

Strategic Plan Update – Thursday, June 12, 2008

Dear Friends:

Sincere thanks to all who came out to our recent Town Hall Meetings to learn more about the Grand Rapids Christian Schools 2008-2013 Strategic Plan.

As was discussed at these meetings, the Grand Rapids Christian Schools Board of Trustees is currently considering a single-campus consolidation of our four Grand Rapids-based elementary schools as part of the new Strategic Plan. One option presented in the plan is to build or renovate an elementary facility on the site of Grand Rapids Christian Middle School. A second option is to establish a consolidated school at a new location within the City. While the issues of consolidation and related site selection have not been resolved, some sites were identified as properties that may be well-suited to our needs should we move forward with a consolidation plan.

On June 11, Grand Rapids Christian Schools presented an offer to the Grand Rapids Public Schools to purchase the Iroquois Middle School property at 1501 Fisk St., S.E. The purchase agreement is contingent upon several factors including approval of the purchase by the Grand Rapids Christian Schools Board of Trustees and firm commitments for the funding necessary to acquire and redevelop the property.

It is important to note that the offer was presented at this time – prior to Board approval of the Strategic Plan – in order to meet the deadline set forth by the Grand Rapids Public Schools and, thereby, keep our option to purchase this property open. Our purchase agreement does not obligate Grand Rapids Christian Schools to the property, nor does it rule out other site options – and it does not signal a Board decision on the proposal to consolidate.

The Grand Rapids Christian Schools Board of Trustees is expected to vote on the 2008-2013 Strategic Plan at its June 16 meeting. Should consolidation be approved, the Board would undergo a thorough review and analysis of all site options to determine which would best advance our goal to strengthen and sustain exemplary Christian education for the next generation.

I welcome your questions and request your continued prayers as we plan for the future of Grand Rapids Christian Schools.

Sincerely,



Thomas DeJonge
Superintendent