

11.2.10

Fall Greetings to Everyone:

Now that we've made it through the summer, gotten all of the kids back in class, opened a K - 5 school, and started looking forward to Christmas break, I thought it was time the Board of Directors sent out an update. For those of you who are new to Eagle Ridge, the Board of Directors is currently comprised of eight members rather than nine due to a resignation. Five are teachers, two are parents and one is a community member. The Board is the governing body of the school and ultimately responsible for achieving Eagle Ridge Academy's mission. We are here to serve the school and welcome feedback from all of our stakeholders.

Eagle Ridge Academy's vision and mission

Although I wasn't on the initial Board of Directors that developed and adopted the vision for the school, I've been involved in enough similar planning sessions to have an idea what it was like. I know that there were probably quite a few ideas discussed, some vigorous conversations and debates, and much editing over the wording to ensure that it really reflected the intentions of the founding group. It is safe to say that when all was said and done, the group was unanimously committed to seeing that vision become a reality. Lately, the profound importance of unapologetically staying true to our mission and vision and the consequences if we lose our focus on them has been occupying my mind. Every decision we make; adding the lower school, determining the number of sections to offer, hiring staff, acquiring a new facility, and more all have consequences and have to be evaluated against our vision and mission. While we are over seven years past Eagle Ridge's humble beginnings, my goal is to ensure the commitment today is as strong as it was then.

The Launch of the Lower School

The opening of the Lower School was a key component of our strategy to have every child that graduates from Eagle Ridge has a full K through 12th grade classical education. And as you all know, it was not a simple task. There were teachers to hire, curriculum materials to buy, students to recruit, schedules to create, furnishings to buy and a facility to lease. However, due to the new laws passed in 2009, we had to accomplish most of that in an extremely short window of time. Also, unlike the initial start up of the Upper School, there were no federal funds, grants or support from the state. Instead, we have a 27% holdback in our funds, which has made us tighten our belts. There are still some needs to be met so we are asking for your help. If you are able to contribute financially or know someone who can, please let us know.

Needless to say, this was a monumental task that can only be described as miraculous due to the commitment of so many people. I would like to personally recognize the above and beyond efforts of John, Karen, Karin and Sonja. Without their tireless efforts, this launch would not have succeeded.

Facility Search

"Where are we going to be located next year?" is probably one of the most common questions I hear these days. The truth is that I wish I could tell you. We are evaluating several ownership options and a few different facility configurations. Finding the combination of the right building in the right area for the right price is more challenging than it would seem. Very few buildings currently out there are laid out in a manner that is conducive to a school's needs and thus would require substantial remodeling, the cost of which is added to our lease payments. Also, we want to ensure that the facility will serve our mission, not dictate it. That being said, please rest assured that we are doing everything we can to have the facility needs met. We hope to have something settled prior to the end of 2010. If you are aware of any facilities that may be worth

considering, please let me know and I'll ask our realtor to look into it. Lastly, we'll be sending out an email soon asking for your input on the various parameters of our facility search. Please complete it as soon as possible to help guide our decision-making process.

Board Opening – Do you have what it takes?

As mentioned earlier, we have an open seat on our board. According to our bylaws, the position is filled by appointment of the board and will serve until our next annual meeting, which is next spring. As we fully embrace our commitment to Eagle Ridge, I believe it is imperative that we select board members that are passionate about our mission, committed to seeing it fulfilled, and unwilling to compromise on the principles upon which the school was founded. Serving on the board is not a privilege, it is an awesome responsibility. If you believe that this describes you or someone you know, please contact me.

Working Groups – A Service Opportunity

One of the opportunities to serve at Eagle Ridge is in our Working Groups. These groups were established by the board to help address much of the work that needs to be performed to operate the school. They help support the staff and the board in some very key areas. Please read through the description of the groups on the [Eagle Ridge web site](#) for more information. If you have talents or experience in one or more of these areas and can commit the time, please notify the board liaison for that group.

Thanks for taking the time to read through all of this and for all you are doing to move Eagle Ridge Academy forward. As always, feel free to contact me with any questions or suggestions.

Pete Larson

**Chairman of the Board
Eagle Ridge Academy**

7255 Flying Cloud Drive
Eden Prairie, MN 55344