

ASCENSION SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES: 1/8/07

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

DATES TO REMEMBER:

1/28/07 Open House  
2/3/07 Sock Hop  
3/4/07 School Board Elections  
4/21/07 Centennial Gala at the Doubletree Hotel  
5/20/07 Mass with Cardinal George

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

MINUTES:

**Father Larry** reported that due to scheduling problems, the Centennial Family Night will not be held on March 31, 2007. The event conflicts with an Auction item and will not be rescheduled. The Archdiocese is reviewing the school cornice project bid of \$119,000. A town hall meeting on parish finances is planned for February 6 at 7:30 PM to investigate what the Parish has accomplished, what still needs to be done, and where we are going. The weekend maintenance position has been filled. Father Larry continues his classroom work with our 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students. He thought that the recent Market Basket trial went well.

**Mary Jo Burns** reminds that our Board will be assisting with the School's Open House on January 28, 2007, following the 9 AM Mass through 12:30 PM. Ascension remains in the running for Blue Ribbon recognition because the students test in the top 10% of the nation. Our third grade teacher, Ms. Warzyn, is retiring at the end of this school year.

Our 2007-2008 budget must address the Archdiocese salary increases, and the Board will meet again on January 23 to specifically address our budget. However, the increase in teacher salaries does not come close to addressing the disparity between Ascension School teachers' salaries and District 97. Compare the 2007 salaries for an Ascension teacher with a Master's Degree to what a District 97

teacher earned in 2005-06:

Years Teaching	Ascension (2007-08)	District 97 (2005-06)	Difference
1	\$27,750	\$39,278	\$11,528
5	\$30,248	\$44,684	\$14,436
10	\$33,369	\$51,242	\$17,873
20	\$39,613	\$64,393	\$24,780

Ascension is ever more thankful for the dedication and quality of our Ascension School teachers.

Additional 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.

**Chair Peg Mackie** and all our Board members encourage our parents to step forward and run for our School Board. Three members will be retiring at the end of this school year, and our Board Elections are scheduled for March 4. School Board members are elected for a three year term.

**Michaelle Van Linden** continues her work on School survey for strategic planning. A paper and website version will be offered to increase parent participation.

**Vic Vanek** will continue to investigate whether Ascension should have a formal Club policy. **Patty Farlee** will assist.

**Vic** will also coordinate publishing Board Election information in the Dome.

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

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

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Work continues on our 2007-2008 Budget.
2. Work continues on whether a Club policy is necessary.
3. Work continues on meeting with State legislators.
4. Change kindergarten uniforms?

Next Board Meeting: February 12, 2007 at 7 PM in the Convent Dining Room.

Submitted by Mark Szaflarski