



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

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MR. MICHAEL J. DEEGAN, SUPERINTENDENT

April 17, 2023

Jeffrey LeFrancois
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4
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Suite #580
New York, NY 10001

Allen Oster
Co-Chair
ACES Committee
424 West 33 Street
Suite #580
New York, NY 10001

Kit Tollerson
Co-Chair
ACES Committee
424 West 33 Street
Suite #580
New York, NY 10001

Dear Chair LeFrancois, Co-Chair Oster, and Co-Chair Tollerson,

Thank you for your letter of April 11th regarding the closure of Guardian Angel School. I write on behalf of His Eminence, Cardinal Dolan. This decision was an extremely difficult one for the Archdiocese of New York. All our schools play significant roles in their respective communities, and Guardian Angel was no exception. The school has played an important role in educating generations of school-aged children, and we appreciate your acknowledgment of this.

Keeping the school open, however, had become unsustainable due to the combination of changing demographics, declining enrollments, and increasing capital needs. The school's enrollment had declined 27 percent, and its operating deficit for this school year alone has soared to over \$550,000.

We have communicated with all parents of Guardian Angel regarding the closing of the school and have reinforced to them our commitment to finding a place for all students within our Catholic school system. Our dedicated bilingual enrollment and call center staff continue to meet and work with Guardian Angel families to ensure they are aware of the options for continued Catholic school education for their children. They have been informed that if a student receives financial assistance for this current school year, we will ensure that they will receive a financial award once they complete their application at a Catholic school for 2023-2024. All families can apply for a scholarship as part of their application to a new participating school. The parents of every child attending Guardian Angel have been informed of this option, and we continue to provide outreach to them. I cannot emphasize enough that all students from Guardian Angel School will have a place at one of our many other Catholic Schools.

We have long sought the support of our schools from our governmental representatives, specifically through funding assistance, legislative initiatives, and direct public assistance to tuition paying families, all to no avail. In particular, the tuition assistance program has been passed in 36 states, but New York continues to fail to support its passage and implementation.

We remain focused on our continuing commitment that all Guardian Angel school children will be welcome and cared for both educationally and financially at one of our other Catholic schools.

Sincerely,



Mr. Michael J. Deegan
Superintendent of Schools
Archdiocese of New York

Cc: His Eminence, Timothy Cardinal Dolan
Mr. John Cahill, Chancellor, Archdiocese of New York
Ms. Mary Stenson, Deputy Superintendent
Mr. Michael Coppotelli, Deputy Superintendent
Mr. Joseph Rosenberg, Executive Director, Catholic Community Relations Council
Hon. Erik Bottcher, City Council
Hon. Tony Simone, NYS Assembly
Hon. Brad Holyman-Sigal, NYS Senate