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Prayer to Open a Meeting

Prayers of the Faithful

God of Life, you created a world rich in resources, able to provide an abundant source of food and life for all people. We ask for the wisdom to be faithful stewards of your creation.

We pray to you, our God.

All: *Hear Us and Guide Us*

God of Justice, you created a world in which all people are equal. We ask for the openness to allow others to take their rightful place as full members of society. We pray to you, our God.

All: *Hear Us and Guide Us*

God of Compassion, you love each and every one of us unconditionally. We ask for the grace to be merciful and caring in all of our relationships.



We pray to you, our God.
All: *Hear Us and Guide Us*

Amen

—source unknown
Provided by [York Catholic District School Boards](#)

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Hurricane Sandy Catholic Education Relief

Aid to Catholic Education Communities Affected by Hurricane Sandy

In response to inquiries about how to help people in our Catholic education community affected by Hurricane Sandy, NCEA has developed a partnership with Catholic Charities USA to most efficiently get help to our colleagues. Together, we have established the 2012 Hurricane Sandy Catholic Education Fund.

[Click here to learn how you can help.](#)



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From the Director



Are you looking for ideas to engage every member in the work of the board? Are you on the search for benchmarks that will guide the work of the board so that the board is setting and influencing the direction for the school? Are you investigating a magic formula for enticing members to attend every meeting? Here are items that your board should place on the agenda for the New Year that may provide responses to these questions.

Regina Haney, Ed.D.
Executive Director

A Dozen Things Catholic School Board/Council Members Should Do in 2013

1. **Pray**
 - a. Pray before and after each meeting – we have much for which we are grateful
 - b. Attend mass and notice the students who are in your respective school/s – acknowledge them as members of the parish community
 - c. Attend mass together as a board at least once a year
 - d. Attend a school liturgy
 - e. Participate in faith-in-action projects with your students

2. **Set high standards**

- a. Recruit a diverse, visionary and hardworking board membership
 - b. Expect productive committees that set goals that advance the operational vitality of the school and reach them
 - c. Review and adhere to your governing documents or bylaws
 - d. Have well-run meetings with set agendas and conclude with assigned action items
 - e. Take educated risks to raise the teaching/learning standards to achieve excellence
3. **Take a field trip**
- a. Visit another Catholic school that is doing something that your school is not, for example, blended learning, implementing the Year of Faith, extending the school day, an effective middle school program
 - b. Share what you have learned with others on your board
 - c. Conduct a Competitive Analysis—determine what you do well and what needs improvement to be competitive

[Click to continue the story and print the full list](#)

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Census Data and How it Affects Your School's Planning

The current census data impacts enrollment at some point in two ways. First, one in four counties, nationwide, show that minority populations now total more than 50 percent in the 5 years and under demographic. This is a sign of future changes in the race and ethnicity makeup of our ever growing and changing United States.

Given your schools' changing demographics, to whom will you market now and in the future?

Second, this same data show that births have been declining for both whites and minorities. Currently the national birth rate is at its lowest point since the advent of reliable birth rate record keeping, which began in 1920. Although the birth rate is down across the board for all ethnicities, since 2008 the percent of births has declined more for whites (11.4 percent) than it has for minorities (3.2 percent).

Based on the birth rate in your counties and infant baptisms of your feeder parishes, what is your projected preschool and/or kindergarten enrollment for the next five years?

Sources:

[Pew Research Center: "U.S. Birth Rate Falls to a Record Low; Decline Is Greatest Among Immigrants"](#)

[Pew Reserch Center: "In a Down Economy, Fewer Births"](#)



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Board Resource: Infographic, The Digital Classroom

The Digital Classroom



Throughout history, textbooks have been a burden to students. They're heavy, expensive and quickly out-of-date. However, technology is playing a major role in how textbooks and education are changing as a whole. Find out how:

1 Textbooks Vs eBooks

While textbooks are still the top choice for many classes, eBooks are giving them a run for their money.

Textbook

Markup on physical textbooks ranges between 33% and 35%.



They're heavy, plus new editions make it difficult to sell old versions.



They're costly to the environment in terms of printed materials.



eBook

Textbooks from eBooks currently cost \$14.99 or less.



eBook files can be stored together on one portable, lightweight device.



Only a limited number of eBook titles are available at present, but this increases each day.



2 A look at rentals

Renting physical or electronic textbooks is another option for the cash-strapped student. Here is a quick overview:

FOR RENT

Students can usually rent a textbook for 33-55% off the cost of the new textbook.



The National Association of College Stores says nearly all of its 3,000 member stores offer textbook rental programs; this is up from 300 in 2009.



Sites like Chegg allow students to buy or rent textbooks, as well as rent eBooks. They also offer a Reader that allows users to interact with their eBooks.



The Kindle Store's eBook prices vary, but Amazon claims users save up to 80% when renting; users can choose how long they rent them, too.

3 A detailed look at tablets

With so many tablet options available, it can be difficult to choose the right one. Here are two of the more popular models:



iPad and iBooks Overview

A 9.7" multi-touch display running a 1GHz Apple A5 chip on iOS 5. The device has up to 64GB of internal storage and retails from \$499.



Apple iBooks: Official eBook application for the iPad, with 700,000+ available titles in the iBookstore.

vs



Kindle Fire Overview

A 7" multi-touch display running Android 2.3 Gingerbread OS. The device has 8GB of internal storage and retails for \$199.

Kindle Store: Bookstore for the Amazon Kindle, which hosts over 1 million publications and counting.



Platform

Library

If you would prefer not to receive emails from us, go [here](#).
Please send any comments about this email to member@ncea.org

