

ASCENSION SCHOOL BOARD
April 11, 2011

DATES TO REMEMBER:

5/6/11 Grandparents Day
5/9/11 May School Board Meeting
5/2011 School Picnic (Rain Date 5/24)
6/1/11 Graduation
6/7/11 Uniform Exchange
6/24/11 Golf Outing
6/26/11 Gold Brunch

PRESENT: Pastor Father Larry McNally, Principal Mary Jo Burns, Chair Paul Seavey (09), Wendy Schmiedeler (08), Jill Pollard (08), Patrick Hess (08), Michael Lynch (09), Nikole Drever (10), Erin Fitzgerald (10), Michael Kelty (10)

LAST MONTH'S MINUTES: Approved.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Father Larry continues his work in the classroom, meeting the children preparing for Reconciliation and First Communion.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Enrollment is currently projected at 479 for the 2011-12 school year.

The staff, Religious Education and the Maintenance Committee continue with plans to convert the faculty room to a quiet space and conference room.

The Office of Catholic Schools has a meeting scheduled for the morning of April 16 at the Pastoral Center. Our local legislative person, Lisa Reed has some suggestions about promoting equity for Catholic schools.

Thanks to wonderful volunteers whose hard work resulted in a great Runathon!

INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT REPORT:

We met our new auctioneer at a kick-off meeting on April 7. This year's Auction will likely have a different look than Auctions of the past years. The live auction will likely take place during a sit-down dinner.

Over \$1,800 was raised in our Good Guys Wear Black (Teach the Children) solicitation in honor of Father McNally's birthday. In addition, we now have raised

over \$65,000 for tuition assistance.

We now have the capacity to accept credit or debit cards at events.

The Kathy Adams Run-a-thon went very smoothly thanks to the work of the superbly organized leadership team of Barb Fitzgerald, Liz Skalitzky and Brigid Anderson and our volunteers.

Online registration is open for the Alumni & Friends Golf Outing and event and hole sponsorships have begun to come in. We are considering a "cell phone" auction at the outing, using technology we learned about at the recent conference. Golf is only \$85 again this year and will be held at beautiful Big Run Golf Club in Lockport on June 24, 2011. Postcards for the golf outing and the Gold Brunch, to be held June 26, will be mailed next week.. We anticipate that most of the golf outing publicity will be done through the new website and through the site interface with social media, but the postcard will also help to publicize the site.

We are working to better coordinate the various fundraising groups at Ascension. We are asking that every Ascension group that is doing fundraising to submit a plan in writing, including dates of event. This means that Student Council, Boy Scouts, CROP walk, Youth Ministry, etc. will fill out forms to get their fundraising events or programs on the calendar.

The alumni website is live, still being tweaked, but it is up: www.ascension-schoolalumni.com. The website will be formally launched in the near future. We have just under 900 alumni email addresses and hope that the site, as well as improved Facebook usage, will help us get many more. We recently took part in a workshop on social media and have some tools to simplify our communication projects.

The schedule for Grandparents' Day will be as follows:

8:30 Open House
9:30 reception
10:30 Mass.

Children will be dismissed for lunch from Mass and will have an extended lunch hour. They will return to classrooms at 1:00 pm. The email invitation has been sent; invitations will be mailed on March 16.

FINANCE: Erin Erin Fitzgerald and Paul Seavey attended the Parish Finance meeting. The school administration continues to seek ways to cut costs. Efforts to collect past due tuition collection and improve Extended Day payments also continues.

TUITION TASK FORCE: Staff have been making personal phone calls in efforts to collect past due tuition and Extended Day fees.

LONG RANGE PLANNING: Meetings of the various Long Range Planning groups continue. In June, all the groups will meet and issue a report.

MAINTENANCE: The Maintenance Committee continues to consider ways to promote grass growth on the green space.

ACADEMICS: The Algebra class in the Junior High continues to grow.

ATHLETICS: Patrick Hess will review and submit revisions of the School Handbook and/or Athletic Handbook to ensure consistency in the academic and disciplinary policies.

EXTENDED DAY: Changes to ensure prompt collection of Extended Day fees continue to be discussed.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. 2012 school year enrollment
- B. Tuition collection
- C. Extended Day billing practices
- D. Policy review

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Dates for the Ascension School Board Dinner this summer.
2. Consider approving a designated Ascension Charger logo.
3. Continue plans for next year's Centennial celebration.

Submitted by Board Secretary Mark Szaflarski
Next meeting May 9, 2011 at 7 PM in the Parish Center