



Archdiocese of Dubuque

Office of Faith Formation and Education

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Catholic Schools, Protection of Children, Youth Catechesis, and Youth Evangelization

January 20, 2012

Dear Parishioners,

The Sacred Heart Board of Education voted at its meeting on January 18, 2012 to close Sacred Heart School at the conclusion of the 2011-2012 school year.

Providing quality Catholic Education for every young person is a responsibility that the Sacred Heart Board takes very seriously and is at the heart and soul of the decisions they must make. Each option considered in their decision-making process presented pros and cons which were weighed and considered. The final decision carried with it many emotions that are rooted in tradition and history of the parishes.

The board's decision to close the school at the conclusion of the 2011-2012 school year will be forwarded to the Archdiocesan Catholic School Board (ACSB) per Archdiocesan policy. The decision is presented to the ACSB where the local board's decision is "sustained" unless the local board's action is viewed to be:

- a. in violation of rules or procedures
- b. unsupported by substantial evidence when viewed as a whole; or
- c. unreasonable, arbitrary, capricious, or characterized by an abuse of discretion or a clearly unwarranted exercise of discretion.

The Archdiocesan Catholic School Board will address this request from the Sacred Heart Board at their regularly scheduled meeting on February 1. Only local parish and school leadership are authorized to attend the ACSB meeting. The Archdiocesan Catholic School Board may affirm, reject, or remand a local board action for further study, indicating areas requiring additional information.

Any individual who wishes to share their concerns should do in writing to the Sacred Heart School Board, copied to the Archdiocesan Catholic School Board, 1229 Mt. Loretta, Dubuque, IA 52004-0479 or sent via email to dbqasup@arch.pvt.k12.ia.us. All communication copied to the Archdiocesan Catholic School Board must arrive no later than 4 pm on Friday, January 27, 2012. No additional information will be allowed after this date. Please note that all letters will need to be signed.

All communication must include evidence addressing either how the decision violates the three criteria outlined in paragraph three or the reason(s) with documentation/evidence for requesting the ACSB to "sustain" or "not to sustain" the Sacred Heart Board's decision. Documentation on the latter must include information how long-range enrollment and financial stability can be attained at the school.

Please pray for and support your elected representatives and the entire Catholic Communities of Osage and Stacyville.

Sincerely,
Jeff Henderson, Ed.S
Superintendent of Schools