

In reference to an article in the January 24, Atlantic City Press, "Group Formed to Save Sacred Heart", please be advised of the following:

The "The Save Sacred Heart Fund" has indeed been established by the three individuals you mentioned, but they are not authorized to speak on behalf of the larger group of people involved in attempting to save the school. Many noted and respected area businessmen and professionals have been involved in discussions and although all expressed disappointment in this diocesan decision, there has been no talk of withholding funds in parish collections or the other actions mentioned in your article. I refer you to the following individuals who will substantiate that this is a cooperative effort and not one based on challenge and confrontation. Larry Pepper and James Gruccio of the Gruccio and Pepper Law Firm in Vineland along with former Mayor Perry Barse and area accountant Mark Ronchetti will verify the accuracy of my point. You may also check with local orthopedic surgeon Dr. John Dwyer and local attorney Mr. Francis Reuss. Area public relations consultant Fran Reilly and Car Dealer Ron Rossi are also involved in the discussions. Once again, although everyone is disappointed in this decision and especially in the commentary of Peter Fuerherd that the decision is final, I know of no one who supports adopting a confrontational attitude to resolve this issue. Although Mr. Van Hook certainly has the right to exercise and promote confrontation, I am certain this is not the opinion of anyone else involved in the group or these discussions.

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