

ASCENSION SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES: 10/16/06

IN ATTENDANCE: Mary Jo Burns, Father Larry McNally, Lynn Fredrick
Ted Anderson, Vic Vanek, Patti Farlee, Peg Mackie, Craig
Shannon, Liz Skalitzky, Terry These, Mark Szaflarski

DATES TO REMEMBER:

10/27/06 End of First Academic Quarter
10/28/06 School Auction
11/1/06 All Saints Day
11/8 & 11/9 Parent Teacher Conferences
11/10/06 No school – Veteran’s Day
11/13/06 Next School Board Meeting

ACTION ITEMS COMPLETED:

1. Computer issues addressed and remedied.
2. Website photograph allowed without children names.
3. Board member Liz Skalitzky now acting as liaison to the Legislative Action person and the administration.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

MINUTES:

Father Larry reports that Masses continue in the Pine Room. Our 8th graders and other area students will be confirmed on October 21, 2006 in the Church. Hopefully, Masses will return to the Church by November 1, the scaffolding will come down by November 9, and the pews will be re-installed in December 2006. Bids continue to be received on the school cornice repair. Larry remains active in teaching religion in the school. Parish goals included beginning a Stewardship Program to encourage contributions of parishioners’ time, talent and treasure. Our first of three social functions will celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of San Guadalupe on December 12, 2006 in the Pine Room. Maintenance Committee continues its hard work in rehabbing the second floor of the Convent.

Mary Jo Burns reported analysis of enrollment data suggests that Ascension remains a neighborhood school. Current enrollment is 510. Ms. Burns is especially thankful for the hard work of Laura Allen, who has shined this year as substitute teacher. Terra Nova tests will likely be taken by 3, 5, 6, and 7 grade this year. Ascension will continue to work to ensure that District 97 assists any of our students who require special education needs. District 97’s response to this need is an ongoing concern, because no accommodation has been made to date. Although there has been a reduction in federal funding for all special needs education, Ascension will continue

to push to ensure that our students obtain their due services. Making use of contacts in District 97, coordinating other area Catholic schools, and contacting our state legislators will be considered in ensuring this issue is addressed. Also, the general sense with regard to kindergarten uniforms is that parents do not want to change. Ms. Burns will consider the issue and report back.

Gym uniforms currently consist of dark shorts and white shirts. Specifically:

- a solid white T-shirt or white Ascension T-shirt or white Run-a-Thon T-shirt;
- dark gym shorts or sweat pants;
- socks and gym shoes in order to participate in gym class; and
- Ascension sweat pants, with logos, and other navy, plain gym pants are acceptable.

Regarding the use of children's photographs on the website, based on review of other schools' policies, Ascension has determined that the educational standard is to use such photographs on the Ascension website, but no children's names will accompany any photographs.

Lynn Fredrick reported that preparation for the Auction on October 28 is going well. Our "Giving Report" is at the printer, and our school newsletter will follow.

Michaelle Van Linden is working on a recent Alumni survey of area high school alum to determine how Ascension prepared them for High School.

Work continues on our Science Labs; approximately \$10,000.00 has been committed for plumbing. Thanks for the hard work of **Pete Marotta** and **Martin Whittaker** with the cabinet installation. Also, and additional 12 air conditioners will be installed for next spring.

Ted Anderson continues discussions with **Neil Heskins** with regard to the school budget.

Terry Thiese attended the Technology Committee meeting in September, and reports that start up problems reported in the September minutes have been resolved. **Ed Yala** and others continue to address issues affecting on-going operations of our computer system. Students from 4th through 8th have been using their flash drives provided by the school to protect and save their school work. Parents have expressed interest in the computer curriculum for each grade and whether we are properly preparing our students for high school requirements in this area. Terry will inquire about this at the next Technology Meeting in November.

Vic Vanek reports that a survey on interest in school clubs, such as chess, jazz, etc., has been done. Further, with regard to clubs, whether all clubs conform to athletic policies will be investigated.

OLD BUSINESS: Ms. Burns requests continued consideration of the following Policy Issues:

1. Develop a policy for allocating funds when a specific fundraising effort exceeds its budgeted net revenue.

2. Whether fund raising leaders should be exempt from fund raising obligations.
3. Whether shopping certificates must be paid for upon receipt.
4. A policy to address staff tuition discounts.
5. That the Board develops a policy to determine annual fundraising and development goals.

Next Board Meeting: November 13, 2006 at 7 PM in the Convent Dining Room.

Submitted by Mark Szaflarski