



DIOCESE OF FALL RIVER
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS ALLIANCE

October 18, 2024

Dear St. John Paul II School (JP II) Community,

When I announced last June that John Redding would serve as JP II's interim Head of School, I said that we would embark on a search for a permanent Head of School at the beginning of the school year. With the first weeks of a new school year underway, I want to provide you with an update on the search process.

First and foremost, it was important that we establish a committee that is representative of our school community. I am happy to report that the following individuals have accepted the invitation to serve on the Search Committee: Vin Mancuso (Assistant Superintendent), Joe Harrington (Vice Chancellor – Finance), Steve Hamel (Advisory Board Chair), Jay McGrail (Advisory Board Vice Chair), Meg Wile (JP II Preparatory school teacher), Caitlin McPherson (JP II high school teacher), Mark Curley (parent), Jesse Affonso (parent), and Margaret Keras (Student Accounts Coordinator).

To secure the best and brightest candidates from near and far, we have retained Partners in Mission School Leadership Search Solutions to serve as our search counsel. Based in Stamford, CT, Partners in Mission (www.partnersinmission.com) is a nationally recognized, full-service consulting firm focused exclusively on delivering excellence in Catholic school advancement, leadership, and executive search solutions. Michael Furey, Co-Founder and Partner, will lead our search. Michael resides in East Dennis and has firsthand insight into our school community, our mission and culture as well as the educational market and Cape Cod culture.

On Wednesday, October 16, Michael spent an extensive day on campus facilitating discussions with focus groups of students, parents, alumni, faculty, staff, and school leadership.

As follow-up to Michael's visit, please look for another email in the coming days which will include a link to a confidential survey seeking your input to this mission-critical process. Enriched with these inclusive perspectives and working jointly with my office and the Search Committee, Partners in Mission will develop a detailed Search Prospectus highlighting this exciting executive leadership opportunity.

As the search progresses, the Partners in Mission team will be working with a wide range of individuals within their extensive network of mission-driven Catholic school leaders in the New England market and across the nation. Their search efforts will focus on prospective candidates most familiar with Catholic school culture and the global opportunities and challenges Catholic schools face. They will gradually expand their extensive outreach initiatives throughout the United States to recruit only the most personally, professionally, spiritually, and culturally fit leaders. Ultimately, they will develop a vetted list of top candidates for our Search Committee's consideration. The Search Committee will meet shortly thereafter to narrow this pool to a list of semi-finalists that they will interview personally. This select group will be interviewed only by the Search Committee in order to preserve candidates' confidentiality. This is done primarily to avoid unnecessary repercussions for such candidates who have not yet informed their respective school communities or employers of their interest in pursuing other opportunities. Confidentiality throughout this process is the norm when engaging in such a search.

After semi-finalist interviews, finalists (typically two or three) will be advanced by the Search Committee. The finalists will have the opportunity to return to the JP II community for individual day-long visits. The Search Committee will meet after the finalist visits are complete to review the information gathered throughout each of the steps. At the conclusion of this extensive process, the Search Committee will present their recommendation to my office and then to Bishop da Cunha for ultimate approval.

Please watch for communications detailing the progress of our search efforts. In the interim, if you have questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me. I remain grateful to all of you for your insightful participation as the search moves forward. I am confident that this process will identify the ideal candidate who is best suited to continue and expand the outstanding academic traditions for which JP II is so well known.

Sincerely,

Daniel Roy
Superintendent of Catholic Schools
Diocese of Fall River