



*Diocese of Knoxville Catholic Schools Preparing Scholars, Leaders, & Saints*

February 20, 2021

Dear Sacred Heart Cathedral School Community,

We are grateful for the way Mr. Rodgers has led the school through one of the most difficult times in our recent experience. While we were also sad to learn of this move, we are truly appreciative for his invaluable service and recognize that this decision is best for his family. I want to assure you that we are dedicated to finding the next outstanding leader who will embrace the vision and mission of the school and is committed to further advancement and stability.

While change is a perpetual state of life, it is often difficult to endure. It is for this reason I write to you today to offer words of encouragement, support, and to allay feelings of anxiety as I share the search plans going forward. Sacred Heart Cathedral School is a gem and has had a positive impact on our Catholic and civic community for over six decades! As we embrace this leadership search for the new leader of our cherished Sacred Heart Cathedral School, we recognize he/she will build on the tradition and foundation of excellence promulgated by Mr. Rodgers and the faculty and staff.

Father David Boettner has asked members of the Advisory School Board to serve on the Principal Search team (See attached list). I want to thank Mrs. Ashley McDermott who will be co-chairing the Search team with me, as well as, all of the members who have graciously accepted to serve the school in this capacity. This group is highly representative of our community in a number of ways, and is comprised of faculty members, parents, parishioners, and community leaders. Their individual talents provide a depth of understanding for our Catholic school mission, as well as, specialized knowledge in education, business, and advancement. Equally as important, each member holds a great love for the school and a dedicated desire to propel the school to even greater heights of success. Most of these members have already been involved in assisting the school with a search for an Assistant Principal. The recruiting work they have completed during that process will assist us with a foundation pool of potential candidates. I am pleased to report that one of the candidates previously vetted will be interviewed this week. In addition, I have contacted several highly respected search firms including Carney, Sandoe, and Associates, and Southern Teachers Agency who specialize in Catholic and independent school searches to assist our Search Team in the principal search process.

The search process as outlined will be an engaging process. The first action will be to gather community input from all stakeholders across the community. You will be receiving a link to a community survey on Tuesday. Your input will be invaluable as it will be the basis for the development of a leadership profile that will be used in communications for a national search. I strongly encourage you to share your voice through these surveys, as I will carefully review this information to clearly define the leadership search goals and priorities for the Search Team. It is our hope to have the next Principal selected by April with an official start date of July 1, 2021. Mr. Rodgers and Mrs. Lisa Maki will be involved throughout this process and have assured us that transitioning and onboarding of the next principal will be a priority for them. A summary document of this process and timeline are attached for your information.

Please continue to keep Mr. Rodgers, the SHCS faculty and students, and the Search Team in your prayers as we embark on this important task of securing the next great leader of Sacred Heart Cathedral School. As always, do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.

In Christ,

*Sedonna J. Prater*

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