefront. But also be firm in the truth of our creation in God's own image. As much as this is a challenge, it is also an opportunity to restore truth to the lives of those affected by this evil.

These are a few examples that I can think of quickly but there are plenty of challenges that we need to be prepared for. Having a firm foundation and clear direction for our future are critical for being able to appropriately address any future challenge.