

Rock Island, Illinois: August 5, 2009: The four Catholic schools in the Rock Island area will have a combined governance structure as of January 4, 2010. The four schools are Alleman High School in Rock Island, Jordon Catholic Elementary School also in Rock Island, Seton Catholic Elementary School in Moline, and Our Lady of Grace Academy, a Catholic elementary school in East Moline. All four schools are regional Catholic schools. The elementary schools each serve designated parishes, and the high school serves the whole region. Each school now has its own pastors board composed of the pastors of the parishes the schools serves as well as an education commission made up of individuals from the Catholic community whose function is to be advisory to the pastors board. In the new governance structure there will be a single pastors board for all four schools that will exercise only a few major responsibilities and delegate all other governance responsibilities to a new board of trustees. This new, single board of trustees will then serve as the governance structure for all four schools, have the authority to decide policy, and replace the current education commission at each school. The membership of this board of trustees will be drawn from the Catholic community of the entire area.

The establishment of a single governance structure for all the Catholic schools in the area is the result of a recommendation of the recently completed two year strategic planning initiative of the Diocese of Peoria for its Catholic schools conducted by Meitler Consultants, Inc., of Hales Corners, Wisconsin. The study recommends a single governance structure because of the close proximity of the four schools and the overlap in the areas served. A single governance structure will provide for more continuity, a closer connection, and greater collaboration among the schools. The new pastors board will be know as the Rock Island Vicariate Catholic Schools Pastors Board, and the new board of trustees will be called The Rock Island Vicariate Catholic Schools Board of Trustees. The single governance structure, however, will not effect the independent identity of the schools nor the current administrative structure of the schools. Each school will continue as an individual entity with its own administration, faculty, staff, student body, and traditions.

The code of regulations delineating the functions of the new vicariate pastors board as well as the by-laws of the new vicariate board of trustees are posted on the website of each school. Formation of the new board of trustees and the identification of members are in process. The nominations form for the board of trustees is also available on the website of each school. In addition the strategic plan of the Diocese of Peoria for its Catholic schools is available on the diocesan website, www.cdop.org: Click on Education and then on Office of Catholic Schools.