

ASCENSION SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES: 9/10/07

IN ATTENDANCE: Mary Jo Burns, Father Larry McNally, Patti Farlee,
Craig Shannon, Liz Skalitzky, Terry Thiese, Tom
Carraher, Jason Allington, Dan Rodde, Mike
Iannaccone, Lynn Fredrick, Mark Szaflarski

DATES TO REMEMBER:

9/29/09 Introduction to School Boards at St Ignatius
10/15/07 School Board Meeting
11/10/07 Ascension Auction
11/24/07 Alumni & Friends 3 on 3 and Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner

PUBLIC COMMENT: Tari Delisi from Market Basket requested that the new fund raising policy be amended to allow for profits of Market Basket to be designated for health or nutrition curriculum.

MINUTES: Last month's minutes were approved.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Father Larry will continue his practice of visiting our children in the classrooms during the school year.

The Parish is obtaining bids for tuck pointing and lime stone washing of the school exterior.

The Maintenance Committee will address flooding the Pine Room woman's washroom and is continuing to investigate options for the gym bathrooms. The Maintenance Committee will continue to direct the Rectory Space project with help from the Community Space Group.

A new Capital Campaign will be announced this week-end. Neil Heskin will speak at each Mass explaining the current financial state of the parish.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

The Ministry Fair will be held after each of the Masses the weekend of September 15 and 16.

Current enrollment stands at 498, ten less students than anticipated. Preschool enrollment is down to a total of 30 children. This level may be explained by District 97's decision to offer full day kindergarten. Terry and Liz will assist in analyzing our current enrollment, recruitment, and retention of students.

A donor has offered to contribute sod for the Rectory space. The driveway and courtyard will be repaved with asphalt to regain a play area for the children and a temporary parking area for the parish, particularly handicapped. A long-standing Village resolution allows the school to block

off Van Buren Street from East to Clarence. The school will investigate if children could use this space for outdoor activities.

The current tuition policy, 00-1218, was handed out for review. It was adopted in 2002. The current Board should be aware of the requirements. Ms. Burns seeks input on the following related items. Ascension School tuition is paid over 11 months, July through May. Tuition is prorated over the ten month school year. Families who must leave Ascension School are entitled to a tuition refund if they have paid in advance. Ms. Burns suggests that families be held responsible for tuition for the months that they are enrolled in school. She further suggests that if a family decides to enroll a child in two different Early Childhood programs simultaneously, the family is responsible for tuition in both classes.

Ms. Burns offers her thanks to all who offered help during the delayed opening of school. Each person's comments and support were greatly appreciated. Calendar changes are being considered and will be published shortly.

DEVELOPMENT REPORT:

Policy regarding an Endowment Committee was passed and is attached to these minutes.

The final paperwork for the agreement with the Reese family has been mailed to George and Michael Reese for their signatures. We will award the equivalent of at least one full tuition waiver in their name this fall. We have awarded a \$5,000 waiver in the name of the Collins family to a family with two children who were facing withdrawal.

An update on planned solicitations for the fall: we're working with the parish committee to launch a capital campaign this fall, trying to be mindful of *all* the parish needs and programs. We've spoken to the auction chairs regarding their concerns about the impact the campaign may have on the auction. I'm advising that we do only a modified solicitation for Sponsor a Student. We will be in touch with the usual donors to the program but will not solicit the entire parish. We will institute **The Centennial Fund** with the alumni appeal.

The development committee should meet and begin discussions about the gym bathrooms, kitchen and strategic planning.

We met with the faculty development committee, the first meeting since their formation. They expressed their concerns about a plan for ongoing maintenance for the school stating that they would like to be proud of the building, that it is a reflection of them. We discussed phase three of "cool the school" (early childhood wing) and whether some portion of that work could be done soon.

We're working with the parish staff to help make the accounting procedure, particularly with reference to the restricted gifts account, less cumbersome. We're reconstructing the gifts that are currently in that account.

Some projects still out there: I'm hopeful that we'll finalize the endowment endeavor at this meeting and that we will have formed the endowment committee before the October meeting. I would like to schedule a meeting of the development committee to pursue a conversation re the gym bathrooms and kitchen, and the third phase of "cool the school."

We're working with the parish staff and several volunteer groups to affect the Ascension "brand." The brand entails the use of the "mark" (the broken cross), certain colors and fonts. Beyond the visual elements, branding means the use of the same language – being "on-message" when we speak to our constituencies.

We're working on the school newsletter and hope that it will be at the printer by the end of next week.

Miss Warzyn's retirement party has been rescheduled for September 29.

CHAIR REPORT: Chair Terry Thiese reviewed and finalized assignments of Board members to the four School Board Committees and Parish Liaisons. These assignments are attached.

Next Board Meeting: 10/15/07 at 7 PM in the Parish Center.

Submitted by Mark Szaflarski

Endowment Committee

07-0910

Ascension School will fund two endowment programs: one to be administered through the Archdiocese of Chicago and the second being The Reese Family – Ascension Alumni Scholarship Fund.

The School Board will designate one of its members to serve on an Endowment Committee with the Development Officer, two representatives of the school alumni, and a representative of the Parish Finance Committee. The Endowment Committee will draw up the terms for the administration of the endowment held through the Archdiocese and the policy guidelines for the disbursement of any funds drawn down from that endowment. The Endowment Committee will report to the School Board and advise the Pastor on policies regarding the continued growth of both the school endowment, the Reese family endowment, and any other endowments designed to benefit Ascension School.

Submitted 6/11/07

Amended 8/13/07

Approved 9/10/07

Ascension School Board Committee and Liaisons (2007-2008 School Year)

School Board Committees

Committee Name	Committee Members
I. Academics	Patti/Dan/Tom
II. Finance	Craig/Mike
III. Long Range Strategic Planning	Liz/Tom/Jason
IV. Parish Outreach & Communications	Peg/Terry

Board Liaisons to Ascension Groups/Committees

Group/Committee Name	School Board Liaison(s)
I. Technology	Terry
II. Math/Science	Patti/Dan
III. Finance	Craig/Mike
IV. Development	Peg/Mike
V. Maintenance	Craig/Jason/Liz
VI. Ascension Community Space	Patti
VII. Home & School	Peg
VIII. Athletics	Tom
IX. Commissions .	Tom/Patti
X Endowment	Jason/Dan
XI Extended Day	Liz