

Hello, I'm Philip Amos, President of the Board of Trustees of Westside Christian Academy. Over the past 6 months, the board has been preparing for the decision related to the tuition increase for the 2024-2025 school year. This year's project was particularly complex considering the EdChoice Scholarship program that was expanded in the Ohio budget which passed in June of this year. The layer of complexity is added because the scholarship is awarded differently across 8 levels of family income. There is also an urgency to the decision given the political climate. Although today there is overwhelming support in the Ohio Senate, we cannot afford to assume this program is evergreen. Throughout this process, the board has focused on prayer. Both personally and collectively, the board has lifted this decision before the Lord as we seek His glory. The Lord has brought a wonderful collection of individuals to serve on this board who prayerfully and diligently work to fulfill the mission of this school. I consider it a privilege to serve along side of a united board striving for the mission of the school to the glory of God.

Over the last two years the board has undertaken two major projects, updating WCA's strategic plan and transitioning in a new Head of School. The successful completion of these important objectives gave us clear perspective and allowed us to focus on the task at hand. The strategic plan highlights preparing the school for increased enrollment while remaining financially stable, ensuring that WCA is able to recruit, retain and competitively compensate teachers and administration with the heart, experience, and credentials aligned to the mission of the school, and, thirdly, Expanding Access to WCA so no qualified student is turned away for financial reasons.

A few statistics I would like to share to offer some context. Currently, approximately 40% of our families are awarded some amount of discount or financial aid from the school. This means approximately .20

cents on every dollar of tuition that is collected goes towards financial aid. We also learned through an evaluation of surrounding public, Christian, and classical schools that our benefits offering and starting to mid-range salaries need to be addressed. These are weighty considerations that the board balanced and took very seriously.

Although the board's discussion on this matter produced a wide variety of views, the Lord was gracious in granting us a unified, unanimous decision. I want you to be encouraged and comforted that the 2024-2025 tuition levels allow us to accelerate our teacher's compensation initiative closer to accomplishment in 3 years instead of 5 while, at the same time, with the Ed Choice expansion and the OCEN tax credit, we estimate that 80% of families will pay less in tuition next year than they did this year. Let me say that again. At least 80% of the association, including the Ed Choice expansion and the OCEN tax credit, will pay less net tuition next year than they did for the current school year, while enabling WCA to accelerate our compensation strategic initiative to our teachers two years faster. This is a gross increase of 12%. The dollar figures can be seen on the screen.

I encourage you to understand the OCEN tax credit by reading Wes Moore's email that was sent out on December 5th. There is a link to that message on your screen and in the email where you received this video. I would also ask you to share that OCEN email with grandparents, relatives, and friends who would like to receive the same tax credit while benefiting WCA. We are blessed to live in a state that is one of the friendliest environments for private, Christian education in the country. The OCEN Tax Credit and the EdChoice expansion program are a tremendous blessing to our school and our families.

I welcome your feedback and am happy to discuss the board's process in this decision. My contact information including my cell phone can be

found in this email, on the screen, and on WCA's website. We have much to be thankful for over this Christmas season. I thank you for your prayers for WCA and would ask that you continue praying for the Lord's guidance and blessing. On behalf of the board of trustees, I wish you and your family a very merry Christmas.