

MEMO TO: Regional & Area Superintendents, Board Presidents, Pastors,
Principal and Staff

FROM : *Marquette*
Diocesan Office of Education

SUBJECT: Local Board Studies Regarding Schools in Light of the Passage
of Proposal C

I appreciate your concern and wish to express my appreciation for receiving information from your Boards of Education relative to the effects of Proposal C on our schools.

Naturally, further study is required by all local Boards of Education so that an in-depth approach to decision-making can be made responsibly.

The ramifications of whatever decisions are made can be many so that whatever is recommended to the Diocesan Board must be well studied and understood fully.

It is important for each local Board to realize that they are in the study and discussion stage and that no decision will be made until each local situation is reviewed by the Diocesan Board and has the Bishop's approval, therefore, public statements concerning the future of your school should not be made. At times like this many rumors and misinformation will be bandied about.

Board Members and Teaching Staff must remember that even though we are studying the full implications of Proposal C relative to our schools, we are still in the business of education and that our prime responsibility is to continue to provide a quality educational program for these children whose parents have entrusted them to our care.

The Michigan Catholic Conference will explore what legal means are available through the Courts to rid our state of the new amendments to the Constitution which presently restrict aid by the state to our schools. This aspect will enable local Boards to broaden their perspective in studying their local situations.

No discussions of selling, renting, leasing, etc., of our buildings should take place between local Boards and the public schools of this area.

Local Boards of Education will be informed by the Diocesan Office of Education regarding state-wide thinking on the issue of our schools. To act independently of the total state wide picture may jeopardize rather than help us. This information may help broaden the knowledge of your Board Members relative to their local discussions and possible recommendations to the Diocesan Board of Education.

A telegram was received by Bishops and Superintendents from the Major Religious Superiors in Michigan who have stated "You have our support, loyalty, and prayers in whatever endeavors Providence may choose to direct you in the future."

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Many of our Congregations who supply our Diocese with religious staff are from outside of Michigan.

In our Diocese, there will no doubt be needed a meeting between Major Religious Superiors, the Bishop and the Diocesan Office of Education to determine what problems may be entailed in any future planning on the local and Diocesan level.

Of first concern to the Boards of Education is the provision for children now in shared-time programs in the public school.

December 18, 1970, is the date on which the amended Constitution of Michigan will take effect.

All auxiliary services will be discontinued as well as shared-time programs.

The Diocesan Office of Education has been informed by Lansing that none of our students are to participate in these programs after December 18, 1970.

Public schools may insist on extending services in these areas. We have been told that this would be in violation of the law. It is important that our local schools follow directives from the Diocesan Office of Education in this matter.

Principals and Boards of Education must seek directives not from the public school sector but from our own Office of Education. The reason for this, is that there is wide confusion on the interpretation of some of these matters. All Catholic schools in the Diocese of Marquette are to follow the same directives issued from their Office of Catholic Education.

Provisions of classes must be provided for students who can no longer participate in shared-time programs. This may result in the hiring of teachers by our Boards to provide curriculum offerings to these children which may even be different from those presently offered in the public schools.

Enclosed please find a copy of the agenda to be considered at the Michigan superintendents meeting in Detroit on November 10th. This may help Board Members & staff, see the many ramifications that will be discussed relative to our schools and Proposal C's passage.

Enclosure:

dtd: Nov. 9, 1970

Note:

Sister Principals make sure that extra copies get to Board of Education Members.