

ASCENSION SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES: 8/4/2008

IN ATTENDANCE: Father Larry McNally, Mary Jo Burns, Jason Allington, Terry Thiese, Jason Allington, Dan Rodde, Craig Shannon, Patti Farlee, Jill Pollard, Wendy Schmiedeler, Pat Pesce, Maureen Schmidt

DATES TO REMEMBER:

August 9	Volunteer Day
August 26	First Day School
September 8	School Board Meeting
September 18	Back to School Night

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

GUEST SPEAKERS: Rev. Robert Kroll and Dr. Carol Palmer, both from the Office of Catholic Schools attended the meeting to overview *Genesis*, an action plan created for Catholic Schools in August, 2005. This plan provides directions and goals for Ascension School and all the schools of the Archdiocese. The plan recommends strategies that will help every school become increasingly Catholic, excellent and viable. The plan's viability goals include establishing Boards of Specified Jurisdiction (BSJ).

Rev. Kroll and Dr. Palmer walked through the goals of *Genesis* and how BSJ fit into and benefit this overall plan. Rev. Kroll addressed several questions from the board on what components of the plan have been most successful and most challenging as a guide for how Ascension can/should move forward with aligning to *Genesis*.

The decision to transition Ascension's current board structure to the recommendations associated with BSJ will be up to Fr. Larry and Ms. Burns. Further consideration and discussion on this topic is required before any action/decisions will be made.

PASTOR REPORT:

- Father Larry will re-commit himself to being in the classroom with students this school year and will continue to be actively involved in School Board meetings.
- Thanks to all who helped at the first volunteer day this summer. The next opportunity to help is on August 9. Please contact Ms. Burns if you can help.
- Capital Campaign is going well. We are currently working behind the scenes to reinvigorate the efforts in the fall.
- The Stewardship Committee has been formed.
- Large amount of weddings are scheduled – for this year and a few years out!

PRINCIPAL REPORT:

- Welcome to Javier as new school board member and congratulations to Jason as new Board Chairperson.
- Very pleased with new hires and overall staff for new school year.

- Thanks to the 30+ volunteers who helped out on July 19. Looking forward to follow up workday on August 9.
- Concerns regarding street work around school. Several interactions with village have been of little help. Encourage parents to contact village on this topic.
- Enrollment for the 2008-2009 school year is currently at 515, up 20 from last year. Most upper class grade classes are full, both some openings in K and Grade 1.
- Seeking input on administration of 2 scholarship policies – will liaise with Development Committee to take this forward.
- Related to Genesis vitality goals, Ascension School should update and execute a strategic plan – beginning with a review of the school’s mission and philosophy and the school’s vision. As first step, Ms. Burns presented proposed school goals for the 2008-2009 school year. Seeking feedback from school board in support of finalizing these goals and update of strategic plan.
- Lynn Frederick will provide more information on her new role at September Board meeting.
- Neil Heskin to provide update on state of school’s finances at October Board meeting.

DEVELOPMENT REPORT:

Lynn was not present. She provided a report outlining her new role and a snapshot of development activities to date. Lynn will be present at the September meeting to provide a more comprehensive update.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT:

- Discussion regarding formation of Board Committees for the coming board term. Jason will solicit volunteers for open spots and confirm assignments at September meeting.
- All committees/liason groups should try to meet before next board meeting.

COMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS:

Academic: No report - meeting in August.

Enrollment: Worked with Ms. Burns on enrollment decision for PK (as summarized in June/July mailing to parents). Plan to meet again before September. Top priority for coming year is looking at longer-term vision for enrollment.

Technology: No report – need to schedule meeting as this committee has not met as a group in some time.

Finance: No report – meeting next week. Neil, Craig, and Steve Houle to discuss updates to the financial reports for the board.

Maintenance: Further discussion on Volunteer Day success.

H&S: Ms. Burns reports that she spoke with John Hansen in regard to H&S concerns around space requests – they often fall through cracks and no clear process. September 18 is Back to School Night.

Commissions: No report.

Long-Range Planning: No report.

Development Liaison: No report – plan to meet with Lynn in August.

Athletics: No report.

Endowment: No report.

Extended Day: No report.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Additional Public Comment: None

Submitted by Terry Thiese

Next meeting September 8, 2008