

# STRATEGIC CLOSURE AND CONSOLIDATION OF CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN THE DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

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EDU5103 EDUCATIONAL GOVERNANCE  
AND POLICY ISSUES

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NY

# Department of Education: Diocese of Rockville Centre

- Governance Overview
  - ▣ Department of Ed: DRVC an incorporated 501c3
    - Most Reverent William Murphy President
    - Sr. Joanne Callahan, OSU Superintendent
    - Dr. Steven Cheeseman, Ed.D. Associate Superintendent
  - ▣ Parish Elementary Schools
    - Extension of Parish Corporation
    - Educational Charter through Kennedy Directory
    - Pastor is Chief Officer
    - Principal is Educational Officer
    - Under Direction of the Diocese of Rockville Centre
    - Most Reverend William Murphy President

# Bishop's Advisory Committee for Strategic Plan – September 2011

The Diocese of  
**ROCKVILLE CENTRE**



Strategic Plan for Catholic Elementary Schools

## The Bishop's Advisory Committee for Catholic Education

Rev. Msgr. Robert Brennan  
Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia  
Diocese of Rockville Centre

Sister Joanne Callahan, OSU  
Superintendent  
Diocese of Rockville Centre

Robert B. Catell  
Tomorrow's Hope Foundation  
Chairman - Advanced Energy Research  
& Technology Center  
Stony Brook University

Steven Cheeseman, Ed.D.  
Associate Superintendent  
Diocese of Rockville Centre

Reverend John M. Derasmo  
Pastor, St. James Church  
Seaford

Thomas F. Doodian  
Chief Financial Officer  
Diocese of Rockville Centre

Joseph Geoghan  
Chair, Education Commission  
Former General Counsel  
Union Carbide

Maureen Hannan  
Coordinator of Finance for the  
Elementary Schools  
Diocese of Rockville Centre

Eileen Kilbride, Ed.D.  
Education Commission  
Principal, St. Joseph's School  
Garden City

Reverend Michael T. Maffeo  
Pastor, St. Joseph's Church  
Ronkonkoma

Kevin T. Murphy  
Director of Diocesan Administration  
Diocese of Rockville Centre

Anthony J. Nastasi  
Tomorrow's Hope Foundation  
President  
Nastasi & Associates, Inc.

Peter Quick  
Tomorrow's Hope Foundation  
Former President  
American Stock Exchange/Quick & Reilly

Lewis S. Ranieri  
Chair, Tomorrow's Hope Foundation  
Chairman and President  
Ranieri & Co., Inc.

James Riley, Jr.  
Tomorrow's Hope Foundation  
Retired Managing Partner  
Goldman Sachs New York

Reverend Charles Romano  
Pastor, St. Raymond of Penyafort Church  
East Rockaway

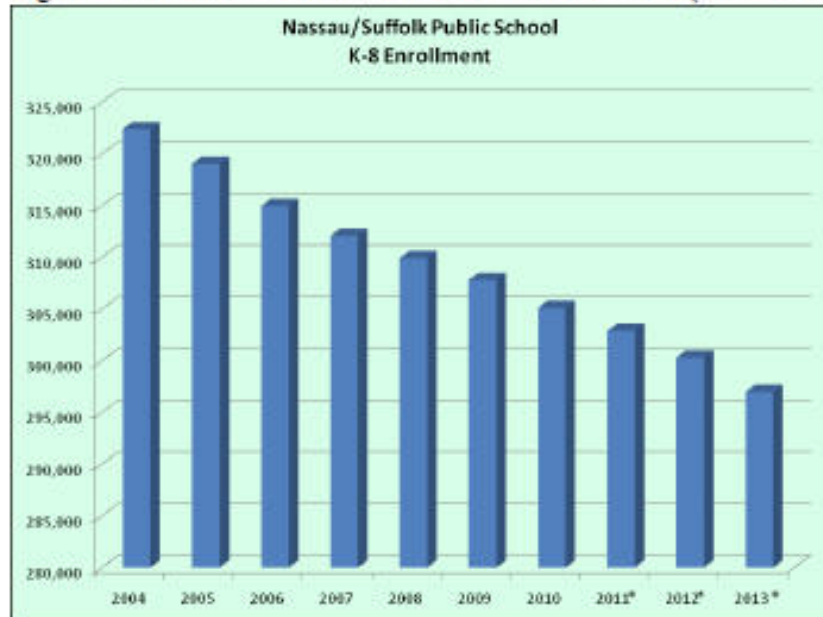
Brian T. Shea, Chair  
Tomorrow's Hope Foundation  
Chief Executive Officer  
Pershing LLC

Ryan Sheehan  
Tomorrow's Hope Foundation  
Ranieri & Co., Inc.

Carol Needham Taylor  
Education Commission  
Attorney  
Pasta, Needham, & Taylor, Esqs.

# The Problem: Enrollment Trends

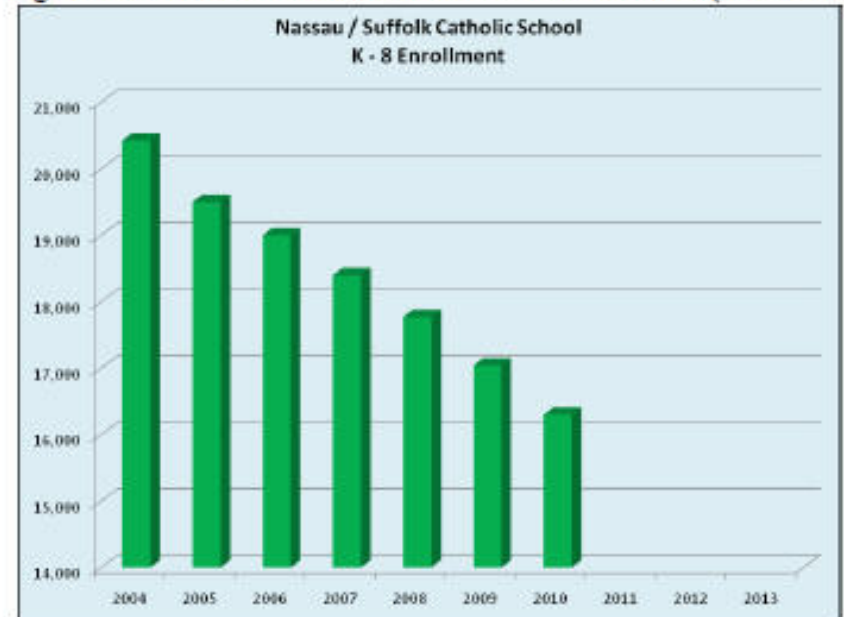
Figure 1: Nassau/Suffolk Public School Enrollment K-8 (2004-2013\*)



\*projected enrollments

Source: Western Suffolk BOCES Bi-County Public School Enrollment Report, March 2011

Figure 2: Nassau/Suffolk Catholic School Enrollment K-8 (2004-2010)



Source: Diocese of Rockville Centre Education Department Enrollment Reports 2004-2010

# Projected Change in Population

**Table 1: Projected Change in population 2010 - 2015**

Township	5-9 year olds	10-14 year olds
Huntington	-7.1%	-9.6%
Oyster Bay	-8.3%	-13.2%
North Hempstead	-5%	-11.7
Hempstead	-7.2%	-12.2
Babylon	-5.5%	-7.4%
Smithtown	-6.4%	-7.2%
Islip	-5.2%	-7.2%
Brookhaven	-3.1%	-5.9%
Riverhead	1.7%	-1.1%
Southampton	-1.7%	-4%
Easthampton	-1.6%	-4.9%
Southold	-0.2%	-4.7

Source: Dr. Jonathan Hughes, St. John's University

# The Purpose: Understanding the Need

## □ June 2010

- The Bishop's Advisory Committee on Catholic Education was formed to connect the plans, work, and effort of the Diocese, the Elementary Education Commission, and the Tomorrow's Hope Foundation.
- The Advisory Committee's charge is to work with the Diocesan Education Department to develop and foster the implementation of a comprehensive strategic plan to support the long term sustainability, growth, and excellence of Catholic elementary schools on Long Island.

# Methodology:

- **June 2010 – Bishop Murphy forms Bishops Advisory Committee on Catholic Education (BACCE)**
- **July 2010 - November 2010 – BACCE gathers research needed to begin plan**
- **January 18, 2011 – Draft strategic elements presented to planning committees for review and comment (committees look for consensus on the vision, not the implementation)**

# Methodology Continued

- **February 2011 – July 2011 – Representatives of Pastors and Principals (BACCE) review, edit and receive feedback on draft elements of strategic plan for comment**
- **September 2011 – Strategic Plan is presented to pastors and principals, and is published and implemented**
- **Late Fall 2011 / Winter 2011 – Vitality studies completed and recommendations for mergers and closures are announced**



# Six Strategic Planning Goals

- **Strong Catholic Identity**
  - In the Diocese of Rockville Centre, Catholic identity is the defining characteristic and essential element in Catholic schools.
- **Effective Organization and Governance**
  - A well organized and effective system of shared governance coordinates leadership at the parish, regional, and Diocesan levels and promotes the consistent implementation of policy.

# Six Strategic Planning Goals

- Educational Excellence
  - Schools in the Diocese of Rockville Centre continue to build on the tradition of academic excellence that has historically been one of our strengths.
- Collaborative Leadership
  - The synergistic leadership of pastors and principals in the Diocese of Rockville Centre fosters successful schools that work closely with teachers, parents, and students.

# Six Strategic Planning Goals

- Vibrant and Effective Communications
  - Catholic schools in the Diocese of Rockville Centre are engaged and well respected in their communities and have vibrant and effective means of communicating their success with families, alumni, and the wider community.
- Responsible Stewardship
  - Leaders throughout the Diocese maximize the time, talent, and treasure available to secure the future of Catholic schools. All are called to collaborate in this mission.

# Results

- 6 of 53 Elementary schools closed at the end of 2011-2012 academic year. The Diocese of Rockville Centre is closing six of its 53 elementary schools on Long Island at the end of the 2011-2012 school year.
- St. John Baptist de La Salle Regional School (Farmingdale)
- St. Catherine of Sienna School (Franklin Square)
- St. Ignatius Loyola School (Hicksville)
- Sacred Heart School (North Merrick)
- Our Lady of Perpetual Help School (Lindenhurst)
- Prince of Peace Regional School (Sayville)

# Results Continued

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- Along with the aforementioned schools, Bishop William Murphy asked five schools, three in Suffolk County and two in Nassau County, to form a "strategic collaboration."

# Monitoring Progress: Implementation Survey

- 60 question survey
- Answers coded 4-1 with 3&4 indicating moving towards implementation of the statement and 1&2 indicating moving away from implementation.
- Surveys were given to Parents, Pastors, Teachers, Principals and Board Members.

# References

- DeFiore, L., Convey, J., and Schottloffel, M. Weathering the Storm (Virginia: NCEA, 2009)
- Diocese of Rockville Centre Education Department Enrollment Reports 2004-2010
- National Conference of Catholic Bishops (2002)
- Pastoral Letter of the Third Plenary Council of Baltimore (1884)
- Renewing Our Commitment to Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools in the Third Millennium, (USCCB, 2005)
- Western Suffolk BOCES Bi-County Public School Enrollment Report, March 2011
- Youniss, J. and Convey, J. Ed. Catholic Schools at the Crossroads (NY: Teachers College Press, 2000)