

ASCENSION SCHOOL BOARD
APRIL 20, 2009 MINUTES

PRESENT: Father Larry McNally, Mary Joe Burns, Nell Agnew, Chair Jill Pollard (08), Patti Farlee (06), Craig Shannon (06), Terry Thiese (06), Dan Rodde (07), Michele Joubert (2007), Kurt Macky, Pat Hess (08), Wendy Schmiedeler (08), Mike Lynch (09), Paul Seevey (09) and Jason Huggins (09)

LAST MONTH'S MINUTES: Approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment.

PASTOR'S REPORT: First Communion preparations continue for our Parish's May celebration of this Sacrament.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Ascension School is ready to move forward on accepting tuition payments by credit card. The revised Policy as passed by the Board is set out below, as well as a proposed addition to the Admission Policy. The Archdiocese Superintendent will visit Ascension School on April 29. The tri-village cluster of Oak Park Catholic schools will meet on April. All schools are reported to be very strong in preschool admissions.

Work on the 2009-10 budget and enrollment projections continues. Jill and Kurt continue to assist in our Long Range Strategic Planning.

Former Board member Ted Anderson reported on the use of open source student information system software, CENTRE, which will be integrated into use in the coming months. CENTRE simplifies attendance and allows for electronic report cards. Tech support, training and other costs are being analyzed. CENTRE will greatly reduce the time consuming administrative burden of assembling attendance records. Pat Hess will review the contracts and service agreements. The Board supports the use of Best Use Fund to purchase the CENTRE system.

DEVELOPMENT REPORT: A Memorial brick proposal is being prepared. The engraved bricks will be used to replace the unsightly asphalt outside the gym, as well as the recessed area near the Pine Room doors. Volunteer projects are being planned for July.

FINANCE: Michele provided additional information on the use of Master Card and Visa credit cards for tuition payments. The Board voted to allow the use of credit cards for tuition.

The school continues to closely monitor the 2009-10 budget with regard to benefits,

tuition, and staffing. As previously published, 80% of our school budget is made up of salary and benefits. Our budget projections are based on 476 students in 2009-10.

ACADEMIC COMMITTEE: Full time kindergarten continues to be investigated, and Nell Agnew continues to analyze space issues.

Technology: See above comments on CENTRE software.

Athletics: With regard to home school children being allowed to participate in Ascension School athletics, the subcommittee recommends that the Athletic Handbook requirement that only Ascension students may participate in school athletics not be changed.

Wellness: Next meeting is April 22.

Long Rang Planning: The Board continues to assemble information via meetings with various parish groups. A Long Range Mission statement is in the works. Jill will submit a copy of the questions that are being posed in this survey and in focus groups;

Maintenance: Moving the changing rooms to the gym balcony, using the current changing rooms for storage and upgrading the gym bathrooms are planned.

Enrollment: Projected at 476 for 2009-10.

Parish Outreach

Home and School: Jill met to discuss Long Range Planning.

ALMS: Next meeting is April 27.

Extended Day: Billing proposals and billing schedules were discussed to improve collection and ease record keeping. Assembling information and solidifying the Extended Day budget continues.

OLD BUSINESS: Credit card policy passed.

NEW BUSINESS: A revision in Admission Policy to clarify the PK class assignment was drafted.

Submitted by Mark Szaflarski

Next meeting May 11, 2009, at 7 PM in the Parish Center

TUITION PAYMENT BY CREDIT CARD

2009-04-20

Ascension School shall accept tuition payments by Master Card or Visa credit cards.

Proposed: 9/8/8

Tabled: 10/6/08

Revised and Passed: 4/20/08

PROPOSED REVISION TO CURRENT ADMISSION POLICY

6. Early Childhood Over-Enrollment: Over-enrolled early childhood sections will use the following criteria to determine child placement:

First Priority: Families with two or more children in the Early Childhood Program.

Second Priority: Families who have children in enrolled in grades 1-8.

Remaining placements will be determined by lottery.

First Reading: 4/20/09

