

After Father Stan's meeting with the archbishop and his team on Tuesday, January 2, he can answer some questions that he was not able to at the December 28 listening session. They can be found below.

The timeline we were given was very short, over the holiday break, the people we were told to email had out of office replies set for after the January 1st deadline we were given. We feel very disrespected by the timeline. Have you asked for an extension?

We were given an extension to January 18 to submit name suggestions.

Why wasn't Clarkson or Leigh included in this?

The archbishop's team recommended that if financial support from other parishes was something the pastor at the time felt was the right thing to seek, he could do so by having discussions with the parishes and their councils, increase their understanding of how the financial support would help further the mission of Catholic Education and gain their commitment. There is an individual at the archdiocese who can assist the pastor in facilitating any financial changes once a local decision is made.

Was a consortium discussed/considered? Why did the archbishop not consider that in this situation?

A consortium would be a change in governance. Because of the volatility between the current parishes and communities the archbishop's team feels now is not the time to consider this. It could be something to consider down the road.

Through the survey, through the merger meetings, option 2 was very highly rejected, and the merger committee has been telling us that option 2 was never open for discussion. Can we have an opportunity to discuss why this option is the right solution? Can we get an explanation?

The archbishop's team has been trying to move forward with a plan and has continued to be asked by the local communities to wait for different reason. They are done waiting and it's time to move forward.

Rumors that Lindsay will be starting a private school, is the archbishop aware of this?

The archbishop is aware of this.

Concerning the number of students, what would be the timeframe for students from both current schools to say they will attend?

The archbishops team offered a suggestion to move up the registration deadline and require a deposit that would not be refundable if someone disenrolled after a set date.

Did the Archbishop take into consideration the cost of rebranding, I think we can be better stewards of our money and instead pay teachers and staff better instead of rebranding?

There is no requirement from the archdiocese that costs be incurred immediately for rebranding of buildings or other items that aren't required by another governing body (Nebraska Department of Education, NSAA etc.)

I don't think there is anyone here who is blaming you, I think what everyone in his gym is asking for is more time to make this decision. We've been told by someone that we can't expect more students so why are we changing so fast?

The original timeline communicated (in the letter dated February 13, 2023) was for the 2024-2025 school year. When the three updated options were communicated (in the letter dated May 22, 2023) the archbishops team knew that the updated options, which included building a new school, could not be completed on the original timeline, which was the reason the timeline was extended to 2025-2026. When it was decided that the option to build a new school was not viable, the plan returned to the original timeline.

Who is going to take care of the school financially?

The expectation from the archdiocese is that both parishes will support the new school. The pastor is to work with the guidance of his Finance board to determine what method will be the best. The archdiocese discussed examples that have been used in other situations that could be considered; 1. A percentage of Sunday giving could be set for each parish. 2. A charge per student from each parish could be established. 3. An percentage of the budget each parish is responsible for could be determined by the percentage of families or parishioners that belong to each parish compared to the total number of both parishes.

Who is paying for the rebranding?

Those costs would be the responsibility of the new school. There may be resources (monetary gifts, grants etc.) the archdiocese office could direct us toward to help offset the costs.

If this does go through, how do we decide on teachers?

It is our intent to offer a teaching position to all current 7-12 teacher at both schools who desires to teach at the new school.

How long are you going to be here, Father? Fr. Olsen was also supposed to be here for a long period of time, but he's gone too.?

My assignment is for 6 years as pastors, during that time I have pastoral standing. After that the archbishop can move me even if I request another 6 years.

If a scholarship was awarded to St. Francis Student, will they be able to continue using it at the new school?

The scholarships awarded from the archdiocese are transferable to another Catholic school in the archdiocese.

How does this affect the use of the Hassenstab gift that stated it was for the purpose of St. Francis School?

The Leonard V. and Adele M. Hassenstab Endowment Fund was established at the Catholic Futures Foundation via a bequest from their trust. The Hassenstab Endowment Fund will provide an annual distribution to St. Francis Church of Humphrey for the specific purpose of offsetting the operating expenses of K-12 Catholic education. Deb Herchenbach, daughter of Leonard and Adele and trustee of their trust, contacted the Development office to confirm this and express that her parents would have been supportive of the archbishop's decision and would view it as a blessing that we will be able to continue the long tradition of providing K-12 Catholic education to the families of this area.

Who is paying for the rebranding, when we are already facing major repairs, the boiler is about to go, the bats are so bad that service providers for our students at the grade school will only meet with students in the high school because at a public school it would not be considered safe environment? How are we going to focus on improving what we have? To sustain we have needs at the grade school need to be addressed.

The archbishop's team indicated that we need to be on track with the opening of the new school and then we could revisit the feasibility study, needs and plans for the elementary school with the archbishop.

Most of us are parents, trying to raise our kids and they already have so many obstacles to overcome when they get out of here, and we need more priests, and then we are treated this way, how am I as a mom supposed to go home and tell my son to be a priest?

This is a very difficult time in our world and raising children is probably the toughest job parents have in the society we live in today. When it comes to the aspect of priesthood, I have found through my years in the Seminary and priesthood, you cannot tell someone to be a priest. More than likely if they do it because they are told, they will not be a good priest. Their heart must be drawn more closely to Christ and to be Christ-like. Most priests that I have seen leave the priesthood was because they hadn't properly discerned the calling because of outside pressures.