



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 Keever, Principal St. Pius School, Dr. Dan Ryan, President Dowling Catholic High School; Steve Lacy, Meredith Publishing, Steve Chapman, retired business leader; John McIlhonn, 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](http://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