

Education dept. reorganization announced

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Two diocesan education officials will leave their positions at the end of June, 1989, following a reorganization of the diocesan Department of General Education, according to a memo issued Monday, Feb. 27, by Brother Brian Walsh, superintendent of schools.

James McAuliffe, assistant superintendent for public affairs for the last six years, and Sister Anne Guerin, SSJ, assistant superintendent for planning and development for the last seven years, will both leave their positions, which are being eliminated in the reorganization. Currently, there are five assistant superintendent

positions: public affairs, planning and development, urban education/public relations, curriculum, and personnel.

In addition to McAuliffe and Sister Guerin, Sister Virginia Steinwachs, assistant superintendent for urban education/public relations, will also leave in June, although her resignation is unrelated to the reorganization move. Sister Steinwachs announced her decision in late January, citing a desire for a change in career.

Following the department reorganization, effective July 1, Sister Joseph Gilmory Russell, SSJ, assistant superintendent for personnel, will continue in that position — the only current post that will survive the shakeup. The reorganization

will also create a new position of assistant superintendent for financial services, for which no candidates have been named as yet, Walsh said.

Also in July, Evelyn J. Kirst, assistant superintendent for curriculum, will leave her current post to fill one of three newly-created district superintendent positions for eastern Monroe County, western Monroe County, and clusters outside of Monroe County, Walsh said. The other two slots currently have no candidates, he noted.

Kirst said that the region she would oversee had not been determined, but she noted that it most likely would be western Monroe County.

Neither McAuliffe, nor Sister Guerin

will staff a position with the diocesan Division of Education following the reorganization, Walsh said.

According to Walsh's memo, the elimination of the current system is necessary because the assistant superintendent "(h)ired to assist the Catholic Schools Office in very definite educational areas, have had to give less and less time to their areas of specialization and ever increasing amounts of time to the development of the plans needed to insure the future of Catholic education in our diocese."

When contacted, neither McAuliffe nor Sister Guerin would comment on the matter.

Good Counsel parents accept switch to Holy Family

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Despite disappointment over a proposal to close Our Lady of Good Counsel School, most parents will go along with a plan to transfer their children to Holy Family, a regional elementary school, according to officials at both schools.

On Tuesday, Feb. 7, the school boards of Good Counsel and Genesis Junior High voted to close both schools — housed in the same building at 630 Brooks Ave. — in June, 1989, based on declining enrollment and a combined budget deficit. The proposal to close the schools has been submitted to Bishop Matthew H. Clark for approval.

The school boards also decided to merge Good Counsel with Holy Family School at 899 Jay St. Students from Good Counsel are being encouraged to enroll at Holy Family, a regional elementary school which also draws students from St. Francis of Assisi, St. Anthony and Holy Apostles parishes.

Holy Family hosted an open house for Good Counsel students and their families on Tuesday evening, Feb. 21. According to Sister Lorraine Burns, SSND, Holy Family's principal, 45 parents and 75 children came to the open house. Currently, 147 students are enrolled in grades K-6 at Good Counsel.

Most of the parents were pleased with what they saw at Holy Family, Sister Burns commented. "I didn't hear anything negative at all," she said, noting that several parents called during the next few days to inquire about registering their children at the school for next fall.

One of those parents was James Cavalier, whose two sons attend Good Counsel. Cavalier said he was impressed with Holy Family and planned to send his children there. "The boys thought it was real nice," Cavalier remarked. "We've always been pleased with Good Counsel. (Holy

Family) seemed to have the same type of program."

It is Holy Family's similar programming, including computer and music classes, that may alleviate some of the fears school parents have of transferring their children from Good Counsel, according to Susan Schmidt, president of Good Counsel's school board. Referring to the open house at Holy Family, Schmidt remarked: "I think it was a positive experience for most people. I don't think they expected to come away feeling as good as they did." Schmidt noted that Holy Family was

known to produce students who tested well, an attribute the school shares with Good Counsel.

That Good Counsel parents generally reacted positively to Holy Family was fortunate, considering that they couldn't register at any other Catholic schools. Up until Wednesday, March 1, elementary schools throughout the diocese had been directed by Brother Brian Walsh, diocesan superintendent of schools, to refuse registration of K-5 students from Good Counsel/Genesis for the 1989-90 school year. Genesis School Board President, Carol Zdatny, had

explained that the directive's purpose was to keep Good Counsel students with their peers by sending them as a group to Holy Family.

Where students at Genesis will go was yet to have been resolved by Wednesday, March 1, according to Father Louis Sirriani, pastor at Good Counsel. The diocese must ultimately decide to which school students will be transferred, although one site being considered is Blessed Sacrament Junior High at 546 Oxford St., according to Zdatny.

Bishop's commission delays recommendations

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — The shape of the Catholic school system in northeastern Monroe County will remain unknown until late March at the earliest, according to William Pickett, chairman of the Commission on Reorganization of Catholic Schools.

The commission has spent the month of February reviewing the Northeast Quadrant Planning Board's proposal to reorganize and consolidate the school system in its area. The Northeast Quadrant Planning Board — one of nine groups charged with reorganizing Monroe County's Catholic School system — issued its reorganization proposal on Jan. 5. The proposal recommended the June, 1989, school closings of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Philip Neri in Rochester, and St. Salome in Irondequoit, Christ the King and St. James in Irondequoit, and Annunciation in Rochester were slated to close in June, 1990.

The report also called for the establishment by September, 1990, of a junior high school for the quadrant on the premises of Bishop Kearney High School.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark was scheduled to issue a final decision regarding the northeast quadrant's reorganization by March 1, but Pickett said the commission would not submit its report to the bishop

until it had had time to review the proposal further with parish leaders. Leaders of some of the targeted parishes have questioned some of the recommendations made by the Center for Governmental Research, the independent consultant that prepared the quadrant report.

Leaders at Christ the King Parish, for example, have strongly objected to the recommendation that their school be closed. Confusion over the number of classrooms housed by the school may have led to its proposed closing.

When Christ the King's officials originally responded to the planning board's survey on the number of classrooms in each school, only the number of rooms currently being used as classrooms was reported. The parish's representative, Robert Greis, claimed he was unaware that the number could have included rooms that could be potentially used. Hence, Christ the King — which currently uses nine classrooms, and has space for six more — has the necessary 15 classrooms needed to be considered for remaining open in any move to consolidate the quadrant's schools.

The Northeast Quadrant Planning Board was scheduled to meet on Wednesday, March 1. Pickett said that he and Father Michael Conboy, pastor of St. Margaret

Mary in Rochester and a commission member, would be attending the meeting.

On Thursday, March 2, the commission was scheduled to meet to discuss the Northeast Quadrant Planning Board's final proposal. Following that meeting, the proposal, along with the commission's recommendations, will go to Bishop Clark, who will then make the final decision.

Pickett noted that if the planning board's representatives reached a consensus regarding the proposal, it was likely the commission would do nothing to change the proposal before sending it to Bishop Clark for approval.

New scholarship created

ROCHESTER — Cardinal Mooney High School will award a new, four-year scholarship to a member of the school's incoming class of 1993.

The scholarship will be given each year in memory of David Marlin, a member of the class of 1967 who died in an auto accident. Criteria for the award include: taking the entrance/placement examination, need, character and academic eligibility.

For an application form or for more information about the scholarship, call the school's development office 716/865-1000.

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