

To Parishioners of St. Joseph, St. Joseph, St. Joseph, Waite Park, and St. Peter, St. Paul and St. Michael:

We are writing this to report on the progress of our new Catholic school system involving St. Joseph Waite Park, St. Joseph Lab School, and St. Peter, Paul and Michael. The pastors and principals have met twice, and will continue to be in dialogue throughout the implementation process. We are committed to moving forward together on this.

A major concern we have heard and are addressing is the role of the principal/on-site person in the new arrangement. Some of the current duties of the school principals will be assumed by the lead administrator, marketing person, and development person. We believe there will still need to be an effective principal presence to some degree in each school. These individuals at a minimum will oversee the essential operations of the school, be responsible for the health, safety and discipline of students and will supervise staff.

We are in the process of forming a transition team with representatives from each school. The team will be comprised of visionary individuals who are committed to creating a new, viable Catholic school model. The team will include parents, principals, pastors and staff members. Consultants may be included in the process. The team will meet regularly starting in January and address transition issues such as philosophy and mission, job descriptions, staffing, tuition, salaries and benefits, facilities, budgets, and more. The team may eventually be involved in forming the new Board for this Catholic School Community still to be named. The current Boards of Education (or equivalent committee) will continue to operate at least through the remainder of this school year.

We intend to be in regular and open communication with our respective parishes, school staffs, parents, Boards of Education, Finance Councils, and Parish Councils. We want to work together to build a new Catholic school system that will be strong and viable for years to come. We ask for your prayers and support as we move forward in this positive direction.

Kathy Cziok, Sharon Bichler, Karl Terhaar, Fr. Joseph Feders, OSB, Fr. Vince Lieser, Fr. Alan Wielinski