

Junior high may lose lease at BK

Mike Latona/Catholic Courier

Diocesan officials are looking into relocating Bishop Hogan Academy for the 2004-05 school year if Bishop Kearney High School opts not to renew the academy's lease.

Bishop Hogan, a diocesan junior-high school (grades seven and eight), currently leases space at the south end of the Kearney building, located in Irondequoit. However, the lease is set to expire after the 2003-04 school year, and diocesan officials say Bishop Kearney appears to have other plans for the space.

"We must ... inform you that Bishop Kearney High School's administration has indicated that it will not renew Bishop Hogan Academy's lease after June 2004," stated a June 26 letter to Bishop Hogan parents from diocesan and school administration. "As a result, we are in the process of examining other facilities that will provide a new setting worthy of our school."

The letter — signed by Bishop Hogan Principal Vilma Goetting and Dominican Sister Elizabeth Meegan, diocesan superintendent of schools — emphasized that this development will not affect the school year that begins in September. "Please be assured that Bishop Hogan Catholic Academy will be eagerly awaiting your children this fall," the officials stated.

Mark Ball, Bishop Kearney's director of admissions and communications, acknowledged that school

administration has been considering alternative uses of the space currently occupied by Bishop Hogan Academy. Among the possible uses is an expansion of Bishop Kearney High School. Ball explained that Bishop Kearney's enrollment has risen by 15 percent in the last three years and that the school may soon encounter a space crunch. He also said the possibility of a junior high school directly operated by Bishop Kearney has been discussed for approximately 10 years.

However, Ball said Bishop Kearney was surprised by the letter from Goetting and Sister Meegan. He said "there was never any official decision made" about declining to renew Bishop Hogan's lease, as the letter states.

According to diocesan spokesman Doug Mandelaro, Bishop Matthew H. Clark "authorized a search for a new site after receiving clear indications of what appeared to be public discussion in some circles of definitive plans not to renew the lease. The school did receive inquiries from parents as a result."

Mandelaro said the diocese "will be delighted if the children did not have to move and the lease is indeed renewed."

Regardless of whether Bishop Hogan Academy remains at Bishop Kearney or moves elsewhere, Mandelaro emphasized that the school will continue operating in the 2004-05 school year and beyond.

Diocesan-run seventh and eighth



File photo

Prospective students and parents look on as Brandon Simpson and Matt Smith dissect a shark during a 2002 open house at Bishop Hogan Academy.

grades have been located at Bishop Kearney since the establishment in 1990-91 of Northeastern Catholic Junior High School. Northeastern's

name was changed to Bishop Hogan Academy in 2001 to honor former Rochester Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, who had died the previous year.

Pro-life groups seek return of parental notification

Jean Palombo-Gonzalez/CNS

ORLANDO, Fla. — An official with the Florida Catholic Conference, the public policy arm of the state's Catholic bishops, said conference leaders and representatives of several statewide pro-life groups plan to meet in August to decide what action they can take on the parental notification issue.

In a 5-1 ruling July 10, the Florida Supreme Court overturned the state's 48-hour parental notification for minors seeking abortions.

The decision struck down a measure that had been signed into law in 1999 but had never been enforced. It was challenged by abortion providers, women's groups and

physicians who said the law violated privacy rights specifically guaranteed by the state Constitution.

In the 137-page decision, Supreme Court Justice Leander Shaw wrote that forcing teenagers to tell their parents they are planning to have an abortion "imposes a direct and significant intrusion on a pregnant minor's right of privacy."

Sheila Hopkins, associate for social concerns for the Florida Catholic Conference, said pro-life groups across the state, along with diocesan directors of Respect Life, are "up in arms" over the decision.

"We are all very outraged and concerned and wondering where do we go from here," she told *The Florida Catholic*, newspaper of the

Orlando Diocese. "We are waiting to see what is the best avenue legal to pursue this decision."

Hopkins said when pro-lifers meet they will review a number of options, including a constitutional amendment. The meeting will include representatives of the Christian Coalition, Florida Right to Life, Eagle Forum, Florida Baptist Convention and Liberty Counsel.

"The (collective) strength of all the groups will make a better case for our efforts," Hopkins said. "This could be a galvanizing effort for us."

If the groups decide to pursue the possibility of making parental notification a constitutional amendment, Hopkins said almost 500,000

signatures would have to be gathered on a petition to add the issue on the fall 2004 ballot. In that case, she said, it would be essential for all state pro-life groups to "get on the same page" and gather signatures from a "broad spectrum of people."

Hopkins said the logic involved in denying parental notification for a medical procedure of a minor is "abominable." She noted that when minors face any other invasive medical procedure, such as an appendectomy, dental surgery or knee surgery, parents have to give written consent.

Hopkins said, parents should be told their minor child is undergoing an abortion especially in case complications arise after the procedure.

Tiog

Mike Latona/Car

What began :
Owego's St. Pat:
ter-century ago
tution in Tioga
rounding area.

Tioga County
nonprofit outre
25th anniversar
ported by Tic
Catholic church
denominations.
nancial and vol
been the key
longevity, said M
McGuire, direct
"Some people
services, some
and some donat
donate all the
McGuire, who jo
and became its c
on the retireme
Lisette O'Brien.

The ministry l
the Sisters of M
history, which i
1983 from St. Pat
current location
Owego. TCRM
emergency food
numerous other
assistance for fu
expenses and re
food baskets; ho
portation to med
and visitations.
typically out of w
those lacking n
shut-ins; and/or t

One of TCRM
teers was St. P.

Help Wante

\$250 TO \$500 A WE
train to work at home
the US governme
HUD/FHA mortgage
No experience nee
Call 1-800-778-0353

Maintenan Position Avai

Minimum 7 years exp
-Boilers -HVAC
-All General Repa
-Ground Maintena
-Preventive Mainte
-Custodial work
Send resume to

St. Helen Chu
310 Hinchey Ro
Rochester, NY 14624

Courier Classifi
can help sell your ite