Strategic Vision

Phase I

April 11, 2016
Welcome!

Tonight we will

• Understand what a strategic vision is and why it’s important

• Know and understand Stuart Hall’s unique vision

• Know our next steps in our strategic vision

• Leave this meeting excited about our vision
Independent Schools: “Change to Remain the Same”

• Differentiation from other schools is imperative

• Mark’s experience in independent schools

• It doesn’t matter how good we are if we aren’t the leaders in our field – we aren’t here to be good, we’re here to be excellent

• We have opportunities no other schools have
What is a Strategic Vision?

An organization’s direction or desired future state

• It’s a vision that guides everyday decision making and big-picture plans

• Dennis’ opening remarks outlined our strategic initiatives to this point
Remarkable Vs. Status Quo…

- **Simon Sinek** (3-minute video)

- Sinek models how we think about our strategic visioning process
Apple vs. Gateway or Dell: Remarkable vs. Status Quo

“People don’t buy what you do, they buy why you do it”

• We will act from our deepest beliefs

• **We are aiming to be the Apple of education** – to be constant innovators who motivate a generation

• What are our deepest beliefs?

• And, what are our WHY, HOW, and WHAT?
We believe…

• In the inherent value of a liberal arts education, focusing on humanities, philosophy, sciences, and mathematics, as it fosters rigorous academic exploration and intellectual depth and breadth.

• That the fundamental purpose of education has expanded, and in order to prepare students for meaningful, productive lives, education today must go further than it has before: teaching students to apply liberal arts thinking to relevant, real-world situations, and in doing so, develop necessary life skills.
We believe…

• That to be culturally relevant and economically sustainable, Stuart Hall must offer a dynamically different educational program, lifting the confinement and constraints of the traditional instructional setting, to prepare students for university and beyond.

• That education today must guide tomorrow’s leaders to develop an internal sense of direction and purpose, embracing the value that each individual brings to the greater whole.
We believe…

• In the educational imperative of creating adaptable, flexible, and resilient students to meet the needs of a future working world not yet imagined.

• In our responsibility to create an environment in which children are known, cared for, and respected as individuals.

• That a thriving institution must continually self-assess and act boldly.
Setting Up Our Vision: Our Why, How, What

- **WHY**: To form young people who will be invaluable to a future we cannot yet imagine

- **HOW**: Project-based, place-based, “STU-Grad”-based learning for grades PK-12, in a nationally recognized small city

- This is something that NO OTHER independent school is doing in exactly the same way

- **WHAT**: educating students who are prepared for college and beyond

- Listen for these in the following remarks from Dennis Cross
Dear Friends,

As an artist sees the splendor that will emerge from the clay, we hold in our minds a vision of what Stuart Hall will be in the coming decades. We introduce to you in these pages the contours of a bold future: a strategic plan, in its first of three phases, which will redefine our educational program. Our strategic vision, born of our mission, represents our commitment to educational innovation, to decisive action, and to our community.

"Our vision is to produce students who are invaluable to the future and will navigate with confidence a world we cannot even imagine."

In consultation with experts like Patrick Basset, former President of the National Association of Independent Schools, and with the full support of the Board of Governors, we have developed and continue to refine a plan that will distinguish us among independent schools.

We invite you to partner with us as this vision is transformed from the conceptual to the concrete, in three phases, as follows:

**Phase I**
Sharing of Strategic Vision with the Stuart Hall Community & Public

**Phase II**
Sharing of Architectural Renderings, Case Statement & Fundraising Plan

**Phase III**
Sharing of Curricular & Programmatic Initiatives Related to Authentic Learning

As always, we thank you for your continuing commitment to Stuart Hall School.

Sincerely,

Dennis W. Cross                    Mark H. Eastham
Chair, Board of Governors          Head of School
Stuart Hall School: Tomorrow and Beyond

So what did we hear?

• Staunton will be our campus:
  • We are bringing our two campuses together in Staunton
  • We are leasing or purchasing additional space in downtown Staunton

• We are revolutionizing our academic program to make students invaluable to the future

• We will be “thought-leaders” in independent schools through a unique model
Our Academic Program: Project-Based Learning

• Project-based, authentic, and place-based

• What does that mean?

• PBL Explained (3-minute video)
Defining Terms: Project-based Learning

- **Project Based Learning** is a student-centered pedagogy. Essential Project Design Elements include:
  - Challenging problem or question
  - Sustained inquiry
  - Authenticity
  - Student Voice and Choice
  - Reflection
  - Critique and revision
  - Public Product

- **Project-based, inquiry-based, and problem-based learning** are sometimes used interchangeably. They are “umbrella” terms for similar models.
Why Project-based Learning?

- More engaging for students
- Works hand-in-hand with the *Stuart Hall Graduate* goals/Key Proficiencies
- Improves ownership of learning
- Builds success skills for college, career, and life
- Creates opportunities for students to use technology
- Makes teaching more enjoyable and rewarding
- Connects students and schools with communities and the real world

- **Our Faculty have begun the process of creating a project-based learning environment:** let’s hear from them
Why move the Lower School?

• You just heard amazing examples from our innovative faculty

• Build a stronger sense of community

• Open us up to additional cross-divisional opportunities

• Create mentorship opportunities among faculty

• Maximize facilities and resources

• Create additional facilities for Lower School students

• We are better together
Stuart Hall’s Brand of Project-based Learning

• A step beyond project-based → place-based

• Partner with organizations within the city: Makerspace, e.g.

• Make a contribution to the area we love and from which we get so much already

• This will make us the “Apple” or the “Google” of education
Staunton Is Our campus: Place-Based Learning

Staunton Is Our Campus

Place-Based Experiences

Experience
Immerse
Interact
Manipulate
Explore
Discover
Collaborate
Question
Discuss
Share
Reason
Create
Engage
Integrate
Invest
Commit
Judge
Evaluate
Challenge
Apply
Investigate
Reflect
Construct
Connect
Process
Design
Solve

An authentic learning journey through inquiry and real-world relevance

Project/Problem-Based Learning
Stuart Hall School: Tomorrow and Beyond

Our Vision

Stuart Hall School will be recognized globally as a distinctive teaching and learning environment: a premiere day and boarding school in the Episcopal tradition with historic Staunton, Virginia as our campus, offering students innovative educational and real-world experiences and equipping them to be meaningful contributors to the world.
The Vision: An Endorsement from Pat Bassett

“Education in the 21st century is about creating innovative, flexible thinkers. Stuart Hall is modeling innovation and flexibility for its students in this strategic vision. Student outcomes from project-based learning are well documented and have high rates of success, and incorporating the city of Staunton and its surrounding areas into an authentic learning curriculum will establish Stuart Hall as a thought-leader in independent schools.”

- Patrick Bassett, National Network of Schools in Partnership and former President of the National Association of Independent Schools
What does this look like?

Facilities and Campus: Two New Options

The **first** involves new construction—the building of a 20,000 square foot addition on the Fillmore Field side of the school.

11\(^{th}\)-12\(^{th}\) grade would move downtown.

The **second alternative** for implementing the one campus model involves more renovation and less new construction.

Most of 9\(^{th}\)-12\(^{th}\) would move downtown.

The Takeaway: Either option offers state of the art learning spaces PK-12
Stuart Hall School: The Vision…
Stuart Hall School: The Vision...

- Fillmore as the main entrance to the school
- Sense of entry and community
Example Spaces:
Stuart Hall School: Example Spaces
Three Phases to Our Strategic Planning

• We are only in Phase I! This is just the vision phase

• Phase II is our fundraising campaign and architectural drawings phase

• Phase III, the academic program, is ongoing and in process and will be released in writing after input from key stakeholders

• We want and need your input
Approximate Timeline

2014-15/2015-16: Development, Implementation, Marketing of STU Grad Goals / Key Proficiencies

2016-17: Exploration and further development of place-based, inquiry-based, authentic learning

2017-18: Curriculum Implementation, Renovation, Building

2018-19: Ideal move-date for Lower School and New Building
The Takeaways…

You Have Learned…

• Our vision is bold and unique

• Staunton will be our campus, PK-12

• Place-based learning

• Three phases to our strategic plan
What does this mean for you?

- Most distinctive and effective academic program available
- “Thought-leaders” in independent schools
- Earliest move for the Lower School Fall of 2018
- Lots of exciting work ahead
- We want your input
Thank you.