



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT ~ CATHOLIC SCHOOL SUPPORT SERVICES

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

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Preserving the Vision Newsletter #4

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The establishment of new Catholic academies, each enjoying a two-tier governance structure, has been introduced throughout the Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens as an essential goal of *Preserving the Vision*. This new governance model is critical to assure the long-term viability and vitality of Catholic education for many years to come.

The same question has been repeatedly asked: why are we introducing a new governance model for our schools? The answer reflects a fundamental aspect of our Catholic faith. More specifically, since the Second Vatican Council, the Roman Catholic Church has recognized that lay men and women – possessing unique talents, abilities and skills – are essential to assist the Catholic Church in maintaining its vital ministries and plan for its future. The participation of the laity in the Catholic Church's educational mission is critically important, as we address the challenges faced within our Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens.

It is to address the many challenges that Catholic education faces, and recognizing that Catholic education is a shared responsibility for our entire faith community, that the Diocese of Brooklyn began the strategic planning process entitled *Preserving the Vision* and examined a number of different school governance models from around the country. The result of this research was the identification of a new, two-tier governance model that will be introduced by the establishment of new Catholic elementary academies throughout the Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens by the 2017-2018 academic year.

Each new Catholic academy – which is defined as a newly incorporated private Catholic elementary school – will be chartered by the Board of Regents of the State of New York, and enjoy a two-tier governance model made up of Members and Directors. These two groups share in the governance of the academy in different ways.

Members of the academies are generally the pastors of an area and the sponsors of the academy. Among their responsibilities will be to appoint the Directors of the academy and ensure the academy's overall Catholic identity. There is one group of Members composed of no less than three but no more than eight individuals appointed by the Bishop of the Diocese. In addition to those Members appointed by the Diocesan Bishop, one of whom is the Moderator of the Curia, there shall be *ex-officio* members, including the

Superintendent, Office of the Superintendent ~ Catholic School Support Services and the Pastors/Administrators of the parishes aligned to the academy.

At a Pastors' Meeting on October 1, 2014, Very Reverend James Massa, Moderator of the Curia presented to the pastors the attached document which further identifies their role as pastoral partners with the academy.

In addition to the Members, each academy also has a Board of Directors. The Directors of the academies develop the policies that protect and enhance the academy's mission and work to ensure its future through strategic planning and outreach. Therefore, the Directors of an academy are at all times to exercise their authority and responsibilities solely for the benefit of the academy. The Board of Directors is composed of at least seven persons approved by the Members, each possessing a competency in one or more of the following areas: finance, education, development, marketing or facilities.

Attached please find a chart which clearly outlines the two-tier governance model for the academies.

Essential to the success of the new academies will be the ongoing support and professional development of the Directors of the academies. This is accomplished through a partnership with St. John's University and the St. Vincent de Paul Program.

Through ongoing collaboration, the identification of new resources and ongoing strategic planning on the part of their respective Directors, our academies have shown real growth and remain committed to achieve unqualified, academic excellence. Each Board of Directors continues to create new avenues for marketing, recruitment and retention of students, new sources of funding and new partnerships to enhance the academic opportunities available to their children.

We are confident that these same benefits will be afforded to your children with the creation of a new Catholic academy of academic excellence and unwavering commitment to the values of the Gospel.

Please find *Preserving the Vision* on the Diocesan Website for Catholic Education, www.dioceseofbrooklyn.org/schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas Chadzutko". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T' and a long, sweeping underline.

Thomas Chadzutko, Ed.D.
Superintendent