

School Consolidation Update

Committees

How is the process of the consolidating and restructuring taking place?

The task of combining three schools into one is a considerable one indeed, and many people are working on this project. The task is being overseen by the Office of Catholic Schools (a curial office of the Diocese of Peoria) and the Pastors' Board. Very early in the process, Mr. William G. Novotney was brought onboard because of his experience and expertise. For twenty-five years, Mr. Novotney served as the Regional Superintendent of Schools for LaSalle County. It is an understatement to say that he is familiar with the educational process. Mr. Novotney is a Catholic and he understands Catholic schools, but he is sufficiently separated from our three schools as to be able to offer objective recommendations that make good sense educationally.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee consists of four people: Br. William Dygert, Superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Peoria; Mr. William G. Novotney; Fr. Philip D. Halfacre, Pastors' Board President; Fr. David M. Kipfer, Pastors' Board Vice-President/Secretary. At the end of the process, the Executive Committee will make a formal recommendation to Bishop Daniel Jenky for his approval.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee is made up of one member from each of the Education Commissions and Mr. Jim Stolt, Associate Director of the Finance Office of the Diocese of Peoria. The chairman is Michael Driscoll, PhD. This committee is entrusted with the task of recommending the budget, the salary scale, and the tuition.

Curriculum Committee

The task of the Curriculum Committee is to bring together and integrate the curricula of the three schools. Marquette Academy will continue to follow the standards for the State of Illinois and the Diocese of Peoria. Mrs. Brooke Rick chairs this committee that is comprised primarily of professional educators. The consolidation will enable us to offer programs that were not previously financially feasible such as programs for gifted and talented students.

Public Relations and Marketing Committee

This committee, made up of members of Education Commission members and others, is looking into creative new ways to market the school.

Pre-School Committee

The principal members of this Committee are Kristal LeRette, Jennifer Rix (pre-school teacher at St. Patrick's), and Teresa Wendt (pre-school teacher at St. Columba). Others are working with them. Their task is to evaluate our current pre-school programs with a view toward integrating the two of them.

Athletic and Extra-Curricular Committee

This Committee is made up principally of Education Commission members of the schools and others who are involved in athletics and extra-curricular activities. They will make recommendations on the sports and extra-curricular programs and the various parent and booster organizations/clubs of the three schools.

Cafeteria Committee

Barb Wielgopalan chairs this committee and works with the cafeteria managers from the grade schools to formulate recommendations regarding the feeding of our students. The three schools currently operate under three different lunch programs.

Do you have ideas?

Send your ideas along with your contact information to: Fr. Philip Halfacre at St. Patrick Parish. He will forward them to the appropriate committee.