

Annual Meeting

Grand Rapids Christian Middle School
2036 Chesaning Dr SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506
Village Square

March 20, 2017

6:00 pm

Mission

Preparing students to be effective servants of Christ in contemporary society.

Dear Friends:

Helen Keller once noted, "Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence." Keller's life was a testament to this belief, and it is in this light that Grand Rapids Christian Schools looks forward to and plans confidently for the 2017-18 school year.

The Board of Trustees and administrative team are prepared to welcome over 2,300 students back to school next August. Budgets have been developed, admissions events are well underway, and new applications are being secured. Through GRCS 20/20, our campaign to preserve the vital purpose we are called to provide, funds have been pledged to make needed investments at the Rockford and Evergreen campuses, add three new classrooms to accommodate sustained enrollment growth at the Iroquois Campus, establish a fund reserve to address capital replacements and repairs, and construct a new administrative facility on the campus of Grand Rapids Christian High School to make room for students at the Iroquois Campus and ensure the strength of our instructional, staff development, alumni and operational services for generations to come.

Enrollment continues to be one of many reasons for our optimism and worthy of special note. Elementary enrollment has grown by 20% since 2010. Today, preschool and kindergarten enrollment – our "Freshman" class – stands at 410 students, a clear indication that enrollment will remain strong in the years to come. To date, well over 200 families have attended 2017-18 open houses and school Showcases. And of those families, *over half* were new to Grand Rapids Christian Schools!

Perhaps Ann Bakker, Academic Program Coordinator, explains the reason for our confidence best. She states, "At Grand Rapids Christian, teachers are intentional about building community with students and parents. Their focus on nurturing the faith of their students and their relationship with God and each other is what makes GRC such a special place and why our students achieve at such high levels. I can't imagine a finer educational experience for any child."

As you review this year's Annual Meeting notice, remember that the proposed budget and board nominees are more than just numbers and faces on a page. Rather, they form the solid foundation that ensures students achieve at their highest potential, empowers our faculty to deliver an outstanding Christ-centered education, and – most important of all – prepares our students to be effective servants of Christ in contemporary society. Thank you for your prayers. We value the partnerships we have with you and are blessed through your support.



Tom DeJonge,
Superintendent

Board Nominees

Grand Rapids Christian Schools' membership is asked to elect each of the five proposed board candidates.

Each was selected because of expertise and experience in the field of finance.

Two nominees will be selected by lot to fill the vacant seats for board term 2017-2020.

Tim Alles

Tim and his wife Lisa have two children: Brandt, 3rd grade and Sadie, Transitions Preschool at the Iroquois Campus. Tim is an attorney at Alles Law. He believes that Jesus wants each of us to strive to be the best that He made us to be, using the Christian community as a support.

Tim has been around Christian education his entire life and is excited to send his own children to a Christian school. He sees his strengths as being in the areas of relationship building, aligning goals with vision, and driving organizational growth. Tim has been involved with BlueBlack, GRCS' young alumni giving group, and currently serves as an at-large member of the Advancement Committee. He is also very involved in his church, Eastern Ave CRC, and has served as a youth coach, tutor, and mission-trip leader.

Tim is aware that educational organizations need to be nimble, and he knows that we must never lose sight of what God wants us to learn and who He wants us to be in His world. Tim will work to keep GRCS focused on its vision and mission striving to keep GRCS academically competitive by preparing our students for life after graduation. He is dedicated to GRCS' mission and understands the importance of students' lives being focused on His creation and on how God wants us, as Christians, to fit into His world as stewards of the world.



Mairobi Garcia

Mairobi and his wife Jahaira have three children: Gianna, 2nd grade and Joshua, 1st grade at the Iroquois Campus; and Hailey who is less than one year old. Mairobi is a Senior Project Manager at Spectrum Health. Mairobi's relationship with Jesus is ever-evolving and has matured over the last few years. He is looking forward to serving God in whatever endeavor God puts in his path.

Mairobi has a passion for children and for Grand Rapids Christian Schools. He feels his educational background in management and organizational development along with his finance work at Fifth Third Bank are strengths that align with the expertise currently needed on the Board of Trustees. He loves volunteering at school as a room parent. He has coached soccer, T-ball, football, and basketball for his children's teams. When he was at Fifth Third, he was involved with donating and setting up computer labs for non-profits, served as a committee member for the River Bank Run, and currently serves on his church, Mayfair CRC, welcoming committee.

When looking at the pace of educational change, he believes the core of education does not change as fast as the methods and students do. To ensure visionary leadership, Mairobi believes that schools need to be able to adapt to student and parent needs while also keeping parents engaged in their child's education. He values Christian education and the way teachers infuse God in everyday living and learning, and he loves the amazing learning environment for his children and all students at Grand Rapids Christian Schools.



Mike Meeuwsen

Mike and his wife Susan have four children: Devin, 9th grade at GRCHS; and Alexia, 6th grade, Breckton, 2nd grade, and Bellary, Kindergarten at Rockford Christian. Mike spends his days as a financial advisor at Morgan Stanley. Mike's relationship with Jesus is the most important relationship he has. He looks to God to sustain him through difficult times and praises Jesus for the grace and salvation He has provided to all sinners. Mike and his family attend Ada Bible Church.



Mike sees his gifts in the area of accounting and financial background as helping him to understand important budget and financial concerns. He views things from a long-term perspective and believes in a balanced, moderate approach when dealing with difficult issues. Mike has coached sports teams and served on committees at Rockford Christian. He has spent time as a member of the Investment Board at Kuyper College and has done some fundraising as a board member of a local charity.

Mike values Christian education as the place for children to build their base of Biblical knowledge during their formative years, recognizing that all subject matters relate to God and should be learned with that knowledge in mind.

Dave VanWingerden

Dave and his wife Jodi have three children: Anna, 8th grade and Will, 5th grade at GRCMS; and Arie, Kindergarten at the Iroquois Campus. Dave and his family attend Neland Avenue CRC. Dave is a financial advisor at Morgan Stanley. He desires to live his life using the gifts that God has given him to share that love and knowledge with others. He has a passion for Christian education having gone through Christian schools himself. He values it not only for his own children but for all children in our community.



Dave's career experience is in the areas of financial management and fundraising. He has also been on various boards and knows the value of board members who are independent thinkers and able to lead with discretion. He is currently serving as an at-large member of the Advancement Committee and previously served on a facilities task force. Dave has served on the boards of Camp Roger, Camp Tall Turf, and the Neland Ave CRC Foundation Committee.

Dave finds joy knowing his children are loved, cared for, and taught about God's world by teachers who love Jesus as much as he does.

Cindy Brink - Alternate

Cindy and her husband James have twin sons: Andrew and Jacob, 2nd graders at the Iroquois Campus. Cindy currently works at Priority Health leading the Financial Reporting team. She believes she is saved by God's grace and because of this undeserved gift has dedicated her life to serving Him.



Cindy plans to use her gifts in the area of finance and administration as a member of the Board of Trustees. Being a young mom, her passion is her children, and she spends her time supporting our schools by volunteering for recess duty, classroom lunch duty, field trips and working during school fund raising events. She also fills her time with church involvement. She is currently a member at Calvin CRC and previously served as deacon and treasurer at Beckwith Hills CRC.

When thinking about Christian education, Cindy knows that this is a value that she wants for her children. They are one of the most important investments we have, and their faith formation and education become the foundation of who they will be as adults.

Proposed Bylaw Revision

Along with the proposed 2017-18 budget and board nominees, GRCS members are asked to approve a revision to **Article III, Section 3.5 of the GRCS Bylaws**. This section addresses the number of board candidates the Nomination Committee shall annually submit to the Board of Trustees to fill vacant board seats for its approval. The revision was reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees at its meeting in January and is presented to the membership for its approval at the 2017 Annual Meeting.

The board **recommends the revisions be approved** for the following reasons:

- The current policy requiring a slate of candidates equal in number to twice the number of vacant board seats - plus an alternate candidate - is complex and difficult to explain to the membership and board nominees, and it has caused some confusion when casting a vote; and
- The changes provide additional flexibility to the Nomination Committee when presenting a slate of candidates to the Board of Trustees for its approval.

The current policy with changes indicated in BOLD CAPS is found below. Members are asked to **review and approve the change** and may cast their vote utilizing the enclosed ballot.

Article III, Section 3.5 (a)

(a) A slate of qualified potential candidates shall be selected by the Nomination Committee. The slate shall include a number of candidates equal to NOT LESS THAN twice the number of open seats on the Board and shall consist of at least one alternate potential candidate. In selecting a slate of candidates, the Nomination Committee shall solicit, receive and consider recommendations from the Board and from the membership at large; actively seek potential candidates with backgrounds and areas of expertise most needed on the current Board to facilitate the purpose and objectives of GRCS; contact all recommended individuals to confirm their interest in serving on the Board; and carefully evaluate each application and recommendation and other relevant information concerning the potential candidates.

Effective Boards Provide Strategic Leadership

Highly effective boards are comprised of individuals that possess expertise in a wide variety of areas. They also, however, are comprised of individuals that share one essential quality - an understanding of the importance of a board's strategic vs. operational purpose. At Grand Rapids Christian Schools, blending the multiple talents of board members who share a single strategic focus empowers staff to accomplish their work, ensures our schools remain strong, and enables GRCS to achieve its mission.

Each year, the Nomination Committee of the Board of Trustees carefully considers the gifts and talents of the members whose terms are expiring. The Committee's review is an essential step in the important process of determining the qualities and areas of expertise of qualified board nominees who will take their place. This analysis ensures that the strategic work of the board is accomplished and Grand Rapids Christian Schools' mission is advanced.

The talents and areas of expertise of the current members of the Board of Trustees align with what is needed to accomplish the goals of the Strategic Plan:

Greg Jeltema	2014-17	Business Owner
Nick Sherman	2014-17	Financial Advisor
Paul DeVries	2015-18	Pastor
Jill Ellens	2015-18	Retired Christian School Educator
Patti Harris	2015-18	College Provost
Larry Bos, Jr.	2013-19	Financial Advisor
Tom Prince	2014-20	CPA
Julie Westra	2016-19	Attorney
Candace Smith-King	2013-19	Pediatrician

Proposed 2017-18 Budget

The Board of Trustees is recommending an operating budget of
\$24,272,357 for the 2017-2018 school year.

	2016-17 REVISED	2017-18 PROPOSED
ENROLLMENT, K-12	2,087	2,078
REVENUE		
Tuition Revenue	19,927,255	20,382,452
Eagles Fund Annual Income	1,700,000	1,700,000
Other Contributions	115,126	75,405
Foundation/Endowment Support	713,000	713,000
All Other Revenue	1,390,800	1,401,500
TOTAL REVENUE	23,846,181	24,272,357
EXPENSES		
Financial Aid	2,180,000	2,200,000
Wages & Benefits - - - - -		
Instruction	11,699,503	12,016,711
School & Central Administration	2,410,796	2,388,959
Custodians and Food Service	846,238	872,797
Transportation	303,929	303,987
CAW	253,847	241,109
TOTAL	15,514,313	15,823,563
<i>Percent of Total Budget</i>	<i>65.1%</i>	<i>65.2%</i>
Instruction & Extracurricular Activities - - - - -		
Curriculum, Books, and Supplies	1,249,609	1,231,550
Professional Improvement & Dues	94,950	113,000
TOTAL	1,344,559	1,344,550
<i>Percent of Total Budget</i>	<i>5.6%</i>	<i>5.5%</i>
Operations - - - - -		
Food Service	455,500	478,500
Utilities & Telephone	816,600	830,445
Admissions	98,000	78,000
Fundraising	210,000	190,000
Maintenance & Repairs & Software	402,005	398,755
Transportation	198,000	192,000
Building and Liability Insurance	188,975	184,425
Contracted Services	192,000	173,500
Strategic Initiatives - School Culture	-	35,000
CAW, Gainey	134,500	121,500
Professional Services	150,000	153,000
Supplies & Equipment	318,000	327,000
Bad Debt and Interest	89,000	89,000
Operating Reserve	471,002	528,114
Miscellaneous	148,726	150,005
K-12 Program Strengthening	120,000	120,000
Allocation for Special Projects	155,000	205,000
Allocation for Annual Tech/Capital	660,000	650,000
TOTAL	4,807,308	4,904,244
<i>Percent of Total Budget</i>	<i>20.2%</i>	<i>20.2%</i>
TOTAL EXPENSES	23,846,180	24,272,357

Tuition Rates

All Grand Rapids Christian Schools' families benefit from generous contributions received from thousands of donors each year. One benefit is that, through optional grants offered on the Enrollment Agreement, parents may elect to reduce their tuition by as much as \$2,505 per student.

Grade	Requested Amount *	Optional Grants to Reduce Tuition **				Required Amount
		Eagles Fund	Capital	Foundation	New 2 You	
Kindergarten						
1/2 Day RCS	\$7,600	\$1,200	\$680	\$325	\$300	\$5,095
3 Full Day	\$8,100	\$1,200	\$680	\$325	\$300	\$5,595
Progressive GRCS	\$9,150	\$1,200	\$680	\$325	\$300	\$6,645
RCS*** Enrichment	\$9,150	\$1,200	\$680	\$325	\$300	\$6,645
5 Full Day	\$10,200	\$1,200	\$680	\$325	\$300	\$7,695
Grades 1-4	\$10,200	\$1,200	\$680	\$325	\$300	\$7,695
Grades 5-6	\$10,700	\$1,200	\$680	\$325	\$300	\$8,195
Grades 7-8	\$11,200	\$1,200	\$680	\$325	\$300	\$8,695
Grades 9-12	\$12,200	\$1,200	\$680	\$325	\$300	\$9,695
<p>* Requested tuition is the tuition rate necessary to cover all GRCS expenses if not for the giving of the GRCS charitable community.</p> <p>** Please note that families will receive a charitable gift receipt for the amount equal to the optional grants they do not elect to receive.</p> <p>*** Rockford Christian Enrichment Kindergarten Program</p>						

Jeremiah 29:11

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord,
"plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

School Member Ballot

How to Cast Your Ballot

Grand Rapids Christian Schools members are asked to approve the proposed 2017-2018 budget, approve the revision to Section 3.5 of the GRCS bylaws, and elect each of the Board candidates nominated, reviewed, and approved by the Board of Trustees.

There are five ways to submit your ballot:

1. Attend the Annual Meeting on March 20 6:00 pm at GRCMS in the Village Square
2. Mail your ballot to GRCS Admin Office, 1508 Alexander St SE, GR MI 49506
3. Hand-deliver your ballot to GRCS Admin Office
4. Have your child deliver your ballot to their school office
5. Fax your ballot to GRCS at 616.574.6010

Absentee Ballot

The undersigned member(s) acknowledge(s) that he/she will not be present at the Annual Meeting and wishes to cast his/her vote via this Absentee Ballot.

Please cast your vote to approve:

MEMBER 1

YES	NO	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed 2017-18 Budget
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Revision to Section 3.5 Bylaws
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tim Alles
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mairobi Garcia
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mike Meeuwsen
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dave VanWingerden
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cindy Brink - Alternate

MEMBER 2

YES	NO	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed 2017-18 Budget
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Revision to Section 3.5 Bylaws
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tim Alles
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mairobi Garcia
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mike Meeuwsen
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dave VanWingerden
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cindy Brink - Alternate

Printed Name

Printed Name

Signature

Signature

Date

Date

Sign and date this ballot and file it with the board secretary before or at the time of the March 20 Annual Meeting.

**Administrative Offices
Contact Information**

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