



Superintendent's Report January 21, 2008

Dear Board Members:

I trust you've had a good start to the new year with your family and at work. January represents new beginnings in a wide variety of ways. In schools, it represents the end of the first semester of school, secondary exams, and winter routines. At GRCS, it also represents the start of planning for the coming school year's budget and admissions events, two very important benchmarks in our school year calendar.

This month's board meeting will be hosted by GRCMS and will be held in the library classroom. The board will have its first opportunity to review the preliminary budget for next year and receive the reports and recommendations from five of the six strategic initiative task force committees, which will be facilitated by task force chairpersons. In addition, several personnel policy revisions and a proposal for a comprehensive 2008-09 Educational Student Support (ESS) program has been submitted for the board's review and approval; each are included with this month's packet.

In light of the strategic initiative reports being presented, Jane Eaves, our consultant from GGTS, will be present at this month's meeting. This will provide her with a first-hand perspective of the board's dialogue and equip her to advise us as we move forward with our work.

In light of the time needed to adequately review each of these topics, our meeting will begin at 5:00 p.m. and be limited to discussions in these areas only. Department reports are provided as information only and this month's agenda has been adjusted accordingly. Given the depth of the reports we will review, we likely will not be done until 8:30-9:00 p.m.

Thank you for your careful review of this month's board packet. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have.

Monthly Update

Enrollment

We began the 2007-08 school year with a K-12 enrollment of 2,322 students. As of January 12, 2008, K-12 enrollment stood at 2,313 students. A comparison by level is provided below:

	Sept '07	Jan '08	Change
Elem.	841	837	- 4
Middle	474	472	- 2
High	<u>1007</u>	<u>1004</u>	- <u>3</u>
Total	2322	2313	- 9

2008-09 Admissions

There are a number of open houses and other admissions events scheduled over the next few months as we gear up for 2008-09 enrollment. A summary of what is

scheduled is included below for your review. These events are important opportunities to showcase programs, introduce staff to prospective parents, and develop relationships with parents and students.

Jan. 22	Pre-K Open Houses at Creston, Evergreen, and Millbrook
Jan. 24	Pre-K Open Houses at Rockford and Oakdale
Jan. 29	GRCMS night with Counselors at GRCHS
Feb. 2	Christian Parenting Conference at GRCHS
Feb. 4	GRCMS night with Counselors at GRCHS
Feb. 5	Ada Christian night
Feb. 9	High School Placement Test
Feb. 11	GRCMS night with Counselors at GRCHS
Feb. 12	Westside Christian night
Feb. 15	2008 Education & Enrichment Expo (CentrepoinTE Mall)
Feb. 18	High School Showcase
Feb. 25	“Other” schools night with Counselors
March 1	High School Placement Test

In Deepest Sympathy

Grand Rapids Christian Schools mourns in the loss two families within our school community recently experienced. Jim Tiesenga (wife, Deb and children, Michael and Anna are graduates, Emily 10th and Sara 11th and brother to Dave Tiesenga) and Karen Muyskens (husband, Mark and children: John 10th, Carolyn 7th and Joel 2nd at Millbrook) passed away this past weekend. We also extend our sympathy to Holland Christian Schools and the DeKleine family in the tragic death of Lori DeKleine. Though the grief experienced in the death of a loved one is great, God’s grace provides true comfort and hope. I am thankful that individually and as an organization we can

surround these families and school communities in prayer and support.

Looking Ahead

Jan. 21	No School Board Meeting @ GRCMS – 5:00 p.m.
Jan. 28	GRCS Education Committee Meeting Cancelled
Feb. 8	Personnel Committee Meeting @ GRCS – 1:00 p.m.
Feb. 11	Executive Committee Meeting @ GRCS – 11:30 a.m.
Feb. 12	Parent Advisory Committee Meeting @ GRCS – 7:00 p.m.
Feb. 14	Operations and Finance Committee Meeting @ GRCS – 7:30 a.m.
Feb. 18	GRCS Board Meeting @ GRCMS – 7:00 p.m.

Attachments to this Month’s Report

- Strategic Initiative Templates
 - #1 Spiritual Formation
 - #2 School Program
 - #3 Funding Model
 - #4 Financial Viability
 - #6 Visibility within the Community
- Educational Student Support Program Recommendations
- 2008-09 Proposed Budget Summary
- Personnel Policy Revisions
- Early Childhood Parent Newsletter
- Correspondence Board Response – A. Patterson
- Media Coverage
 - All Saints Catholic School Consolidation, GR Press 1/10/08
 - Holland Christian Capital Improvements, GR Press 1/3/08
- Admissions Efforts Thank You!