

ASCENSION SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES: 12/11/06

IN ATTENDANCE: Mary Jo Burns, Father Larry McNally, Lynn Fredrick  
Chair Peg Mackie, Ted Anderson, Vic Vanek, Patti Farlee,  
Craig Shannon, Liz Skalitzky, Terry Thiese, Tom  
Carraher, Michaelle Van Linden, Mark Szaflarski

DATES TO REMEMBER:

1/28/07 Open House  
3/31/07 Centennial Family Night  
4/21/07 Centennial Gala at the Doubletree Hotel

ACTION ITEMS COMPLETED:

1. Church completed for Christmas
2. Three Ascension student to receive special education through District 97.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

MINUTES:

**Father Larry** reported that Mass will be held on December 23 at 5 PM, December 24 at 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 4 PM, 6 PM, Midnight, and Christmas Day at 9 AM and 11 AM. He continues to rotate through the school Religion classes. Ascension is seeking to hire a weekend maintenance person. The school cornice project has received a low bid of \$119,000, including tuck pointing, with work to be done between June 15 and August 15. The church kneelers will be installed December 12. A town hall meeting on parish finances is planned for early February 2007. Placing a window in the gym office is being investigated. Planning is beginning to move the gym lockers upstairs to the balcony. The Centennial Family Night date has been changed to [December 31, 2007](#). A Rectory Estate Sale is planned for after the Holidays with removal of the Rectory scheduled for the summer of 2007.

**Mary Jo Burns** reported current enrollment is 510 students. Planning is beginning for the School's Open House on January 28, 2007. Plans are being made for an Internet Safety presentation as well as a Sheriff's presentation on bullying for the year new. Ascension is in the running for Blue Ribbon recognition because the students test in the top 10% of the nation. District 97 has agreed to offer special education services to 3 Ascension students. The school continues to lobby on behalf of the remaining students who deserve these services. Our 2007-2008 budget must address the Archdiocese salary increases, anticipated to be published on January 3, 2007, increased healthcare costs, and various tuition related issues, such as lunch room fees, student waivers (budgeted at \$30,000), staff tuition waivers (budgeted at \$45,000). The Archdiocese is also contemplating an expanding role for School Boards.

Control of the heat in Room 108 is being addressed, as well as work by Honeywell on general heating issues.

Keeping tuition payments current is critical to the success of our school. The Board reminds all parents that there is a published policy when tuition is overdue:

Families with a tuition balance which is more than 60 days past due (that is, two months behind in tuition payments) will be contacted by the Principal and sent a registered letter requesting immediate payment of the past due amount. This letter will provide the amount due, state that full payment must be made within 15 days from the date of the letter, and notify parents that if full payment by cash or certified check is not made by the specified date, student(s) will be excluded from school at the end of the current quarter.

**Lynn Fredrick** reports our 3 on 3 basketball tournament was again a success. A stage curtain has been ordered for the Pine Room. Our science lab will be completed over the Christmas break. Fine tuning continues with a trial of the Market Basket proposal (selling fruit and vegetables). Work continues on a marketing brochure. The art tables from Fund a Need have arrived. Planning for our school Runathon fundraiser continues.

**Chair Peg Mackie** attended a bullying workshop at St. Giles. More discussion was had about whether school clubs should conform to the school athletic policies on playing time and roster cut policy. Vic Vanek will continue in his efforts to gather information on the club issue and developing the procedures to be followed to start a club at Ascension. Forms will be available in the School Office for those who want to start a club.

**Michaelle Van Linden** will use the Wednesday mailing for receiving information from parents on strategic planning.

**Ted Anderson** continues to work on the 2007-2008 school budget.

**Craig Shannon** will follow up with St. Bernadine School to determine if a meeting with our State legislators can be coordinated.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. 2007-2008 School budget needs to be completed. Issues to be consideration include: whether fund raising leaders should be exempt from fund raising obligations; whether shopping certificates must be paid for upon receipt; whether a policy should address staff tuition discounts; development of a policy for allocating funds when a specific fundraising effort exceeds its budgeted net revenue; and development a policy to determine annual fundraising and development goals.
2. Is a school Club policy necessary?
3. Meeting with State legislators scheduled?

Next Board Meeting: January 8, 2007 at 7 PM in the Convent Dining Room.

Submitted by Mark Szaflarski