DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

November 8th, 2023

Subject: Evolution in the MACS System

Dear MACS Families and Friends,

I hope you and your children are well and having a wonderful week. As mentioned in my previous letter, whether you are a veteran family or new to us this year, please know how grateful I am for your presence and leadership in our school system. I'd like to express my continued gratitude for entrusting us with your children's education. It remains our great honor to partner with you in forming the leaders of tomorrow. Your unwavering support has been instrumental in shaping the Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools (MACS) into the excellent, vibrant, and faith-filled institution it is today.

Today, I bring you news of a significant evolution within our MACS system. As testament to our enduring commitment to educational excellence, we are transitioning from our Advisory School Board to a newly formed entity: the MACS Advisory Cabinet. Set to be implemented in the 2023-2024 school year, this transition was voted on and enacted by our MACS Regional School Board over the summer. Our primary aim with this new structure is to foster enhanced school representation, bolster engagement, improve accountability, streamline communication, all the while maintaining system-wide transparency and advocacy.

This decision was influenced by the establishment of the School Leadership Councils (SLCs) across our MACS schools last year. Currently, six of the nine SLCs are active, and we anticipate the remaining three to be functional by the end of 2023. These local advisory groups consist of parents, alumni, parish members, and community leaders who extend their support to the school's principal or president. As highlighted in our MACS PTO leaders meeting in March of 2022, SLCs complement the leadership of our exceptional, hard-working PTOs.

With the inception of the MACS Advisory Cabinet, a member of each school's SLC will serve as a part of the Cabinet (typically, the SLC chair). This inclusion will ensure a direct representation from every school, facilitating the sharing of ideas and advocating school-specific concerns. Moreover, this Cabinet framework will fortify the bond between Diocesan and local school leadership, reinforcing our mission to uphold the teaching principles of the Catholic Church and champion the cause of exemplary Catholic school education. Below is the schedule of topics for the new MACS Cabinet meetings.

Reflecting on our journey, I'm immensely grateful to the history and leaders of the MACS School Board for their tireless efforts. Their initiatives in realms like marketing, enrollment, facility enhancements, and particularly teacher support, have been groundbreaking. To highlight a few of their accomplishments: the Instructional Personnel budget witnessed a 38% hike, the starting teacher salary saw an approximate 22% increment, and the employee tuition benefit surged by 428% in the past five years.

As we embrace this structural evolution, I am excited about the avenues of enhanced parent interaction, better school representation, and intensified collaboration that the MACS Cabinet promises. Our unwavering mission remains to be a beacon of unparalleled Catholic education in the Charlotte region.

In conclusion, our core mission remains unchanged. Our dedication to imparting an outstanding Catholic education, rooted in our cardinal values and the teachings of the Catholic Church, stands resolute. As we embark on this new chapter, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to every board member, educator, parent, and student who has been a pillar of our success. Your trust and commitment inspire us daily, and I look forward to this continued partnership in the upcoming phases of our journey.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gregory Monroe
Superintendent of Catholic Schools

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2023-2024 MACS CABINET SCHEDULE OF TOPICS*

Advancement & Stewardship
Marketing/Enrollment
Mission Advancement & Catholic Identity and Culture
Parish/Public Community Relations and Engagement
Facilities & Strategic Planning

Sample Agenda	
6:00 pm	Prayer and Introduction
6:15	CSO Updates
6:30	CSO goals discussion (year long objectives outside of individual topic)
7:00	Topic Discussion, Resource Sharing & Next Steps
8:00	Prayer & Closing

Initial CSO Cabinet Goals for 2023-24**
Hosting Major Speaker for parents in the spring
Support for new SLCS (best practices, trust/community-building events, communication strategies)
Cell phone use on campuses and review of 1:1 Computer Initiative
Moving from Paper to Digital for parents and administrators in the system
Review of MACS name/logo as a brand as system expands out of Mecklenburg
**Subject to further additions

*Parents: If you have thoughts, ideas or concerns regarding any of these topics/goals, please do share with your local SLC and school leaders. We are always open to ideas or suggestions as we work together to enhance our wonderful school system and intentionally live out our mission to evangelize and support parents.