



EDGEWOOD COLLEGE

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MESSAGE TO MADISON COMMON COUNCIL

Office of the President

JANUARY 7, 2020

Good evening and thank you for this opportunity to address you this evening. I am Sister Maggie Hopkins, Assistant to the President for Mission Identity at Edgewood College, and I represent Interim President Sister Mary Ellen Gevelinger who is ill and unable to be present. I am speaking on behalf of the Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa, the Congregation that sponsors the three Schools of Edgewood.

Both Sister Mary Ellen and I are Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa, the Congregation that has been present on the Edgewood Campus since 1881. Governor Cadwallader Washburn gave his beautiful home and the 55 acre site to the sisters "to be used for educational purposes." For 139 years, the Dominican Sisters have been faithful to the expressed purpose of that gift.

During these years, catastrophic fire and continued growth have accompanied us, and what began as a humble grade school called St. Regina Academy, now proudly has become Edgewood Campus School, Edgewood High School and Edgewood College, three schools in the Catholic and Dominican tradition. We



honor the Dominican Values of Truth, Justice, Compassion, Partnership and Community, and consider these values foundational for our education.

From a humble rural farm on the banks of Lake Wingra, this campus has become sign of Excellent Education on Monroe Street. As the muddy path at our front door evolved into a vibrant neighborhood, we have welcomed our neighbors to be participants and attendees at many events, including dramatic and musical productions. We have valued our neighbors and endeavored to engage in thoughtful conversations about shared concerns. We have built LEED Certified buildings, exceeded city standards for wastewater management, and developed a plan with assistance from the Ho Chunk Nation and the State Historical Society to protect the multiple Native Mounds on our property.

Tonight as three individual schools we come with a simple request:

1. We request that the Campus Master Plan be repealed. This plan that has become restrictive and burdensome, as each school experiences individual needs for development.
2. We request that the schools of Edgewood not be treated differently from similar institutions who are not required to have Campus Master Plans.
3. We, the schools of Edgewood, ask to be treated fairly and equitably.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to address you this evening.