



# NORTH HILLS REGIONAL CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

800 Avila Court, Pittsburgh, PA 15237

(412) 837-1056

December 20, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The importance of our School Advisory Councils – at individual schools and at the regional level – was emphasized when the Board of Directors of the North Hills Regional Catholic Elementary Schools met on Nov. 29 at the regional office on the campus of St. Teresa of Avila Parish

Each of NHRCES' schools has a School Advisory Council that serves as an advisory body to the principal. The regional SAC is composed of seven members – one from each of the NHRCES schools' SACs. It acts as an advisory council to the NHRCES Board of Directors and regional administrator.

When the regional SAC held its first meeting on Nov. 16, its discussions focused on areas that dovetailed with the Board of Directors' concerns:

- Public relations
- Student retention and recruitment
- Fundraising and development
- Strengthening of parental and community support for the region

To provide information and transparency, the board agreed that all of the SACs will receive key financial information regarding budgets for the Catholic elementary schools in the North Hills. Income for schools comes from tuition (51%), diocesan and parish subsidies (37%) and fundraising (12%). The highest cost of our schools, as with most organizations, is employee wages and benefits.

Diocesan statistics show that the number of people who attend Mass and contribute to the life of a parish financially has been shrinking steadily for years. This means the pool of resources available to schools is shrinking also.

The Board of Directors realizes that fundraising efforts are critical to support schools and limit tuition hikes. It is looking to the SACs to propose ideas and begin implementation by reaching out to school and parish families.

## **In other business:**

**New Advancement Coordinator:** Ellen Matschner Kline has been hired as the new part-time advancement coordinator for NHRCES. Since 2004, she has been the fundraising coordinator for St. Bonaventure School, which is now part of the merged Blessed Trinity Academy. She graduated from

North Catholic High School with honors and from Gannon University with a bachelor of science degree in business administration.

**Website:** NHRCES.org continues to be updated and improved.

**Lease Agreements:** These soon will be finalized between each parish and NHRCES for the use of school facilities.

**Tuition Rates for 2018-19 School Year:** These will be discussed at the board's meeting in January.

**Northside Catholic/Assumption:** The task forces for these two elementary schools continue to meet. Parent/family meetings are scheduled for December.

**Catholic Schools Week:** Each school's SAC is encouraged to work with principals and pastors of parishes where students are enrolled in NHRCES schools to speak at Masses during Catholic Schools Week (Jan. 28-Feb.3). Schools are encouraged to post interviews with parents and students on their websites and social media.

**NHRCES Board's Next Meeting:** Jan. 24, 2018, at the NHRCES office at 800 Avila Court, Pittsburgh.

Merry Christmas!

NHRCES Board of Directors

Rev. Kevin C. Fazio, Pastor, St. Alphonsus Parish, Wexford (President)  
Matthew Petnuch, St. Teresa of Avila Parish, Perrysville (Vice President)  
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Rev. John R. Rushofsky, Pastor, St. Sebastian Parish, Ross Twp.  
Rev. Robert J. Vular, Pastor, St. Teresa of Avila Parish, Perrysville  
Rev. Timothy F. Whalen, Pastor, St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Glenshaw  
Rev. Paul J. Zywan, Pastor, St. Alexis Parish, Wexford  
Anne Monteverde Haus, St. Alphonsus Parish, Wexford  
Jane Ann Regan, St. Ursula Parish, Allison Park

Cc: Very Rev. Lawrence A. DiNardo, Vicar General/General Secretary  
Dr. Michael Latusek, Superintendent of Catholic Schools  
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Michael Killmeyer, NHRCES Regional Administrator  
Sr. Patrice Hughes, Educational Consultant  
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