February 2017

Dear colleagues,

As you know, this September the OCS convened a committee of teachers, administrators, office staff, and IT directors to review a variety of Student Information Systems (SIS) and recommend two to Dr. Haggarty. The committee's charge is in response to goal 3, action 2 of *From Strength to Strength*, which tasks the OCS with identifying a centralized SIS in order to reduce costs and work load for schools while improving the accuracy and accessibility of centralized archdiocesan data.
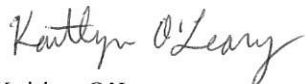
The SIS Committee issued a request for proposals, reviewed the received proposals, and conducted two rounds of presentations by selected vendors. The three semifinalists selected- Alma, RenWeb, and Skyward- presented their products to the committee for the second time in December. After careful consideration and review of these three systems, the committee was not able to come to a consensus on two finalist to recommend to Dr. Haggarty. While all three systems are very strong, the committee feels that each system lacks one or more capabilities that we believe are essential for all of our elementary schools. The committee firmly believes that it is best to make no decision than the wrong decision on such an important matter. Therefore, we are recommending to Dr. Haggarty that we delay the decision at this time, so that we can identify a product that will fully meet the diversity of school administrative software needs across the Archdiocese.

The committee has communicated this decision to the SIS vendors. We have also established a goal to reconvene in May and host a third round of presentations. With this additional time, we anticipate all three vendors will be able to address the specific capabilities that are critical to the Archdiocesan decision to adopt one SIS program. After the May presentations, the committee hopes to make its final recommendations to Dr. Haggarty, who will select one Student Information System.

We are aware that as school leaders, it is your responsibility to make decisions that will positively impact your school communities in a fair and timely manner. As such, please be assured that there will be a three year implementation window once a Student Information System has been selected. No schools will be obligated to switch to a new SIS in the 2017- 2018 school year, but schools that are ready for an immediate change will be able to make the decision to change in May. As you think about the software that will best meet the needs of your school community next school year, please feel free to reach out to me with additional questions regarding the progress of the SIS committee.

We are most grateful for your patience and input as we work to identify a system that will promote educational and administrative excellence in all of our schools.

Sincerely,

Kaitlyn O'Leary

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