

SCHOOL FUNDING TASK FORCE

February 2009

In response to the economic conditions impacting Michigan, a Funding Task Force was formed in September 2008 to examine school finances. Four different areas were evaluated: tuition revenue, non-tuition revenue, operational efficiencies, and financial capital. The objective of this task force was to study all aspects of school funding to ensure that your dollars are being used effectively. The work of this task force will be ongoing as various ideas are implemented in the future. Despite the challenging economic climate, we want to uphold the high standards for which our Schools are known and respected. A brief summary of the task force is listed below.

As we plan for next year, we will make every effort to keep our tuition increases to reasonable levels. Our commitment to be responsible stewards of our resources has never been stronger. Thank you for the sacrifice you make to send your child(ren) to Grand Traverse Area Catholic Schools. We value your partnership as we work together to develop each child to his or her fullest academic and spiritual potential.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Michael R. Buell
Superintendent

Grand Traverse Area Catholic Schools would like to thank the members of the Funding Task Force and its four sub-committees for their diligence in reviewing school finances, expenses and revenue sources.

Executive Committee
reviewed overall school finances and managed the sub-committee process.

Pat Heintz, chair
Wayne Pahssen
Greg Donahue
Tom Plough
Joel Myler
Steve Peacock
Connie Deneweth
Mike Buell
Wayne Mueller

Tuition Sub-Committee
researched possible tuition structures, explored the impact of bundling classroom fees, and compared various tuition assistance models.

Steve Peacock, chair
Joel Myler
Dennis Brodeur
Marty Gallagher
John Puetz
Melissa Ambrosius

Non-Tuition Revenue Sub-Committee
identified non-traditional revenue sources such as school-sponsored debit cards, an expanded corporate marketing program or online bookstore portal.

Greg Donahue, chair
John Ehardt
Chris Bott
Scott Foster
Paul Bandrowski

Operational Efficiencies Sub-Committee
analyzed key expense categories including energy, insurance, personnel and transportation and made recommendations regarding the financial decision-making structure.

Wayne Pahssen, chair
Kevin Endres
Scott Sodini
Eric Ritchie
Mary Clulo
Deb Quinlan

Financial Capital Sub-Committee
reviewed possible debt restructuring strategies and various means of generating capital for long-term improvements.

Pat Heintz, chair
Connie Deneweth
Barb Benson
Tom Plough

The Executive Committee is implementing many of the sub-committee recommendations to help GTACS operate at peak efficiency. We look forward to sharing details in future communications.

