



June, 2019

Dear Parents,

I am writing to update you on the progress of the Diocesan Strategic Plan since my last letter in April. Since my last letter, there have been a series of meetings with leadership groups – pastors, boards of education (sometimes including finance council and parish council members), principals, Bishop’s Council, and others to review the overall plan, explain the concept of a regional school system, and take feedback and input on how to help move the process along. Feedback from these meetings indicated the explanation helped better understand the issues our schools are facing and the complexity of developing a regional school system. The overall feedback also said that more detail is needed to fully understand. Not knowing or being able to provide details was expected because working on the details of the plan is our next step.

An Implementation Committee has been formed from members of the Blue Ribbon Task Force plus a few other individuals. The committee members are Fr. Joe Pins, Pastor of St. Joseph Parish; Connor Flynn, Lessing Flynn Advertising; Marty Flaherty, Holy Family Principal; Mary Jo Kever, Principal St. Pius School, Dr. Dan Ryan, President Dowling Catholic High School; Steve Lacy, Meredith Publishing, Steve Chapman, retired business leader; John McIlhon, President Holy Family Foundation, Dr. Jerry Deegan, Implementation Coordinator. The initial Committee meetings consisted of doing research in the areas of marketing and enrollment management, governance and human resources, finances, advancement, and academics to get a clear understanding of on the current situation in our schools in those areas. Jeanne Wells from CTO, Fr. Hurley and Bob Boyle were invited to help provide information from work they have done or their past experience in one or more of the areas of focus.

The committee has developed a work plan for each of the focus areas including forming subcommittees with members from constituents from across the schools and parishes. These subcommittees begin meetings in July to begin developing essential questions that need to be considered, determining what is working in the focus area, what is not working, and what recommendations can be made that contribute to a plan to move ahead.

Our goal is to continue to communicate the work of the committee and the subcommittees as the process moves along. We plan to continue to meet with the Bishop, pastors, leadership groups and parents as we move through the process. I encourage you to visit the Diocese web site at www.dmdiocese.org/catholic-schools/strategic-plan to review the plan, the key findings of the plan and several articles that help provide background and research of regional school systems. Included in with this letter is a list of some of the meetings that have been held. More meetings are being planned.

Thanks again for your feedback and interest in this important planning process to help secure a strong future for our Catholic schools.

Sincerely

Dr. Jerry Deegan



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School Board/Other meetings to talk about plan

School/Other	Meeting Date	Location	Date of update 5.14.19
Holy Trinity	Thursday, April 11, 6:00	Board of Ed., School Library	
St. Anthony	Tuesday, April 16, 6:30	Board of Ed., School	
Implementation Com	Wednesday, April 17, 4pm	DCCHS	
Fr. Pins	Wednesday, April 24, 10:15	Caribou	
Iowa Catholic Radio	Tuesday, April 30, 10am	Radio Station	
Implementation Com	Wednesday, May 1, 4pm	DCCHS	
Fr. Fleming/Fr. Pins	Thursday, May 2, 10am	St. Pius X	
Eileen Wixted (PR)	Thursday, May 2, 12:30pm	Wixted's Office	
Fr. Hartshorn/Fr.Pins	Thursday, May 2, 2pm	Sacred Heart Parish	
St. Pius	Thursday, May 2 nd , 6:00	Board of Ed., St. Pius X	
Christ the King	Tuesday, May 7 th , 6:45	Board of Ed., School Library	
Steve/Dan(CTO)	Wednesday, May 8, 7:30am	Einstein Bagel	
Fr. Halbur	Wednesday, May 8, 10:30am	St. Malachy School, Creston	
St. Luke's	Wednesday, May 8 th , 6:30	School Board, Finance Council, Parish Council	
Presbyteral Council	Thursday, May 9, 11:00	Corpus Christie Parish, CB	
St. Francis of Assisi	Thursday, May 9 th , 6:30	Board of Ed., Middle Conference Room	
Katlin Wicox/Connor	Monday, May 11, 11am	Smokey Row (Enrollment/Marketing)	
Paul Carlson/Laura	Monday, May 11, 1pm	Diocese (Parish/School Finances)	
Elem. Admin meeting	Tuesday, May 14, 11am	Dowling Catholic	
Sacred Heart	Tuesday, May 14, 7:30	School Board, Parish Center Conf Room	
Implementation Com	Wednesday, May 15, 4pm	DCCHS	
Fr. Amodeo/Fr.Pins	Wednesday, May 15, 2pm	Diocese	
DCCHS	Thursday, May 16, 6:30	Board of Ed., Board Room	

Carol Trueg	Monday, May 20, 1pm	Executive Dir of Dubuque System
CTO leadership	Tuesday, May 21, 10am	DCHS
Tom Green	Wednesday, May 22, 9am	New pastor support program
Fr. Frost/Ann A./Tracy	Thursday, May 22, 1pm	Shelby County Catholic School
Diocese Bd of Ed.	Wednesday, May 22, 4pm	Diocese
Tracy/Paul/Mark	Friday, May 24, 9:30am	Diocese (St. Pat's School finance update)
Fr. Neal/Fr. Pins	Tuesday, May 28, 1pm	Holy Trinity
Fr. Higgins	Wednesday, May 29, 8am	St. Theresa
Jim Cownie/Dan R	Wednesday, May 29, 10:30am	Jim's office (CTO)
Implementation Com	Wednesday, May 29, 4pm	DCHS
Msgr. Chiodo/Fr. Pins	Thursday, May 30, 10am	St. Anthony
LS2, School Choice	Friday, May 31, 1pm	DCHS
Fr. McManus	Tuesday, June 4, 1pm	Christ the King
St. Augustin	Tuesday, June 4, 6:30pm	School Board
Fr. Pisut	Wednesday, June 5, 9:00	St. Augustin
St. Patrick in Perry	Wednesday, June 5, 3:30	School Bd, Fnd Bd, Finance Council, Fr. Luis
St. Joseph	Saturday, June 8, 8:00am	School Bd, Finance Council, Parish Council
Implementation Com	Wednesday, June 12, 4pm	DCHS
Holy Family	Thursday, June 13, 6:00	Bd of Ed, School Library
Bishop Council	Tuesday, June 18, 5:30	DM Club, WDM
DSM Pastors w/Schools	Wednesday, June 19, 1:00	St. Joseph School
St. Theresa	Wednesday, June 19, 6:00	Bd of Ed, Finance Council at School library
Jennifer Simmons	Monday, July 15, 9:30	St. Malachy (Creston)
Sub Group meetings	July/August	