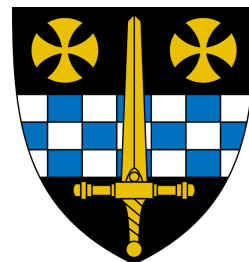


STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS *IN THE PITTSBURGH-EAST REGION*



JANUARY 2019 UPDATE New Governing Board, Administrator to Help Ensure Viability of All Schools

The Pittsburgh-East Regional Catholic Elementary Schools (PERCES) Advisory Board will be transitioning in 2019 to a governing board as part of the Diocese of Pittsburgh's ongoing effort to ensure families have access to Catholic schools that are academically excellent, spiritually vibrant and financially sustainable.

Regionalization is intended to help reinforce Catholic schools' identity and mission, reallocate resources to enhance academic quality, stabilize enrollment and enable greater collaboration in curriculum, technology, professional development, athletics and fundraising.

Currently, parish schools are overseen by pastors/administrators. Under regionalization, a governing board representing all parish groupings within a region will provide oversight. In the Pittsburgh-East region, 12 elementary schools currently serve 57 parishes.

Following the lead of the North Hills region, the schools in the Pittsburgh-East region will become part of Pittsburgh East Regional Catholic Elementary Schools, Inc. (PERCES), a new 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation governed by a two-tiered board structure, with a Member Board that includes the Bishop and a Board of Directors made up of clergy and laypersons. Several of the current advisory board members will be continuing their service, and parish administrators will assist in identifying additional members with expertise in education, finance, development and marketing. Once fully established, the Board of Directors will include a representative from each of the parish groupings within the Pittsburgh-East region.

Once appointed, the PERCES Board will begin to meet in early 2019, with the fiscal year for the new corporation to begin July 1. The Board will appoint a regional administrator to oversee daily operations of the schools in the Pittsburgh-East region beginning in the 2019-20 school year. A business manager will also be hired to supervise the schools' finances. The PERCES Board, working closely with the regional administration, are specifically tasked with responsibilities pertaining to the Catholic identity, fundraising and development, finances and strategic planning for the schools within the Pittsburgh-East region.

The schools in the Pittsburgh-East region will remain parish-based until July 1st. In parishes with schools that are facing challenges with enrollment and finances, pastors/administrators are currently working with the regional vicar, staff from the Department of Catholic Schools and their parish and finance councils to determine whether a request to the Bishop to merge or close is appropriate.

Last year, a team consisting of several advisory board members, the regional vicar and diocesan staff held meetings at each of the schools in the Pittsburgh-East region and met with the pastor, principal, and representatives of parish pastoral, finance and school advisory councils. The advisory board recommended the schools develop a strategic plan for enrollment, marketing and financial sustainability.

Please pray for the success of this important initiative and for all who work on behalf of Catholic education in our diocese.

Visit www.diopitt.org/pgh-east to stay informed.

The Schools Involved in the Pittsburgh-East Regionalization Process

Saint Agnes , West Mifflin	Mary of Nazareth , White Oak
Saint Bede , Point Breeze	Saint John the Baptist , Plum
Divine Mercy Academy , Monroeville	Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament , Natrona Heights
East Catholic , Forest Hills	Saint Raphael , Morningside
Saint Joseph , Verona	Sacred Heart , Shadyside
Saint Maria Goretti , Bloomfield/ Friendship/Garfield	Saint Therese of Lisieux , Munhall