

President's Report

**GSSM Board Meeting
June 9, 2016**

RE-STATING STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL PRINCIPLES

- EXCELLENCE as the only non-negotiable (“Start with the WHY”)
- **Student-Centered Excellence** as the strategic umbrella
- Building community (people always come first; self-reflection on where we are in the spectrum from collection to community)
- Data-driven decision making
- Benchmarking embedded in every aspect of our strategic thinking and planning

BASELINE DATA

- **GSSM Student Survey (155/260) – completed before graduation**
- **Senior student testimonials (“senior wills”, individual and group visits, 40 letters to the new GSSM President)**
- **Faculty/staff survey under way (about 50% response)**
- **Parents survey under way (high response rate)**
- **In the process of hiring IR expert(s) to provide qualitative and quantitative analysis and recommend next steps**

EARLY ACTION STEPS AND PLANNING QUESTIONS

- **Charged staff evaluation process task-force; recommendation expected August 2016; process in place expected by Spring 2017**
- **Starting to understand student quality “input” and “output” from recruitment to college destination**
- **How can college counseling and academics partner effectively toward a “best fit” approach to college destination and meet high expectations, driven at least in part by “Get here, Get anywhere” marketing approach?**
- **How should we articulate survey results, benchmarking and existing data into our strategic thinking and planning? How best to communicate with stakeholders?**

TEAM BUILDING, NETWORKING, COMMUNITY RELATIONS

- **ELT retreat (June 27-28) – team building and strategic thinking**
- **NETWORK NETWORK NETWORK (BOT members, legislators, outreach partner schools, Hartsville community, parents)**
- **Initial networking with potential donors and alumni**
- **Planning IMAGINE GSSM: an annual open house to build town and gown relationships, increase awareness of the full GSSM educational scope and impact, inspire children from Darlington and adjacent counties to imagine themselves at GSSM, network with community, corporate and political leaders on our home turf**

STUDENT-CENTERED EXCELLENCE

- **How do we define STUDENT SUCCESS?**
- **Academic experience**
- **Personal development (non-cognitive dimension)**
- **What is the ideal GOVIE profile?**
- **How do the three above dimensions integrate into a portfolio competitive for admission to the best Colleges and Universities nationwide?**
- **How do we balance demands, expectations and rules with a measure of JOY?**

STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

- **How should the board of trustees help us understand why we are GSSM, imagine what we can be, and define how we get there?**
- **Strategic Plan Steering Committee: representation**
- **Strategic Planning Process: schedule, timeline, stakeholders**
- **Resourcing strategic plan: how do 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 budget plans match with strategic thinking**
- **Understanding data: Student survey discussion as example of process framework**