



Superintendent's Report May 19, 2008

Dear Board Members:

One sure sign of spring and end of a school year is seen on the calendar of events scheduled throughout the month of May at the CAW. I trust most of you have been busy attending the many choir and band/orchestra concerts that have been scheduled throughout the past several weeks; May is its busiest month, and the CAW is in full swing almost every night for student performances and school programs.

Though busy, it is also one of the most enjoyable months in our school year calendar. We have been richly blessed with a facility such as the CAW that can host such wonderful opportunities for students and families to join together in praise to our God.

Our meeting this month will be held at Rockford Christian School beginning at 7:00 p.m. It will be the first opportunity for our families to learn first hand about the proposed Strategic Plan and, among other things, we will make sure to leave time for additional board discussion of the initiatives and proposed strategies.

Looking forward to seeing you Monday night and continuing our work together as we plan for and make decisions about our future and for our future students.

Monthly Update

Enrollment

2008-09 enrollment agreements continue to arrive. I have attached a summary of what we have received as of May 9, 2008 for your information. It includes enrollments from only four of our supporting churches; many more are expected in the next two weeks.

Strategic Planning Updates

Thank you for your time and energy at last Monday's Executive Session meeting where we reviewed the proposed strategic plan. I have made several revisions to the document in light of the questions that were raised and will provide the board with an updated copy as it becomes further confirmed.

At the May meeting, we will revisit each of the proposed strategies in anticipation of the Town Hall meetings scheduled on May 27 (CAW), May 29 (Rockford Christian), and June 3 (CAW). I look forward to your input.

Diversity Initiative

In 2001, the KISD Superintendents' Association adopted Diversity and Healing Racism as one of its county-wide initiatives. Since that time, many efforts have been ongoing throughout county schools.

Beginning in 2008-09, incoming freshmen at GRCHS will participate in *Word UP! Word OUT!*, a learning experience for freshmen students from Calvin Christian, Kelloggsville, Kent City, Godfrey Lee, Lowell, and Grand Rapids Public Schools, that will give students specific skills and tools they can use to become "agents of change" within their schools and communities. I have

enclosed a summary of the program for your information and review.

At a recent Healing Racism Institute I attended, I was able to preview the experience, which completes its first year of implementation in area high schools in June. It seems to be an excellent opportunity for our kids and I am excited for the opportunity they will have in the fall and throughout the coming year.

Center for Arts and Worship

Rick Hardenberg, Director at the Center for Arts and Worship, has been charged with, among many other things, considering ways to increase revenue at the CAW in the coming year. In order to better understand the interests of families, we recently completed an on-line survey of our families to learn more about what kinds of theatrical and performance-related shows parents are most interested in attending (summary enclosed).

The focus of our increased utilization of the CAW will be toward family and children's programming. One example of a creative new way to generate revenue and increase GRCS' visibility within the community begins this summer. Rick will host **Leadership Circus Camp**, a program that is designed to build leadership qualities in youth. 3rd – 8th grade students from throughout Grand Rapids will work with three professional circus performers and trainers to learn team building and leadership skills taught through various circus skills. It has been advertised broadly (see attached article in the GR Press), underwritten by the Keller Foundation, and more than 20 paid registrations (from GRCS and non-GRCS kids) have been received so far.

Another upcoming family oriented program for which Rick is currently securing underwriting gifts is the Family Jazz Series, which is tentatively scheduled for January, March, and May, 2009. Three artists will

perform excellent children's music in a venue we have not done until now.

Rick is doing a great job in his role and I am excited to see the events unfold in the months ahead.

Instruction Office Focus

Lois Brink, Director of Instructional Services, has done an excellent job in her expanded role providing leadership in our K-12 curriculum efforts since Ben Boerkoel resigned to begin a school improvement position at KISD. Recently, she submitted a summary of the focus of her work this year, which I have enclosed for your review.

The coordination of K-12 curriculum is one of our most important responsibilities as an educational institution. As you can tell from Lois' summary, her focus represents a broad cross-section of GRCS and building level work and we are fortunate to have someone with Lois' depth of curriculum knowledge on our team.

Acceptable Use Policy

GRCS technology coordinators and technology support staff recently met to review current Acceptable Use policies. They have revised them and a copy of the proposed revisions are enclosed for your review.

Please take a look at this revised policy prior to Monday night as the board will be asked to approve them at that time.

Formation of Faith – Student Retreats

On May 11 and 12, eight senior students joined Nancy Knol (English) and Larry Borst (Religion) at the Hermitage in Three Rivers, MI for a weekend retreat of prayer and worship. Nancy and Larry initiated this opportunity and the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship sponsored the trip and covered the expenses.

Mark Kuiper, GRCHS Chaplain, continues his planning for our first annual Freshmen Spiritual Retreat, scheduled for all incoming freshmen in mid-September. It will be held from Saturday – Monday noon at Spring Hill Camp in Ewart, MI and will be a time of fellowship, fun, and building a Christ-centered community with the student body.

Looking Ahead

May 19 Board of Trustees Meeting @ Rockford Christian – 7:00 p.m.
May 26 Memorial Day – No School
May 27 Town Hall Meeting @ CAW – 7:00 p.m.
May 29 Town Hall Meeting @ Rockford Christian – 7:00 p.m.
June 2 GRCS Education Committee Meeting @ GRCS Office – 7:00 p.m.
June 3 Town Hall Meeting @ CAW – 7:00 p.m.
June 5 GRCHS Graduation @ Sunshine Church – 8:00 p.m.
June 9 Executive Committee Meeting @ GRCS Office – 11:30 a.m.
June 10 Rockford Christian Middle School Graduation @ Rockford Christian – 7:00 p.m.
June 10 GRCMS Graduation @ CAW – 7:30 p.m.
June 12 Last Day of School (1/2 day)
June 12 Finance and Operations Committee Meeting @ GRCS Office – 7:30 a.m.
June 13 Personnel Committee Meeting @ GRCS Office – 1:00 p.m.
June 16 Board of Trustees Meeting @ GRCHS – 7:00 p.m.

Attachments to this Month's Report

Media Coverage

- April 22 Rockford Christian Green School Award
- May 1 Oakdale Christian and Consolidation
- May 11 Circus Camp

Press Releases

- Debt Reduction
- Proposed GRCS Acceptable Use Policy
- Instructional Office Summary of Projects
- CAW Family Survey Results
- Correspondence
 - Oakdale District Board
 - J. Bolt
- OK Conference Ballot
- 2008-09 Enrollment to Date Summary
- Word UP! Word OUT! Overview
- Spiritual Formation Task Force Alignment