



Parent Update

Vision 2018

September 21, 2016

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

The Vision Committee would like to extend a warm “Welcome Back” to all students and families. As we begin another school year here at Our Lady of Mercy, we are all excited about the year ahead, the opportunities to come, and the mission set out before us--to actively shape the future of OLM.

The summer schedule for the Vision Committee was unchanged from last year with meetings every Monday and subcommittee work during the week. Each of the three relocation options remains viable and each continues to come into sharper focus as the weeks press on. While our last communication focused on the Regional School Model, this update will focus on some exciting news regarding our future here at Neck Rd. and an update on the Academy School.

Members of the Vision Committee visited the Academy School site with a contractor and with the First Selectman, Tom Banisch. Unfortunately, the degree of deterioration now present would require an estimated \$10 to \$15 million dollars in construction and renovation costs in order for a new school to safely occupy. As a result, this specific location now appears cost-prohibitive. We continue to work with Mr. Banisch on other Madison locations.

As mentioned in previous editions of this newsletter, the Vision Committee has been in contact with the Sisters of Mercy at their regional headquarters in Rhode Island. Through a series of face-to-face meetings, letters, and emails, the Vision Committee has made every effort to keep the Sisters informed, and involved, regarding our search for a permanent home. The efforts of the Vision Committee’s hard work have been recognized and commended by the Sisters of Mercy. Most recently, a team from the Vision Committee presented a detailed explanation of the value this building has to our OLM community along with an update on our progress in the other relocation models. We discussed the history of OLM, the current programs we are growing, and our future as a best-in-class academic and spiritual institution. The presentation concluded with a discussion of our “next step” which is to extend an offer to purchase this building along with the surrounding 7.9 acres. The Sisters of Mercy are open to the continuing discussions of the future of OLM. The continued open dialogue with the Sisters is an essential step in vetting our opportunity to remain here at Neck Rd.

The Vision Committee is cautiously optimistic about our future here at Neck Rd. We have spent many weeks gathering the necessary data and preparing for the upcoming negotiation points. We will continue to be diligent exploring and pursuing every possibility for the future of OLM. As promised at the end of the last school year, we expect a clear path forward by the time we open our enrollment next spring.

We would again like to welcome you all back to OLM and we wish you and your children a successful year.

- Vision Committee