

ASCENSION SCHOOL BOARD
FEBRUARY 9, 2009 MINUTES

DATES TO REMEMBER:

2/28 & 3/1 School Board Election

PRESENT: Father Larry McNally, Mary Joe Burns, Chair Jill Pollard (08), Patti Farlee (06), Craig Shannon (06), Terry Thiese (06), Michele Joubert (2007), Pat Hess (08), Wendy Schmiedeler (08)

LAST MONTH'S MINUTES: Approved

PUBLIC COMMENT: Nell Agnew & Lisa Reed spoke in favor of all day kindergarten.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

Father Larry will be concentrating on the 2nd and 4th grades as preparation continues for Reconciliation and First Communion. Cardinal George's yearly appeal will be broadcast at the weekend masses on 2/15/09. Men's Reflection is scheduled for 2/21 and Women's Reflection for 2/28. All parishioners are invited to participate. Our February 22 Mass at 11 AM will have a double Homily as part of Ascension's Black History month's observance.

The north side entrance door is now working. Roof work and changing the light fixtures will be undertaken in the near future.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Our enrollment is currently at 488 and we anticipate having 475 students next year. Although registration is not yet due, already we have 247 students have registered for next year. Efforts by the administration continue to work with parents who are experiencing difficulty making tuition payments due to the economic downturn. The Tuition Collection policy will be review and amended. Michele and Pat will assist Neil Heskin in work on the 2009-2010 budget.

FINANCE: Michele and Wendy are working with Therese Burns to update the Extended Day budget. Next year, it is anticipated that fees will increase to \$4/hour for those children who are at Extended Day 5 days per week, \$5/hour for those who are at Extended Day less than 5 days and \$6/hr for drop in children. Updating and ensuring collection of the registration fees are also being investigated, along with changing the registration fee to \$60 for one child or \$100 for a family. Currently,

Extended Day's budget is balanced.

Michele obtained more information with regard to using parents using an automatic checking withdrawal for tuition a payments. Allowing for credit card payments is also under investigation, assuming credit card charge can be recouped.

ACADEMIC COMMITTEE: Recent surveys are being reviewed and summarized for use by the Board.

Technology: Purchase of computer security and virus software has been tabled for the time being. 6 teachers are using school laptops and a long term goals remains making our campus wireless. Finally, we are waiting on the Archdiocese for additional school software.

Athletics: The committee did not meet. One issue that may require attention is whether Parish home schooled children should be allowed on Ascension sports teams.

Wellness: Will meet 2/23/09 at 5 PM

Long Rang Planning: Will meet 2/25.

Maintenance: Gym wall pads were re-anchored and the gym door lock issue was corrected. Ascension graduate Grant Skalarek, as part of his Eagle Scout project recently finished a complete mapping of our school campus of all rooms.

Enrollment: Nell Agnew presented her report with regard to Ascension offering All Day Kindergarten beginning in the 2010-2011 school year. She has developed several space options and is analyzing staffing requirements.

Home and School: Penny collection resulted in over \$1,600.00 in fund being raised. Buddy bowling proceeded. Opera for the Young will proceed on 2/19.

ALMS: Patti Farley attended the initial ALMS meeting.

Extended Day: See Finance Report above.

OLD BUSINESS: Use of credit cards for tuition payments was tabled.

NEW BUSINESS:

Oak Park is cancelling all Hearing and Vision screening as part of its budget cuts. Parents are encouraged to write our local government to continue these screening programs, which cost \$10,000 to \$12,000 with \$5,000 already contributed by the

state. The real cost of these screening is \$5,000 to \$7,000 per year.

Review of the Tuition Collection Policy and the Admission Policy will be reviewed in Committee.

Candidates for our School Board Election will be solicited as Craig, Patti and Terry are in their last months as Third Year Board Members. The election will be February 28 and March 1, with balloting after Mass. Terry These will be in charge of organizing the elections.

Submitted by Mark Szaflarski

Next meeting on March 9, 2009 at 7 PM in the Parish Center