



Parent Update

Vision 2018

June 9, 2016

Greetings OLM Community! Here is the latest news from the Vision Committee:

As you know, the Vision Committee has been meeting weekly since early February and we have some exciting updates to share...including a long-awaited timeline for when OLM's new location should be finalized.

On Monday, June 6th, the Vision Committee welcomed Tom Banisch, First Selectman of Madison, and Tom Scarice, Superintendent of Public Schools, to a special meeting of the Vision Committee. Mr. Banisch and Mr. Scarice opened the meeting with an update regarding the work that has been done by Madison officials to make OLM's relocation to a public school building a reality. In summary, the Board of Education, Board of Finance, and Board of Selectman have been meeting about our relocation and have discussed plans to offer OLM one of the buildings currently in operation by the town. We discussed specific buildings that will become available, the cost of renovation for each, and the transition plan we would follow to occupy each of the available buildings. Additionally, Mr. Banisch and Mr. Scarice were prepared with plans for interim housing of OLM in the event that our permanent option was not yet available for our anticipated end-of-lease deadline.

As a committee, we were very impressed with the commitment the town is making to assist OLM, the work that has been done proactively by town officials, the foresight regarding potential obstacles, and the level of specificity of our discussion. Next steps include a walk-through of each potential OLM site, updated cost estimates for renovation, and a detailed lease vs buy discussion. We plan to meet with Mr. Scarice and Mr. Banisch again in the later part of the summer.

Regarding our current location, we continue to prepare for our next meeting with the Sisters of Mercy where we can again discuss the opportunity to remain in our current home. We expect a significant update on this option in our August or September communication.

Expansion to a regional school remains a work in progress and is continuing to be discussed at the archdiocesan level as well as within the Vision Committee meetings. Associated with this option has been a search for available land where a new building could be constructed. Two parcels have been identified and we are gathering zoning information as well as construction estimates and construction timelines in order to better understand if this option is viable for OLM. The next step is a feasibility study regarding the potential efficacy of a capital campaign to raise the funds necessary to construct a new home for OLM.

Finally, the re-enrollment numbers are in and they are most inspiring. With a graduating class of 31 students and an incoming 1st grade class of 20, there were 168 students available for re-enrollment. Families moving out of the area reduce this number to the mid 160's. The current OLM enrollment for next year stands at 153...with a few families still inquiring for next year. This represents a greater than 93% re-enrollment, reestablishes OLM as the most strongly enrolled Catholic School on the shoreline, and marks a commitment by our families that has inspired our board, our committee, and our pastors to work even harder to find a new home, expand our programs, and push the next chapter of OLM to even greater heights.

As a result of the faith placed in our school by this re-enrollment, and as a result of the progress made by the Vision Committee work streams, we are now prepared to establish a February 2017 deadline for the finalization of OLM's relocation plans. The alignment of this date with next year's re-enrollment is no accident. We feel we owe it to our families, before asking for another re-enrollment, to offer a clear plan for the future of our school.

The Vision Committee will continue to meet each week and our next parent update will be in August. We would like to wish each of you a happy, healthy, and restful summer. See you in September!

- Vision Committee

The parish school of St. George, Guilford and St. Margaret, Madison

149 Neck Road Madison, CT 06443 | phone: 203-245-4393 | fax: 203-245-3498 | www.olmschool.com

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