



**NEW YORK STATE SENATE**



**Mayor Mike Spano**



**City of Yonkers**  
Office of the Yonkers City Council

July 12, 2020

Michael J. Deegan  
Superintendent of Schools  
Archdiocese of New York  
100 First Avenue, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor  
NY, NY 10022

Re: Closing of St. Ann School and St. Paul School in Yonkers

Dear Mr. Deegan:

We write as the State Senator and Chair of the NYS Senate Committee on Education, Yonkers Mayor, and Yonkers City Councilmembers, respectively, serving many of the parents of children attending these two schools in our district in Yonkers. We, along with our constituents, were profoundly disappointed by the sudden news that these two schools were slated to close, effective immediately. As you know, these schools have been strong educational and social centers of their communities, serving multiple generations of Yonkers children with a high quality Catholic education that their parents sacrificed to provide.

Of course, we are mindful of the challenges faced by the Archdiocese with respect to these and other schools during this pandemic, and its impact on all private schools. The abrupt notice, however, provided no opportunity to address and seek a resolution to the underlying fiscal issues that gave rise to this decision. We are asking to meet with you to determine if a merger of schools or some other alternative is possible that modifies the plan that was released and preserves at least one of these schools, hopefully so that children attending either school will have either St. Ann or St. Paul available to them for the coming year. We believe this moment requires creativity and determination to find a solution; we want to work with you to achieve that.

To that end, we would like to propose a call early in the coming week to speak frankly and see if a modification to the plan can be achieved which preserves at least one of these schools for the children and families both schools serve currently. We will reach out to your office Monday to see when such a call can be scheduled.

Thank you in advance for working with us on behalf of these families and children.

Sincerely,

Shelley B. Mayer

Mike Spano

John Rubbo

Anthony Merante