

To: Elementary Principals and Strategic Planning Chairs and Facilitators

From: JoAnn Tier, Associate Director

Date: May 29, 2008

Re: *Strategic Planning Jottings – May 2008*

Forty individuals attended the strategic planning session on May 19, *Making Connections with Chairpersons*. The evening provided a forum for a strategic planning “refresher” with extended breakout sessions to learn what is working in other school settings as well as to discover the areas of challenge. The opportunity to connect, form relationships, to interact and to learn from each other was a high point of the evening.

To continue the collaboration begun and as a response to requests from the field, attached with the May Jottings is a contact list currently on file for strategic planning chairs. Please e-mail any changes/updates to Pat Competelli at pcompe@dioceseoftrenton.org. Use the list to contact other chairs and continue the dialogue, the learning and collaboration!

Issues Gram

Many schools and school board members receive copies of the National Catholic Educational Association *Issue Gram*, a quarterly publication by the Department of Boards and Councils – for information visit www.ncea.org (click NCEA Departments then click Boards & Councils.)

In the spring 2008 edition of Issue Gram, Dr. Regina Haney, Executive Director of Departments of Boards and Councils of Catholic Education, references the Holy Father’s visit to our country. In addressing Catholic educators, he reminded us that our schools can be sustained in the long term only if we develop relationships with the wider community. The week following Pope Benedict’s visit, President Bush convened a White House Summit on Inner-City Children and Faith-Based Schools. Highlighted at the summit was the need for relationship building – collaboration with a variety of agencies (businesses, hospitals, social service agencies) to ensure and sustain our schools.

Utilize the strategic planning experience to connect with the many stakeholders of your school community – teachers, parents, members of the parish(es), alumni, grandparents, networks of friends, businesses and agencies. Through involvement and relationship building, buy-in and connectedness are forged and maintained. Schools are strengthened and a collaborative vision unfolds. Enjoy the experience!