

ASCENSION SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES: 4/16/07

IN ATTENDANCE: Mary Jo Burns, Father Larry McNally, Patti Farlee,
Craig Shannon, Liz Skalitzky, Terry Thiese, Michaelle
Van Linden, Tom Carraher, Mark Szaflarski

DATES TO REMEMBER:

4/27/07 Runathon
5/14/07 New Board members are invited to participate in the May Board
meeting.
6/1/07 8th Grade Dinner
6/4/07 Graduation
6/11/07 Installation of New Board

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

MINUTES:

PASTOR'S REPORT

Father Larry reported that we have 460 reservations for the Ascension 100 Anniversary dinner dance. Attendance will be capped at 500. He continues his work in the grade school.

The cornice work bill has risen to a total cost of over \$194,000.00. This estimate includes asbestos abatement and possible cost overruns. With regard to the Rectory tear-down, an additional scope of work will be needed.

A Finance Committee meeting will be held on April 17. A Master Plan meeting with regard to the Rectory tear down will be held on April 24 at 7 PM in the Parish Center.

Funding is being sought for placement of gym locker rooms upstairs in the gym and a window for Laura Allen's office.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mary Jo Burns reported that 2007-08 enrollment is expected to be around 510 students. School Board policies were used to ensure that placement was done on a fair and equitable basis.

The prior Long Range Plans will be reviewed by the Board to monitor compliance with past Board recommendations.

Board members are encouraged to use email to bring any immediate concerns to Ms. Burns' attention and to allow her time prior to Board meetings to prepare responses.

DEVELOPMENT REPORT

As announced at the April 21 Dinner Dance, the Reese Brothers have funded a \$100,000 Ascension Scholarship Fund. The Reese Brothers will match any contributions up to the \$100,000 level.

The Ascension School “thank you” to school volunteers will be moved to April 29, following 9 AM Mass. In the past, “Just Deserts” was held on a weekday night.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Michelle Van Linden continues work on finalizing the Strategic Planning Survey. The Board will review the final draft questions in the next few weeks. The Survey results will be reviewed and analyzed over the summer. The Survey will be publicized in the Dome to ensure maximum response.

FINANCE

With regard to School Finance, **Mary Jo Burns and Neil Heskind** are reviewing monthly school budgets. Salary costs are up this year due to the use of substitute teachers.

Our school athletic programs are breaking even, our best year ever. Our concession stand accountability has been improved. The athletic programs fees are mostly due to League and Tournament fees.

TECHNOLOGY REPORT

Ascension School recognizes the years of contributions of **Ed Yala**. Ed is a former School Board member who has worked to assist the school with technology issues. His hard work on various issues, including server upgrades, DSL, and curriculum monitoring will end this June.

Steps will be taken to get the school’s computer IT contractor on site on a regular schedule to deal with computer issues. Computers will be bought and recycled to ensure out equipment remains in good working order.

PARISH COMMISSIONS

The next Commission meeting will be held on April 23, 2007. Goals for the coming year will be discussed.

MAINTENANCE

Liz Skalitzky reports that the cornice continues to be the main Maintenance Committee issue. Also, an outside display case for Home and School is being investigated.

ACADEMICS

The length of Preschool days, as well as start and end times, will be reviewed in order to accommodate lunch schedules for both families and teachers. Class times of 8 to 11 AM and 12 Noon to 3 is being investigated. Easing the Kindergarten transition to First Grade is also a goal.

OLD BUSINESS:

The School Board is committed to completing a Club policy by June 2007. Liz Skalitzky will contact St. Giles and Tom Carraher will contact Edmunds for input on their respective club policies.

The prior Long Range Plans will be reviewed.

Increased communication with parents will be investigated to ensure that parents are aware that curriculums exist for all classes. The Board will review and analyzed available information about our Junior High students' transition to High School.

The school Communication Policy will be reviewed to ensure that parents are aware of the proper method of voicing concerns about curriculum, their children or teachers.

Next Board Meeting: 5/14/07 at 7 PM in the Parish Center.

Submitted by Mark Szaflarski