

COMMITTEE ON GREEK EDUCATION
OCTOBER 28 – 29, 2005
BOSTON LONG WHARF MARRIOTT
SUBMITTED BY DR. STEVEN GOUNARDES

Your Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Your Eminences, Your Grace, Reverend Clergy, Mr. Jaharis, Archdiocesan Council Members and staff

Good Afternoon!

The committee on Greek Education met yesterday afternoon. In attendance were committee members: Peter Papanicolaou, Tom Dallas, Savvas Tsivicos, Fr. Anargyros, Steven Gounardes, His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos, His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios, Maria Makedon, Ioannis Efthymiopoulos and as an observer, Theodore Kalmoukos.

With great enthusiasm the committee discussed many issues concerning Greek Education such as:

- 1) Improving and standardizing curriculums
- 2) Increasing access to Greek Education programs
- 3) Increasing enrollment in our schools
- 4) Standardizing teaching methodologies

This report is a brief synopsis of what was discussed. Detailed reports of activities, goals and accomplishments of both the First Archdiocesan District and the Department of Greek Education have been distributed for your review.

However, I would like to make mention of a few highlight points of these distributed reports:

As a result of the discussion we had at our last Archdiocesan Council Meeting, Mr. Efthymiopoulos has visited many of the Metropolises such as Boston, San Francisco, Chicago and Atlanta where he met with their respective Metropolitans, teachers, visited schools and is in the process of planning teacher training seminars/workshops as well as visiting all the other Metropolises.

With respect to the First Archdiocesan District meetings and seminars have been scheduled with the principals and teachers of the 11 parochial schools, as well as discussions with the Catholic Archdiocese of New York for possible joint in service teacher training. It should also be noted that Ms. Makedon participated in a conference of private school leadership in Washington, D.C.

As a result of our meeting yesterday, the committee makes the following recommendations to the Archdiocesan Council.

- 1) The Archdiocese should make 2006 the year of the teacher. Recognition should be given to the admirable but, often, thankless job our teachers have done over the years, and at the same time, reinforce the importance of the Greek language.

- 2) Each Metropolis should invite the Director of Education to give a presentation at both its annual Clergy Syndesmos and Clergy-Laity Assemblies.
- 3) To re-establish the Greek teachers program at Hellenic College so that we may train and prepare students to teach in our schools.
- 4) To re-establish the Council or Board of Education with at least one representative from each Metropolis, which would probably be the Chairman of each Metropolis' Greek Education Committee or whomever the Metropolitan would appoint to that committee.

Aside from these recommendations, the committee is committed to work with Department of Greek Education to develop creative projects to further enhance Greek Education and to seek financial support through grants from foundations such as, but not limited to, the Niarchos Foundation and Leadership 100.

The overall consensus of the committee is that if Greek Education is to succeed, we must first educate our Clergy and Parish councils on the importance of Greek Education and encourage them to make this a priority in their local parishes. Salaries of teachers must be increased, and budgetary allocations at both the Archdiocesan and Metropolis levels must be significantly increased.

In conclusion, I would like to thank His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios and Metropolitan Evangelos for their guidance during our discussions, the members of the committee, and the hard work and effort of Ms. Makedon and Mr. Eftymiopoulos.