

School Consolidation Update

January 2, 2011

Middle School (7/8th grade):

Consolidation plans between SPPM Middle School and John XXIII/CHS are in place for the 2011-12 school year. The Middle School for 7-8 graders will be located on the CHS campus. CHS Board of Directors has approved a shared burden transitional parish investment/tuition plan for full-time students enrolled at SPPM as of December 16, 2010. The board further resolved to retire and cease use of the name John XXIII as of July 1, 2011. The 7-12 grade school will operate as Cathedral as of that date. Cathedral will provide opportunities for SPPM students and families to become familiar with their new 7/8 grade program.

Elementary School Administration:

The three pastors of the churches of Saint Michael, Saint Joseph, St. Joseph, Saint Joseph, Waite Park, and Saints Peter/Paul have named an administrative team for the 2011-12 school year. Rather than naming a lead administrator at this time, current principals, Sharon Bichler, Kathy Cziok and Karl Terhaar, will continue performing the functions of principal and oversee the implementation process for the school consolidation. This co-administrative team will provide the necessary stability for their buildings while advancing a reasonable timeline. A lead administrator will be identified in the future. The administrators are committed to collaborating with the pastors and committees during the transition year and will provide regular updates. They welcome and rely on suggestions and support from the participating communities as the consolidation moves forward.

Consolidated Board:

Father Vince Lieser, Father Joseph Feders, and Father Alan Wielinski have agreed to form a 15-member board of education with three school parent representatives from each of the five supporting parishes. The board will be formed and have an initial meeting in January 2011.

Transition Team:

In order to complete the many tasks involved in the consolidation, a team of three parents and two staff members from each of the three schools will be formed. Along with the principals, this team will undertake the duties assigned by the board. The team will meet in January and determine a timeline and a prioritized list of tasks and issues to address. Consultants in our communities will be needed as we move forward. Anyone with a background in human resources, marketing, business, management, finance, strategic planning, etc., is encouraged to contact one of the principals. The more people involved who share a common passion for the future of Catholic education, the more successful the consolidation!

As a unified school system, we look with hope to a future of collaboration and new opportunities for families. Please keep our parishes and schools in your prayers as well as all those involved in the process.