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AMDG

November 29, 2018

Dear Gesu Parish Community and Gesu School Community:

I am writing to inform you that, after broad consultation, and after taking time to look into the issues surrounding becoming an EdChoice school, we have decided that EdChoice does not make sense for Gesu for the foreseeable future. I also want to use this opportunity to thank you for all your input over the last few months.

Let me give the principal reasons for this decision:

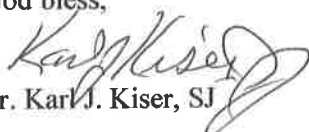
- The Jon Peterson Scholarship program, through the State of Ohio, gives us the financial resources we need to provide strong individual attention to our students with learning differences. EdChoice could significantly compromise the funds available for the good opportunities that we are providing for our students.
- If we were to seriously consider EdChoice, we would need to have a conversation with our neighboring Catholic schools. Our goal should be to strengthen Catholic education and therefore we cannot make our decision without broad collaboration and consultation with our fellow Catholic schools. The same is true for our local public schools. The fact that Cleveland Heights/University Heights school district sent representation to our Town Hall meetings was a very clear example that decisions by Gesu would have a big effect on our local school district.
- It is clear that implementing EdChoice, would be very divisive to the parish. We cannot continue to have a strong school if the parish is divided.

Our decision today leaves us with three important challenges:

- We need to find ways to make Gesu more affordable. It should be unacceptable for us that families would choose schools other than Gesu over the issue of cost.
- We also need to attend to the challenging issue of competitive salaries for our faculty and staff. The best way to accomplish this is to have full enrollment. For example, having 50 more students would bring in over \$200,000 in tuition which would allow us to increase faculty salaries to a more competitive level. If we are not vigilant regarding faculty salaries, we will lose the academic excellence for which Gesu is well known.
- Begin a dialogue with our neighboring Catholic schools and parishes.

In the coming months, I would like Gesu to begin to address affordability for our families as well as ways to keep us at full enrollment into the future. Again, I want to thank everyone who participated in this important conversation. We will need all of you to stay engaged in this important conversation in the coming months.

God bless,


Fr. Karl J. Kiser, SJ