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To the teachers, parents, students and friends of the Joplin Area Catholic Schools:

It is my pleasure, in the name of the JACS Board of Education, to announce that we have hired a System Director. Over twenty applications were received, five of which were vetted and from those, three individuals were personally interviewed by our selection committee. The makeup of this group was published earlier, but included an administrator, teachers, board members and pastors.

The individual selected is Georgiana McGriff. She has many years of experience in the education field including twenty plus years as a high school teacher, three years as a high school principal for Carl Junction and as an assistant superintendent for 6 years in the Seneca school district. In addition, she and her family are members of St. Mary's parish. Her husband, Mark, is a McAuley graduate; Class of 1978.

In the near future, there will be a public announcement of this appointment. The details of this are still in the works.

Mrs. McGriff is very anxious to get to work and planning has already begun to help the transition of this change in administration to be as seamless as possible. As mentioned before, this is a work in progress. We as a Board will draw on her experience and she will lean on us to guide her to prioritize where we hope to go as a system.

At the top of the list will be the change at St. Peter's and McAuley. Going from two principals to one will require some thought and preparation. This process has already begun. Thinking of these buildings as one campus instead of two schools will help as we look at all of the options. Ideas have been shared, but ultimately, our new administrator will make these decisions along with thoughts from Gene Koester and the supervision of the Board and Pastors.

St. Mary's will not be left out or neglected. I think that you will all see Mrs. McGriff in your building, too; she will want to see what she can do to make St. Mary's grow also.

We as a Board are very excited about what is about to unfold for the JACS System. As we travel into these uncharted waters, we ask for your patients and, most of all, your prayers. You should see positive changes as the 2016-2017 school unfolds.

Sincerely,

Anthony (Tony) J. Greenwood

Chairman of the JACS Board of Education

