



November 1, 2019

Dear Families:

On October 14, I shared with you that Mr. Orr's service to CB had concluded. I understand that this unexpected news left many in our community with feelings of uncertainty regarding the future direction of the school. As Christian Brothers High School Board of Trustees Chair, Mr. Steve Mahaney '69 shared in his October 28 letter, "students will be lovingly cared for by CB's dedicated team of faculty, staff and administrators who are fully committed to maintaining the school's strong, college preparatory curriculum and nurturing, faith-filled community."

Over these past two weeks I have been meeting with administrators, department chairs, and staff to assess their needs moving forward. I am pleased to share that for the remainder of the year we will embrace a leadership structure similar to those in place at other high-performing, mission-centered Lasallian Catholic schools. Assistant Principals will continue to oversee Student Life and Curriculum while working in close partnership with our Deans of Students to manage day-to-day operations of the school. These individuals will report to me and I will work with them to ensure that our community is well served.

For the remainder of the school year, I have formed a *Management Team* to replace the school's Leadership Team and Directors' Council with the expectation of improving organizational collaboration, understanding and efficiency. This highly qualified group will focus on achieving the educational improvement goals and priorities identified in our recent Western Catholic Education Association accreditation and Lasallian Catholic Assessment Process. This structure optimizes service to students and families throughout this transition while providing ample flexibility to the incoming President as he or she determines the optimal leadership structure moving forward.

In terms of Mr. Orr's departure, I must reiterate that as with all personnel matters, we respect his privacy and dignity and it would be unlawful and inappropriate to publicly share further details. He will not be returning to Christian Brothers as Principal; however, he is welcome to attend school events. In talking with the Board of Trustees, I understand that the next President will likely be named in January or February of 2020 following a comprehensive search. The new President will select a Principal sometime in the spring.

I am saddened to see inaccurate information regarding the school's commitment to diversity in the media, including social media. CB's inclusive community, formed over these past 143 years, is a core principle that we cherish, and our diversity is a blessing. As an organization we have allocated significant financial resources, time, talent and heart to ensure we remain true to this vital component of our charism.

A COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL IN THE LASALLIAN TRADITION

4315 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BLVD., SACRAMENTO, CA 95820-2727 (916) 733-3600 www.cbhs-sacramento.org

And, while it is not typically our practice to respond to rumors, I feel compelled to address one that is particularly abhorrent and has been brought to my attention by several families. Allegations have been made that our process of allocating tuition assistance is biased and that families of color are at risk of losing support. This is patently false and completely contrary to our Lasallian Catholic mission. We are committed to making a Christian Brothers education affordable and accessible. To the extent that our funds permit, tuition assistance is available to all admitted students who qualify, and it is based on demonstrated economic need. In the 2019-20 school year, 36% of our families (421 students) receive tuition assistance.

Christian Brothers contracts with FACTS, a third-party company that specializes in evaluating a family's ability to pay tuition based on a variety of factors including family size, income, net worth, number of children for whom the family pays tuition, and other data. The Christian Brothers Tuition Assistance Committee reviews all FACTS applications for tuition assistance and determines the amount of assistance to be provided to each family based on the amount of tuition assistance funds available, the number of families who apply, and each family's need. Tuition assistance is renewable unless a family's financial situation improves, or they do not reapply for continued support.

Thank you for your continued partnership. Our faculty, staff and administrators remain steadfast in our commitment to upholding the high standards of excellence your family has come to expect. Our students are in excellent hands.

Sincerely,

Lorcan P. Barnes
President