

Tuesday, May 29, 2018

Mr. Michael Kagan
Rockford Diocese Superintendent of Schools
P.O. Box 7044
Rockford, IL. 61125

Dear Mike:

I am writing as a follow-up to the report the Executive Committee sent you on May 17th outlining the findings from our investigation regarding the charges brought against Steve Baldwin. As the report outlines, our due diligence found no wrong-doing or negligence on the part of Mr. Baldwin; it also asked for further explanation on a number of points, as well as expressed some deep concerns. We find no material cause for the six “action points” taken against Steve, and ask for their withdrawal. (That is particularly the case with the reduction in his salary, both for this current fiscal year as well as for the next.)

Steve certainly cares for Marian Central, our community, the Diocese, and Catholic education; and the Marian family whole-heartedly wants Steve as their Superintendent. But if this case is not resolved quickly and amicably, it isn't good for Marian, our students and their families, the deanery, the Diocese, and catholic education in general. To date we have received no response from either you or Ellen Lynch regarding our report. We need a response by this Friday, June 1, 2017, in order to keep any damages to Marian, our students, and the Diocese to an absolute minimum, and in order to resolve this for Steve and his family in a just and timely fashion. Steve is a good man, a faithful Catholic, a devoted disciple of Christ, and an outstanding Superintendent, and we want to see him in that position for Marian Central for a long time. We will look forward to your response.

In Christ,

Rev. Max J. Striedl
Council of Administration President, with Executive Committee members Rev. David Austin, Mr. Ray Jones, Mr. Brian Kelly, Mr. John Mercurio, Mr. Scott Shepard, and Mr. Mike Mocogni

C.C. Ms. Ellen Lynch, Diocesan General Counsel