

Dear Parents of Notre Dame Jr.-Sr. High School,

Today, the principals received an e-mail from Kathleen Hanlon, our Superintendent of Schools, who attached a letter from Bishop Bambera. I have included Bishop Bambera's letter. We, priests, parents, faculty, and principals have met and begun a process of working together to plan a future for the Notre Dame School System. Shortly, we will be promulgating the next steps in our plan to present to the bishop.

Please read Bishop Bambera's letter closely and join us as we plan for the future of catholic education in the Poconos.

Mr. Lyons

November 17, 2011

Dear Notre Dame School System Community,

On November 6, 2011, a meeting about the Notre Dame School System was held. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for me to share all I have come to know about the realities facing the three schools that comprise the Notre Dame System (i.e., Monsignor McHugh Elementary School, Notre Dame Elementary School and Notre Dame Jr/Sr. High School). While it was not possible to invite everyone to the November 6th meeting, it was recorded and is posted on our Diocesan website (www.dioceseofscranton.org) so that you can watch it at your convenience. In addition, the power point presentation that I used has also been posted on the website for your review. During my presentation, I focused on three main elements: enrollment, tuition and budget. While all three are challenging topics, to discuss each was necessary and proved to be productive. Since the meeting, I have heard from many shareholders that we must combine efforts and focus our attention on preserving and maintaining our schools.

In recent days, many of you have contacted my Office as well as our Schools' Office and our Development Office. Thank you for your insights and expressed commitment to Catholic education. Please know that there will be opportunities for all school constituencies to contribute to this conversation. No decisions regarding any particular school have been made. Moving forward, the Diocese of Scranton is committed to working with you as together we develop a planning process focused on building a stable and sustainable school system.

A priority is the implementation of a marketing, enrollment and fundraising program. To assist your school communities in this endeavor, I am in the process of hiring a School Advancement Director. The goal is to equip the schools with the necessary resources to recruit and retain students as well as to find additional revenue streams. When retained, this individual will immediately focus his/her efforts on the Notre Dame System. In addition, I need to hear from all groups and committees – those currently in

existence and those being formed – as we need to meet, dialogue and plan together in order to address our enrollment, tuition and budget realities.

If you have any comments, suggestions or concerns, please contact our Superintendent of Schools, Kathy Hanlon, at 207-2251, or our Secretary for Development, Jason Morrison, at 207-2250.

Thank you again for your faithful support of Catholic education. I look forward to working with you in order to make our shared vision of creating a stable and sustainable Catholic School System in Monroe County a reality.

Faithfully Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.

Bishop of Scranton