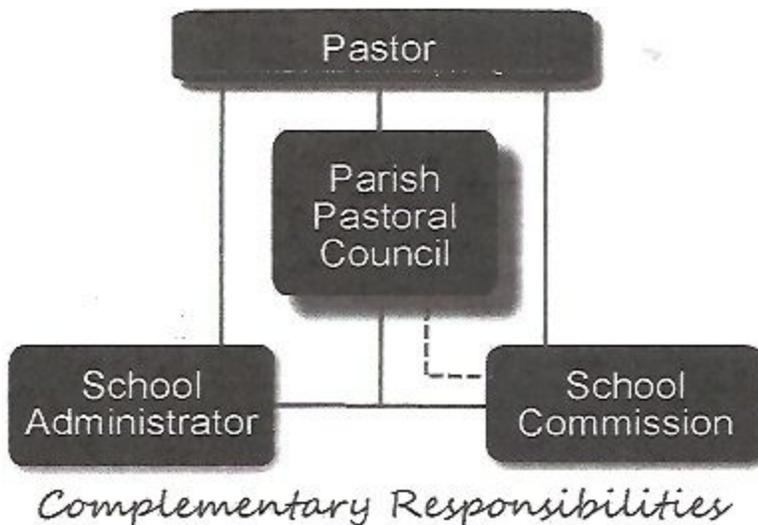


PARISH SCHOOL COMMISSIONS ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS

- The parish school commission is one of several commissions under the pastor and parish pastoral council.
- Parish school commissions are considered “advisory” to the local pastor.
 - According to the Primer on Educational Governance, “...an advisory board or commission is a body that participates in the decision-making process formulating, adapting, and recommending policy to the person with the power to enact it (usually the pastor). The authority is not bound by the board’s advice.”
- In the Archdiocese of Indianapolis pastors and school administrators welcome, depend upon, and respect the wisdom of the laypersons who voluntarily serve on their school commissions.

Since 1998 the relationship line between the administrator and school commission has been draw as a horizontal line for “**complementary responsibilities.**”

- The school administrator is the educational “delegate” of the pastor and is delegated authority to operate the school and to interact with the school commission as its administrative officer.
- The school commission has been created to advise the pastor and his delegate (school administrator) on educational matters.
- Both the administrator and the commission report to and are accountable to the pastor.



The Commission shall be responsible for:

- ❖ Establishing and recommending to the pastor for his approval a **3-5 year strategic plan** for the school with ongoing monitoring and annual review/revisions. The plan is based upon the *National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Elementary and Secondary Schools (NSBECS)* including required **school improvement plans** for the school as prescribed by the Archdiocese and the State of Indiana for accredited non-public schools.
- ❖ Formulating and recommending **general, educational and financial policies** that guide the administration in achieving the objectives of the strategic plan.
- ❖ Providing input to the pastor on the performance appraisal of the effectiveness of the school administrator on administering commission policy and meeting goals. **The pastor is the employer and supervisor of the school administrator.**
- ❖ Participating in the **evaluation of policies and plans and the effectiveness of commission operations;**
- ❖ Developing and preparing the **long-term financial plan, annual operating budget, monthly financial reports, and end of year financial statement of the school;**
- ❖ **Directing and implementation of archdiocese, state and local educational policy** in the school through the principal;
- ❖ Oversight of and active participation with the administration in **comprehensive institutional advancement and development planning and programs;**
- ❖ **Communicating effectively with the school community** which includes parents, students, faculty, staff, alumni, donors, business partners, etc.
- ❖ Oversight and **evaluation with the pastor of the overall mission effectiveness of the school in the context of the Catholic Faith.**

Model of School Governance and Administration

