

St. Denis Families' Questions from the Cardinal Foley Email Address 2/6/12 – 2/12/12

Q - Will St. Denis' and Annunciation's RES/CCD programs remain intact (separate) or be combined? I know this isn't a school specific question, but separate or combined RES/CCD programs will have a major impact on each respective parish AND Cardinal John Foley activities and programs. Each parish has more RES/CCD children attending their programs as the CJF school will have attending students. Also this question needs to be answered BEFORE either parish can conduct a productive meeting and come to prudent suggestions on the school's and parishes' activities as a separate or combined RES/CCD programs will have a major impact. If no decisions on the RES/CCD programs are made before these meetings, the meetings will be ineffectively marginal and a waste of time to the parents attending.

A – Thank you for your question. The RES/CCD programs will remain as they currently are. The programs will not be combined at this time.

Q - I'm not sure if this question should be directed to Monsignor Graham or the Committee. Why are the St. Denis flags no longer flying along Eagle Road? We are still St. Denis until June, right?

A – I am not sure what flags you mean. I remember the flags that used to be up on Eagle Road that were from the 80th celebration of the parish. Could you please let me know what flags and I can follow up with Mr. Zwaan. We are St. Denis School of course until June and will always remain St. Denis Parish.

Q- Thanks for the questions and answers. I am not sure if the question about SDS being in the red and ABVM not wanting to deal with the "elephant in the room" will aid in uniting an already divided community but none the less good information.....

There seems to be much concern about the Flynn and O'Hara and the uniforms. I know in the past that we have received a "rebate" from Flynn & O'Hara based on a percentage of the sales from our school. It is often a nice chunk of money given back to the schools. I know Father Kevin wanted to change our uniforms when I was SAB president for this reason. I do not know if Flynn & O'Hara continues this rebate program and I know in the past this money has been kept hush hush from the parents but maybe it is important to let parents know that we will benefit from the purchase of the new uniforms and although F&H is making money they do give back. This could be a sizable amount of money that we would not ordinarily have to start the new school. All this worry about inclusion in sports, I cannot think of anything more dividing than kids that do not look alike in the classroom.

A – Thank you for your suggestion. We will certainly look into the rebate program from Flynn and O'Hara because that would certainly be a benefit. With regards to the uniform, I am guessing you are meaning that the year reprieve for the uniform wouldn't be helpful for the unity of the school. You certainly have a point and maybe that is something we could bring up at the parents' meeting for input. The year reprieve was to help with the financial burden of having to purchase all new uniforms as well as helpful to the 8th graders and the 4th graders who would have to purchase a kilt/jumper for just one year. If people could buy in increments, it may ease the hardship. But yes children in different uniforms may cause a feeling of division. A thought for the parent meeting!

Q- Hello, Just a quick thought and you may have already given this some consideration...I think the use of the automated tuition withdrawal will make life much easier, however how will the SMART money be accounted for? For example, some months I have \$20 worth of vouchers and some months I have close to \$100. Will it be possible to have different amounts withdrawn each month or will the vouchers be "credited" to each family's account? Thanks.

A –The representative from FACTS (the automated tuition provider) has indicated that the FACTS system is designed to allow for the crediting of Smart Money benefits to individual accounts. The school must still decide on policies for tuition accounting, such as how frequently such credits will be made, as this involves manual input. When this is clarified, we will certainly let you know.

Q - Hi all. I am writing tonight to ask you to reexamine the issue of the school name .PLEASE!!! As a parent of graduates and a present school volunteer, I feel strongly about having the people of the school, that is parents and students, have input into this decision. At least have a VOTE! To be told initially that the decision was made solely by the pastors (that is in your email writings) was such a surprise. I realize now that the board met and unanimously decided on Cardinal Foley. I am quite surprised ,knowing that they are all aware of the groundswell of people who are so opposed to it AND JUST WANT TO BE A PART of the process. What I am hearing and feeling over the past three weeks is a want to claim ownership and excitement over the new partnership of the school.. anger for being left out and dismissed from the process and now ... apathy..the worse feeling of all..

I fear for the future of our Havertown catholic community. They are divided, hurt , sad , and resentful. They want YOU, the board, to represent THEM! If you bravely stop the process and ask the people to join you in the naming, the rewards from this action will be many.. The excitement will carry you and them to the next level.. !!!

If not, I am afraid that many will be lost...

Please,, I pray ... that a change of heart will prevail...

A – Thank you for your email. The name has already been accepted by the Archdiocese.

Q- I am in receipt of your email dated February 6, 2012 with a subject line of "Question and Answer Update as of 2/1/2012".

In my email I asked a two part question with the first part dealing with the selection of the name for the school and the reflection in the meeting minutes that the implementation committee's actions were "in alignment with the recommendations by the Office of Catholic Education in the Blue Ribbon Report" The attached document did not answer this part of the question therefore I will ask again:

From the January 26th update:

1. The committee reviewed the concerns being raised about the selection of regional school's name and process by which the name was created. After debate regarding the history of both schools and the important role that parish schools play in our lives, the name of school was unanimously accepted by the committee in alignment with the recommendations by the Office of Catholic Education in the Blue Ribbon Report, and is no longer up for debate. There are many important decisions that the committee needs to address in a very short time frame and we look forward to moving ahead. The school is named after Cardinal John Foley, a highly regarded and humble Church leader raised in Delaware County. Parents and students will be

provided with biographical information on Cardinal Foley to heighten awareness of his life and work.

Please explain exactly how the Implementation Committee's vote was "in alignment with the recommendations by the Office of Catholic Education in the Blue Ribbon Report"?

Please refer to <http://www.faithinthefuture.com/faq/#21>

My child attends a school that is “partnering.” How will the partnering process work? Partnering school communities will come together to form a new school at one of the partner’s school locations. This transition process has been designed to help these two or three schools come together. A council will be created consisting of stakeholders from each school to help develop the school’s new identity, including name, colors, mascot, etc. Additionally, www.faithinthefuture.com will be continually updated with the latest information as decisions about your school are made. Please check there often for updates on key dates, staff and other general school information.

The facts regarding the new school's identity are as follows, the Pastors at Annunciation BVM and St Denis selected the new name which was communicated to St Denis families thirty minutes before the press conference on January 6th.

Based upon my understanding a unanimous vote supporting a mandate from the Pastor followed by cutting off all debate is not "in alignment with the recommendations by the Office of Catholic Education in the Blue Ribbon.

A - The BRC website states that the name is to be determined by the Joint Implementation Team. See <http://www.faithinthefuture.com/schools/24155-2/> : The Blue Ribbon Commission (“BRC”) did not recommend debate over the name. The Joint Implementation Team, at the time of the decision, consisted of Rev. Haynes and Msgr. Graham. See <http://www.faithinthefuture.com/schools/24155-2/implementation-team/> prior to recent update: The Joint Implementation Team agreed that the process was followed properly. Regarding BRC’s FAQ response that a “council will be created consisting of stakeholders from each school to help develop the school’s new identity, including name, colors, mascot, etc.”, this too was followed as a council, initially consisting of the pastors, decided upon the name, which was agreed to by the expanded council consisting of the additional members of the Joint Implementation team.

Q - Who will ultimately make a decision regarding CYO sports programs? Why is it not each parish's YAA board both of which have already voted to remain separate which is consistent with the Arch Diocese of Philadelphia's guidance?

A – - All questions that have been received relating to CYO will be addressed by the CYO/YAA committees at each parish meeting that will be held on Wednesday, February 15th. These meetings will be held at both Annunciation and at St. Denis. No decisions have yet been made regarding CYO sports programs. The St. Denis CYO Meeting will be held in the Grimes Center at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, February 15th. The Annunciation CYO Meeting will be held in the Church Basement at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, February 15th.

Q- Will Cardinal Foley School be using NutriKids for lunch pre-payment? If yes, will balances at the end of this year's St. Denis NutriKids account carry over to Cardinal Foley? If no, will balances be refunded? Is it best to aim for \$0 balance in our account at the end of this school year?

A – Thank you for your question as this will be something that needs to be taken into consideration. As soon as we have an answer for you, I will repost this question with the proper response.

Q - Hello, I had asked this question and am not sure if it has been addressed yet. Will there still be a paid in full tuition discount offered? We currently attend St. Denis and that has always been an option. Thanks for all of your good work!

A – Thank you for your question and I apologize if I missed it before. As of now, the tuition plan will not include the option of a 2% discount if paid in full.

The YAA will be conducting a Parent's meeting on February 15th at 6:30PM in the Grimes Center. The purpose of our meeting is to hear your thoughts on the future of our sports programs. We encourage you to submit your questions prior to the meeting at bulldawgathletics@gmail.com that way we can ensure a productive meeting.