

September 12, 2018

Dear St. Rose-McCarthy Parents and Guardians,

The St. Rose-McCarthy Advisory Board met with me on September 10th and received the Bylaws and Constitution, signed by Bishop Ochoa, which changes the school's governance model. Previously, St. Rose-McCarthy was administered by the Pastor as the Canonical administrator. The school is now administered by the Diocese of Fresno through the Office of Catholic Education.

In this model, the parish still reviews the school budget and supports the school spiritually and at the financial level that already exists. The Principal is expected to communicate with the parish ministerial departments so that the relationship between the parish and the school remains strong. Once a Pastor is assigned to St. Brigid's parish, his role will be essential in this governance model. He ensures that the Catholic Identity is healthy and active in the life of the school. This model also allows the Pastor more time to interact with the students and staff through Mass, retreats and religion classes as well as casually at fundraisers and other school events.

St. Rose-McCarthy School will join the other eight elementary schools and two high schools in the Diocese of Fresno as a Diocesan Administered School. This means that the Office of Catholic Education will, in conjunction with the principal, oversee the day to day management of the school. Please follow the protocols for conflict resolution outlined in your school's handbook. However, instead of taking your concern to the pastor, you now would come to the Superintendent's office. Also, the principal will be evaluated annually by the Superintendent. The Superintendent, as the designee of the Bishop, will be attending all advisory school board meetings.

We have attached the document, signed by Bishop Ochoa, which describes the rationale and terms of the governance model. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of Catholic Education at (559) 488-7420. Please continue to prayerfully support our school so that the students can continue to have an excellent Catholic education.

God bless you,

Mona E. Faulkner

Ms. Mona E. Faulkner
Superintendent of Catholic Schools

Cc: Jamie Perkins, Principal St. Rose-McCarthy
Onan Champi, School Board Chair

CATHOLIC SCHOOL GOVERNANCE

Priests are needed in our schools to spread the joy of the Gospels with our students and to pray for and with our employees. Celebrating Mass and visiting classrooms is an essential part of helping the next generations of children come to know priests and perhaps consider a vocation when they are older. In our current Parish School model of governance; the pastor has to assume all spiritual and administrative duties of both parish and school, leaving very little time for a priest to share his love of the Catholic faith with the students.

An Office of Catholic Education (aka Diocesan) Administrated Parish School Governance Model would:

- Relieve Pastors from the oversight of the day to day management of a school
- Lift the burden of conflict management between parents and school staff
- Allow the Superintendent to review and evaluate the school's financial health
- Delegate the evaluation of the Principal to the Superintendent
- Retain the school's identity as an essential mission of the parish
- Allow the Pastor ample time to interact with the students at Mass, during religion classes or casually at school events and fundraisers.

A Diocesan Administered Parish School would receive additional attention from the Superintendent through:


- Attendance at all School Advisory Board meetings
- Evaluation and monitoring goals annually with the Principal
- Overseeing and questioning school budget decisions
- Mediation with parents if problems are not resolved with the principal
- Attendance at all HR meetings involving employees
- Approval of school's overall academic vision for each year
- Monitoring of WASC/WCEA accreditation process
- Continued support of the Pastor's spiritual goals for the school

Effective Date: 1/1/2016

Recommended by Diocesan Advisory Board of Education: 11/2/2015

APPROVED BY DIOCESAN BISHOP:

Signed:



Most Rev. Armando X. Ochoa, D.D.

Date:

