

# Editorial

## The Reporter

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### Archdiocese should release all information

**DECIDING TO** build a new Catholic high school and, apparently, close Lansdale Catholic High School obviously is an issue that has caused many people to take sides.

Tempers have flared over the possibility of having the longstanding school in the borough close its doors.

Others have spoken just as strongly on the need for a more modern facility in an area that will provide more space for athletics, parking and future expansion.

It's understandable that the possibility of such great change will bring with it fears, protests, support and applause.

With all of that in mind, it's totally unacceptable for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia to be less than totally open about the results of its survey that it issued to 10,000 families living within 10 miles of proposed school sites in Hilltown and Royersford.

The surveys were sent to families with children between third and sixth grades in Catholic elementary schools or in parish religious education programs.

But that is just what the archdiocese has done. It has responded to some questions area residents have posed and released some information, but says it has no intention of releasing the total result of the survey in detail.

**THAT IS HARDLY** the best route to take when the issue is such a hot one.

But apparently the archdiocese will not be swayed.

Donna Farrell, the archdiocese's director of communications, said the "survey is confidential and proprietary, and therefore, the full survey will not be released to the general public. Likewise, we will not release the results of individual questions to the general public."

Farrell also said the archdiocese would not take into consideration the results of a questionnaire conducted by the alumni group, saying the survey was not independent or prepared by a professional, third-party market research entity."

According to information that was released, 2,854 parents returned the survey and 50 percent of those who answered the survey and live within 10 miles of Hilltown who have children in parish elementary schools would choose to have them attend the new facility.

But several associated with the Friends and Alumni of LC group want to know why more specific numbers weren't provided and why not all of the answers were fully released.

Bridget Algeo, a 1985 Lansdale Catholic graduate who has opposed the proposed move to Hilltown, commented, "I think most parents and invested parties are interested in the actual survey results, the specific percents to the specific questions."

We agree. If a new school is built, it will be a costly endeavor. And there obviously is not a consensus at this time.

Full information should be provided by the archdiocese, which also should be willing to listen to all points of view.