



**TCCES State of the Schools  
Summary  
February 10, 2014**

**Welcome** by Jeff Berg

TCCES Board of Trustees President Jeff Berg welcomed approximately 120 guests to the Jane Bergstrom Fine Arts Education Center for the 2014 State of the Schools address on Monday, February 10, 2014. He thanked everyone for coming, especially families new to the school system. He introduced as a group the members of the TCCES Board of Trustees and the members of our faculty and staff who were in attendance.

**Opening Prayer** by Mary Lou Kalas

Seton Campus Minister Mary Lou Kalas shared an opening prayer.

**Opening Statement** presented by Patrick Batey

TCCES President Patrick Batey was introduced by Jeff Berg.

Batey first reflected on the positive changes that occurred within the past year in our schools, including the opening of the beautiful fine arts education center and technology classrooms, the continuing growth in system enrollment, determining that we could continue to operate with five campuses and the announcement of the campaign for a beautiful new middle school on the campus of St. Mary Central High School.

He acknowledged that there were some challenging changes during the year as well, all of which have in one way or another enabled us to work toward being a stronger, more responsible and ultimately better school system overall.

Mr. Batey also reflected on his own management style that has developed in his 38 years in education, 29 as an administrator. Batey surrounds himself with capable professionals and trusts them to do their jobs. This philosophy has served him well throughout the years, and in his tenure as TCCES president. Although the format of the state of the school address has traditionally been the president doing the entire presentation, Batey chose to have his "experts" in the various areas share information. Changing the format better reflects how many people contribute to the success of TCCES and shows that we have very capable leadership leading us forward.

**Highlights of the Year: the Opening of the Jane Bergstrom Fine Arts Education Center and Technology** presented by Patrick Batey

Photos of highlights were shown on the screen while Batey discussed the amazing dedication celebration on April 13 and the large variety of shows, presentations, performances and school events in the nine months since it opened. The facility is regularly used for: ○ Liturgies and special events ○ All TCCES concerts ○ SMC's Beauty and the Beast ○ Seton's Guys & Dolls, Jr ○ Prom & graduations  
This year spring, SMC's *Grease* will be performed on March 13-15 and Seton's *Peter Pan, Jr.* on April 25 and 26.

The leadership committee was happy to report the entire project has been paid for in full! **We are very grateful to the visionary and generous donors who made this happen!**

**Budget** presented by Jeanne Lee

TCCES Director of Business Services was introduced by Patrick Batey.

Jeanne Lee spoke in her role as TCCES Director of Business Services to share the financial facts of TCCES – the business end of education. She shared the balance sheet for the 2013-14 fiscal year and stated that, as of the six-month review period TCCES is on track to complete a balanced budget for the current fiscal year! She reminded the audience that TCCES does not have any loans, and does have significant equity in property and endowments. Lee stated that we do continue to rely on the line of credit to support our cash flow needs, but we have not increased the amount, and we meet the requirements of the bank to reduce it to “zero” each year. The board and administration are committed to working on reducing the reliance on this business tool – starting with the critical balanced budget.

Lee described the three-step budgeting process required of all Catholic schools by the Diocese of Green Bay which includes preparing and presenting a balanced budget to the diocesan corporate board in the spring prior to the fiscal year. The budget is later revised based upon variables such as enrollment numbers, faculty contracts and “surprises.” In recent years, “surprises” have come in increments of about \$100,000 per year due to changes in things such as retirement or health insurance, and parish subsidies. Lee is happy to report that the **2013-14 budget is the first that has been in the black at the six-month mark.** The unknowns at this point include health insurance renewal rates, aging technology and utilities due to the cold weather and bills for the new addition. **Financial highlights include meeting our enrollment goals, and the international student program which has added \$110,000 to the budget.**

Finally, the budget is reconciled at the end of the each fiscal year on June 30. “Surprises” during this phase include the actual dollar amounts of proceeds from Zephyrfest, Jumbo Gumbo and the TCCES/SMC Annual Fund Drive.

All business leaders are called to do more with less, and TCCES leaders are no exception. Mr. Batey, according to Lee, has made difficult but correct decisions with regard to personnel and resources that have helped TCCES to be in the black at this point.

Lee finished by strongly encouraging all TCCES families to use Scrip for their day-to-day purchases. Using Scrip enables families to reduce their own tuition payments. Management of the program by a dedicated group of volunteers also enables TCCES to apply administrative fees to the TCCES budget—this year the amount is expected to be about \$50,000.

**Enrollment** presented by Patrick Batey

We have good news to share in the area of enrollment! After priority registration closed, we are on track with a probable increase again for the 2014-15 school year— **We have experienced 8.1% growth in the past ten years,** while most Catholic schools are unfortunately experiencing a decline.

A year ago, we were talking about the efforts at St. Mary Elementary School to grow enrollment in order to keep the building open. Today, I am very pleased to report that **there are 30 new students enrolled at St. Mary Elementary School for the 2014-15 school year,** along with additional potential families we are currently working with! Congratulations to the task force, Principal Jill Ahles and our recruiting and admissions department. The task force did a wonderful job of getting the word out and helping to make the school attractive, and TCCES personnel worked tirelessly with potential families through tours, interviews, meetings, mailings advertising, emails and phone calls. **It was truly a group effort and everyone who contributed deserves our thanks and recognition.**

Batey also spoke of the international students programs through which St. Mary Central currently hosts 13 students from Europe and Asia through STS Agency and three Eastern Europeans through Global Outreach. He spoke of the contributions of these students to our community and stated that SMC will continue to monitor the cultural environment to maintain a good balance.

## **Curriculum** presented by Jeanine Leege

TCCES Director of Curriculum Jeanine Leege was introduced by Patrick Batey.

Jeanine Leege said that TCCES is blessed with an amazing group of educators who are dedicated to their profession. She spoke of TCCES's commitment to aligning with the instructions of the Diocese of Green Bay. The diocese is re-forming the curriculum committees to look at language arts and math standards, and TCCES will participate in that process as directed by the bishop. The diocesan plan moving forward is to focus the standards and benchmarks around the National Council of English Teachers (NCTE) standards and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) standards.

This year, TCCES faculty has had much-needed professional time built into the calendar with early release days. These days are used for teachers' curriculum discussions and professional development. Teachers spend their lunch time together on these days to participate in collaborative discussions to plan for current projects. Time has also been built in so that teachers can meet with others at the same grade level or same discipline, such as math, science, or music.

Our diocese has developed a strong Foundational Catechetical Certification process for Catholic school teachers and administrators. Participation provides a framework to strengthen our Catholic Faith in six areas for a total of 60 hours; Bible, Creed, Prayer & Spirituality, Methods (Faith Integration), Sacraments & Liturgy and Morality. This year, TCCES faculty is working on the Methods component together.

We are currently working on two education initiatives to work toward better accountability system wide. Training began last year and continues this year. The first is our participation in The Effectiveness Project which is an evaluation system for educators. This year we are piloting the program with a total of 22 teachers from all campuses and our five principals.

The second initiative involves all of our teachers and principals. We are identifying and writing Student Learning Outcomes which are data-driven academic goals set for students at the start of a course. These goals are specific and measurable and monitored throughout the year.

In addition to the onsite staff development with these two initiatives, we have 21 teachers and two principals participating in graduate level classes to deepen our understanding effectiveness.

## **Safety** presented by Pat Batey

TCCES is committed to keeping our community as safe as possible. To that end, the TCCES Emergency Preparedness plan went through a major overhaul last year and was implemented this year. All TCCES buildings were or are scheduled to be reviewed by law enforcement professionals who made recommendations to improve safety. They were impressed with the plans we had in place, calling them "among the best" they've seen.

In addition, two officers did an in-service presentation to tell TCCES faculty what can be expected from law enforcement if schools are in various stages of a lockdown

## **Technology** presented by Jeff Berg

TCCES Board of Trustees and Technology Committee Chairperson Jeff Berg was introduced by Patrick Batey.

Berg shared that at the beginning of this school year the Board of Trustees commissioned a technology committee whose goal is to develop a system-wide technology platform for long-term sustainability and growth. The committee is comprised of TCCES educators and internal and external technology professionals. This group has formulated and

developed the focus to bring TCCES to be the leading Fox Valley school system--not only in having technology but also in integrating and utilizing the technology in the classroom.

The board developed three main focus areas:

1. The network: The committee is tasked with identifying and delivering the model for the information pipeline for the data of all forms being transferred seamlessly—hardware, software, wiring, etc.
2. Tablets: The committee is tasked with developing a common tablet platform for the entire school system.
3. Strategic plan: The committee is tasked with integrating all of these elements into a comprehensive three-to-five-year technology plan covering all TCCES schools, including the new middle school.

The technology platform is not only about the hardware, software, data security, and the networking, but is as much about integrating that technology into the classroom, curriculum development that is supported by technology, and most importantly staff development so that our educators have the tools they need in place to drive for academic excellence that prepares our students for their future challenges.

Berg said that dealing with the future of technology is fun and exciting to be involved with, but that we can't proceed without looking at the present. It is no secret, said Berg, that some of the technology within our system is at the end of its useful life. He referred to Microsoft's termination of support for the Windows XP platform and reassured the community that our local technology suppliers will support this system after Microsoft's termination date.

Berg also stated that funding of the new technology program will be as equally challenging as overcoming the aging technology gaps that we currently have. TCCES has proven that we can be a technology leader in this area. At the end of this school year we will be graduating the very first class that has had a completely one to one laptop computer program from freshman year through senior year of high school. Just like there was support for the one-to-one laptop program from the beginning, I am confident that we will be able to develop and deliver the funding strategy that supports the technology platform for the future.

#### **Wisconsin Parental Choice Program** presented by Patrick Batey

As we said we would, TCCES continued to analyze the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP). In December, TCCES decided it was the appropriate time to apply to participate.

TCCES anticipates that WPCP will help both current and potential families afford a Catholic education in our schools and will allow us to offer support to more families. TCCES has a team in place to address the administrative, monitoring and reporting responsibilities. Michael Sullivan, former TCCES president is available to help families complete their applications. He can be reached through the TCCES email and phone systems, and a Spanish interpreter is available upon request.

The application process has begun. Online applications are available on the Department of Public Instruction website, and must be completed online between now and April 20,2014. Information is available on the TCCES website and in school and system newsletters. Beginning next weekend, brochures will be available in the back of TCCES parish churches and in school offices.

TCCES's priority is to help any family that wants a Catholic education for their children; vouchers will help us to do that even more!

#### **Communications** presented by Molly Griffin

TCCES Director of Communications Molly Griffin was introduced by Patrick Batey.

Griffin stated that TCCES is working hard to respond to the board of trustees' call to improve communication within our community—that includes school families, our supporting parishes and the community at large. She has collaborated with others to develop a communications plan and has been and will continue working to implement it. The primary mission is to share great news about TCCES!

Strategies include identifying the TCCES audiences, deciding who should deliver what messages, determining how to get important news to the right people and using technology to share the message.

With technology, TCCES uses online calendars for TCCES and the Olympian Conference, which allows TCCES to save money on printing and to make “up-to-the-minute” changes on the calendars. TCCES uses electronic media—including text alerts, our website, email and Facebook-- to send important alerts about things like school closings, delays and emergencies, as well as social media to share our great stories and publicize events.

Griffin knows that things can be improved, and is working to distribute more messages more often and through more channels than ever before. She welcomes any comments suggestions about what TCCES can do to better communicate with the TCCES community.

#### **Annual Fund** presented by Patrick Batey

Batey enumerated many areas that the annual fund benefits including but not limited to teacher salaries; operating expenses including heat and electricity, insurance; tuition assistance; maintaining optimal student-teacher ratios; professional development and technology.

We have a responsibility to ensure quality Catholic Education into the future. More than 60% of all TCCES families receive direct tuition assistance, but all TCCES families pay less tuition than it actually costs to educate their children, thereby receiving indirect assistance. In fact, the shortage averages more than \$3100 per student.

That is why the Annual Fund is so very important! It helps to keep costs down and quality high for all of us. An appeal will be coming out in March—please be generous.

#### **New Middle School** presented by Patrick Batey

The audience was treated to the video clip of the new middle school. [The video can be viewed by clicking on this link.](#)

Batey discussed several features of the plans including collaborative learning spaces, state-of-the-art technology, a beautiful dedicated chapel, a two-stage gymnasium that can be used for tournaments and practices by both schools, a full kitchen, access to athletic facilities and shared faculty and resources. He also stated that the building committee is working closely with coaches to determine best use of space.

**Batey expressed the system's sincere appreciation for the support that is making this project possible.**

To make an online donation, [click here](#).

#### **2014 TCCES Student Highlights** by Patrick Batey

Accompanied by many pictures of TCCES students participating in a variety of events, Batey shared a reminder of why we are all here—our students! He praised the community for working together to provide a well-rounded, faith-based

education in a loving community to more than 1000 TCCES students. Here are a few areas he highlighted in which TCCES students grew in mind, body and spirit in the past year....

### **Fine arts**

- Students shared their talents with concerts and the spectacular *Beauty and the Beast* and *Guys & Dolls* in our fine arts center last spring **Robotics**
- SMC once again enjoyed unparalleled success with its VEX program continues, which is now a nationally known phenomenon
- Seton's FIRST Team went to the state tournament for the seventh consecutive year
- New robotics enrichment programs at the elementary schools are taking off **Academics**
- TCCES elementary and middle school students regularly finish in top spots in local knowledge and essay-writing contests
- Math teams from Seton and SMC are very competitive
- All of TCCES continued to achieve well above state and national averages on the MAP tests
- SMC's ACT score was second highest among all Fox Valley schools
- SMC has had five National Merit Scholars in the past four years

### **Athletics**

- The thriving Junior Zephyrs basketball program has 160 participants in grades 2-8
- Many students participate in multiple activities and sports throughout the year. Many of our athletic teams including soccer, volleyball, powerlifting, golf, tennis and baseball had excellent seasons, and all athletes benefit from the physical, social and leadership-building aspects of being on the team

### **Faith/Service**

- SMC's Key Club, Teens for Life, EARTH Club and Best Friends' Mentor Program have many active members, and they do a lot of good in our community
- Seton's Junior Optimists and Rock for Life groups are very active as well!
- Elementary students participate in numerous and frequent service and faith opportunities with their classmates and whole schools

### **Forensics**

- TCCES is home to highly successful teams at all age levels

### **Closing** by Patrick Batey

Batey reiterated that there are many, many exciting things going on in our TCCES schools. We continue to make progress in our goals of increasing enrollment and the new middle school should really help with that in the future—please support the effort to get this project done.

We continue to make progress in strengthening our financial footing, but we need your help. We need and count on the prayers and support of our TCCES families!

As the results of our actions are seldom neutral, it is important that we all, by our words and our actions, work together toward building up our community.