

Catholic School Update 30 November 2010

One of the biggest concerns with the recently released Catholic Schools Study Group (CSSG) proposal is how one single senior administrator will assume the duties of three principals and one assistant principal and still maintain the high quality of our present schools.

The members of the CSSG want to recognize and commend the excellent service of our principals. We want to be clear with everyone that the reason we are proposing any change is because our traditional model of providing Catholic education is not sustainable. Economic and demographic trends are working against us. The proposal is not a reflection on our principals who have faithfully dedicated themselves to these schools, but rather a reflection on a changing environment. We truly believe that our proposal will strengthen our combined school for the future. This will happen by economies of scale and scope and by seeking partners who believe in our mission and will financially commit to support it.

When the CSSG developed the proposal, the staff requirements of the combined administration were addressed. With a combined school, there can be only one person in charge—that is, a single senior administrator. He or she will be assisted by a business manager and a marketing/development person. Also included in the financial projections are funds for “on-site” support for the senior administrator. We do not want to define what this “on-site” support will look like because it will depend a great deal on the particular gifts of the senior administrator. We also want him or her to have a role in defining the structure of the “on-site” support.

One additional clarification – The CSSG has proposed bringing the new administrator on board by March 2011 so that he or she can work with the current principals as they complete the current school year. Even though this will cost more in the short run, hopefully, it will ensure a smoother transition.

As we continue to move forward on implementing the proposal we will respond to your concerns in a similar fashion. Thank you for your patience.

Fathers Alan, Joseph and Vince