

The mission of the Catholic School Commission  
is to maintain quality Catholic education;  
by combining resources and preserving  
our solid traditions that honor our  
past, present and future.



October 2011  
2 pages

# Sharing A Vision...

Monthly Newsletter of the Catholic School Commission

~ A message from Joe Zenk ~

## Parent Listening Session and Open House Tuesday, October 18, 2011

At New Holstein Campus of Divine Savior School

**Core Meeting: 6:00-7:00** (open to the public)

**Guided Tour: 6:30-7:00**

**Listening Session: 7:00**

Preview the Listening Session Agenda on our website

[www.sharingavision.net](http://www.sharingavision.net) under the Recent Posts tab on the Welcome Page

### Finance

The group worked on the revenue side of the budget. There are a few numbers still needed to complete this side of the proposed budget. We are using the revenue formula that was used in past collaboration projects.

Secondly we began the expense side. We are in the process of comparing each of the school's 2011-2012 budgets and aligning the categories from each. After we complete this process we will begin to formulate new budgets from these existing budgets.

**We are still in need of additional members. Our committee consists of only 4 members; 3 from Divine Savior and 1 from CPES.**

### Communications

Thank you to all who filled out the questionnaire! Our goal is to provide you with as much information as possible. Your questions and input are important to us. Check out the FAQ section of the website to see responses to your questions.

[www.sharingavision.net](http://www.sharingavision.net)

"I get to meet nice new friends and new teachers and I get to be a Catholic." Lauren – Gr. 5

"We get to read books, about Jesus."  
Landon – Kindergarten

See more at  
[www.sharingavision.net](http://www.sharingavision.net)

The decision to send your child to a Catholic school is one of the best decisions you can make for your child. I believe this to my very core.

Catholic education is more than public education with a religion class. The mission of a Catholic school, according to Fr. William O'Malley, S.J., is to evangelize, catechize, and educate – in that order. Meaning, *the primary purpose of a Catholic education is to create disciples for Jesus Christ!* Learning in the Catholic classroom is a means to bring students to Christ and empowering them to bring Christ to others. And to help do that, the role of teachers within both CPES & Divine Savior is to integrate faith into every subject area. This does not mean teaching religious curriculum in each academic class, but rather to seamlessly weave our Catholic identity into how the school teaches all students and subjects. In other words, every teacher at both of our Catholic schools must answer the question: *How is teaching my subject fundamentally different than teaching the same subject in the public school classroom?*

At a recent meeting I attended, a Catholic School principal gave this quote from a song as a reason for sending our children to a Catholic school: "Now what would I give for my children's strength on the day that they stand alone? I mean what would I give for their strength to stand firm? I'd give everything I own." What would we give indeed? Catholic schools have the answer – Jesus Christ.

"We only fail if we don't try"

## Q&A

**I would like to see a clearer understanding of how the decisions are being made and who has the final say on the decisions. How can I feel confident that my leadership is running our schools, not volunteers?**

*Committee members are key in this process because they are doing the crucial work of compiling questions, information, solutions, etc... They will also be part of the process of recommendation. The Office of Schools for both the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and the Diocese of Green Bay are an integral part of this process, as are the pastors/parish director of each participating parish. Ultimately the recommendation of the Catholic Schools Commission will have to be agreed upon by the pastors/parish director and forwarded to the (Arch)Bishops for their final approval. The hope is that, in the chain of planning and recommendation, as many people as possible will have had input so that, those with the responsibility to make final decisions will feel well informed.*

**How will the emotional aspects of this process be addressed openly and honestly? Will the rumors and messy stuff be discussed?**

*It is our greatest hope that the emotional issues and attachments we all have to our community schools will be sufficiently addressed. The difficulty with rumors is that they are, by their very name, "secretive" or "hidden", thus making them rumor and not truth. I strongly encourage all rumors to be brought out into the open so they can be clearly addressed. Parent and Parishioner participation in the process is key for good communication and the best possible outcome.*

Find more Q&A's on the FAQ page of our website  
[www.sharingavision.net](http://www.sharingavision.net)



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## Governance

The Governance Committee spent much time going over the parent surveys that were distributed at the beginning of the school year. In examining the answers and comments given, as well as by formulating a list of questions to be answered for each "option" for next year, we are continuing to build on the data we need to make an informed recommendation to the Core Committee on how we ought to proceed.

## Education

We reviewed the nine questions from the Governance Committee while reaffirming the mission of our Catholic Schools. An emphasis must be placed on a strong Spiritual and Academic program that develops a commitment to service of parish and community. The committee supported an enhanced Curriculum, sharing best practices, including Spanish K-8, a Fine Arts program K-8, Band and Choir, a Forensics program, Journalism and Yearbook, as well as classes promoting Life Skills.

## Facilities

The Facilities Committee continues to raise questions about bussing and transportation for our students, who represent (5) different school districts, and are seeking possible solutions to the many obstacles that the transportation issue could put in our way. We are also working to address the questions parents have raised through school surveys about bussing and transportation.

## Prayer for the Catholic Schools Commission

*We thank you and bless you, Lord our God.  
In times past you spoke in many and varied ways through the prophets,  
and in this age you have spoken through your Son  
to reveal to all nations the riches of your grace.  
Send your Spirit of grace upon us, and fill us with your wisdom and blessings  
as we explore ways to live as one in our parishes and our schools.  
Grant that during this year,  
as we grow in the knowledge of your love and mercy,  
all that we do may build up your Kingdom here on earth,  
and give you glory in the Kingdom of heaven.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.*

*Amen.*

"God is not looking for perfection; He looks for connection"