



March 24, 2011

Dear Denver Public School Board Members,

As chair of the Godsman Elementary Collaborative School Committee (C.S.C.), I write on behalf of the members of the committee who believe that in order for Godsman Elementary to provide the best possible education for the students in our community, the transition to an Innovation School must strongly be supported. On March 24, 2011 at 7:15 A.M. the C.S.C. met and established support for the Innovation Proposal. Present at the meeting other than myself were two other teacher representatives, Christopher Beatty and Amy Golden. Faculty C.S.C. members unable to attend who are in support were Leah Pearson and Ashley Bloomer, along with parent representative, Tina Mendoza, Assistant Principal Michelle Abitia and Principal Patricia Hurrieta.

The Innovation status would allow Godsman to put curriculum systems into place, such as G.L.A.D. and Literacy Squared, to support teachers to promote student's best possible opportunities for successful results and high achievement in the classroom. The Godsman faculty would like to engage parents directly in the educational process and offer students extended times for academics and special programs, which will have tremendous potential to lead to more positive student outcomes. Godsman's culture is one of innovation, compassion and high expectations. We believe that it makes sense to allow the CSC and the SLT leadership teams to be combined, therefore allowing more autonomy in decision-making, goal setting and resource allocation to support our vision, philosophy, data goals and mission statement.

Becoming an Innovation School will require a high level of commitment from the school's staff, students, community partners and the families. The empowerment that comes from giving some of the decisions regarding the curriculum, leadership, and language development to those most directly impacted will serve to engage and motivate the parents and staff who have chosen Godsman. It is our hope that our School of Innovation will close the achievement gap, attract new families who are passionate about language acquisition and share our educational beliefs for the successful future of the children in our community.

We look forward to the amazing opportunities that would be available to us once we receive our Innovation status!

Sincerely,

Kristine M. Deeks
C.S.C. Chair