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## STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT



### Steering Committee

**Tom Orsi, Chair**  
**Jane Allen**  
**Francis Dwyer**  
**Martha Dwyer**  
**Arlene Gardiner**  
**John Gibbons**  
**Elizabeth McGrath**  
**Walter Pannone**  
**Raymond Vallee**

*Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you especially for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and hold the promise for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight. Be present with us as we work together: make us responsive to your will and give to us a healthy pride in all we do that we may be good stewards of all things entrusted to us. May the prayers of our patron Bernard help us to keep in mind the wise counsel given long ago "whoever would climb to a lofty height must go by steps, not leaps."*

*We ask this through Christ our Lord.*

*Amen*

## Catholic School Forum

The Steering Committee is pleased to report that over 60 parishioners turned out for the second informational meeting last Sunday. There was a great deal of information shared, opinions expressed and questions asked. Tom Orsi, the committee chair outlined data that has been accumulated thus far by the committee. Tom stressed that the Steering Committee has only "scratched the surface" thus far in the process. In order to ensure that momentum continues, the formation of a sub-committee was suggested. This sub-committee will take on the task of delving deeper into the matter of possibly building a catholic school on the Davis property.

Ten members of the parish expressed interest in forming this sub-committee to examine and evaluate this issue. There is much work to be done before any final decisions are made. There are many questions to be answered. *How will the school be financed? Can we hire enough teachers and administrators to staff a school? What will the tuition be?* Having a sub-committee working exclusively on the issue of the school will assist the Steering Committee in their efforts to present a Master Plan of the Davis property to the entire parish.

Any member of the parish who was unable to attend the meeting last weekend and would be willing to work on this sub-committee, please send the committee an e-mail or phone the parish center.

Would you like to see periodic informational meetings to keep the Parish abreast on the Steering Committee's findings? Would you be willing to attend such a meeting? What would be the best times for such meetings?

Please drop your response in the collection baskets or send an email to [steering\\_committee@sbcwickford.org](mailto:steering_committee@sbcwickford.org). Thanks for your response!

## From our e-mail bag

*The Steering Committee's e-mail address is : steering\_committee@sbwickford.org Please make a note of it and keep sending your questions, thoughts and responses.*

*Thank you to all the parishioners who took time from their busy schedules to attend the Catholic School Forum meeting last Sunday or e-mailed us your opinions. Your input, in the form of questions and ideas is a great help to the committee .*

"I am very much in support of a Catholic School at St. Bernard's."

"We would like to send our children to a catholic school but must weigh the benefits and cost analysis..."

"I would agree that a school would bring the catholic community together and generate other interests in/around the parish."

"We would be interested in a school at St. Bernard's and might send one or both of our children there."

"Two questions that I have not seen answered: 1) What is the total cost of each of the 2 plans you put in the church bulletin yesterday? 2) How do you expect to pay for this?"

"... I would much rather see a Catholic school here at St. Bernard for a variety of reasons. Logistically, it would be more convenient."

"I have concerns about embarking on an extensive building project, especially when we don't seem to be meeting our budget most weeks."

"I felt compelled to at least contact the parish and show my support for a Catholic school."

"We are hoping to obtain or eventually learn more details regarding the school, such as size, facilities, number of classrooms, etc."

"The Devil's advocate question: Why would I want to pay to send my child to catholic school when he/she can obtain a fine education in the public school system?"

"... I don't see that those with a Catholic education differ from those with a public education in their practice of faith and their social values. The same is true for young adults I know. In this part of the state, public schools are safe and perform well academically. Is there evidence that building and running a school will benefit our children and our community?"