

ASCENSION SCHOOL BOARD
DECEMBER 8, 2008 MINUTES

DATES TO REMEMBER:

PRESENT: Father Larry McNally, Mary Joe Burns, Lynn Fredrick, Chair Jill Pollard (08), Patti Farlee (06), Craig Shannon (06), Terry Thiese (06), Dan Rodde (07), Michele Joubert (2007), Kurt Macky, Pat Hess (08), Wendy Schmiedeler (08)

LAST MONTH'S MINUTES: Approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

Reconciliation is scheduled for Dec. 15 at 7 PM.

Father Larry will visit the 5th grade in the coming days.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Ascension School is carrying a larger month to month tuition owed balance than normal, which is attributable to the hard economic times. Numerous families have requested tuition assistance.

Ms. Burns will investigate retaining a consultant to assist with our Long Range Plan, as well as seek to enlist the help of a graduate student to assist with document management.

We will continue to evaluate ways to increase our PK and Kindergarten enrollment.

DEVELOPMENT REPORT:

An Alumni Appeal is underway seeking funds that will be used nearer to our Centennial. This is year two of a five year plan to prepare for the Centennial in 2012. Sixth through 8th graders (Ascension Ambassadors) are assisting with letters to alumni inviting them to get involved in Ascension in any way.

We are revamping our marketing materials and the registration information available on the website, providing more information in a more organized format.

We received about twenty responses to our annual survey of Ascension alumni who are high school freshmen. Those responses will be forwarded to our Academic Committee for review. A survey to the parents of those freshmen will be sent shortly.

This year's Auction collected over \$67,000.00.

FINANCE:

The Parish investment in our school in 2008-09 is projected at \$258,296.00. The 2009-10 academic year is projected at \$276,010.00.

Various income sources, including tuition increases, Extended Day fees, and budget cuts will be investigated as we move forward in preparing our budget for next year. Michele Joubert will present our 2009-10 projections to the Parish Finance Committee.

ACADEMIC COMMITTEE:

Technology: Ms. Burns reports that the staff had an in house meeting on technology. 4 new computer desktops are needed at a projected cost of \$4,000.00. Wireless access in the school is being investigated. We will need to develop a policy for Wireless Access. As of January 14, parents and students will be able to obtain access to World Book through use of a password.

The Committee will monitor Archdiocese progress with on line school registration with the intention of introducing it at Ascension when it is feasible.

Wellness: The Committee met and will be presenting the Archdiocese guidelines to various groups in the school. These guidelines were published by the Archdiocese two years ago and place an emphasis on a balanced presentation and nutrition. Our faculty is involved in efforts to incorporate wellness and nutrition into the curriculum.

Athletics: Former Committee members are being asked to assist with recruitment of this Committee. The handbook will be reviewed in preparation of the Committee's next meeting.

Math & Science: No report.

Long Rang Planning: Ms. Burns will investigate retaining a consultant to assist with our Long Range Plan, as well as seek to enlist the help of a graduate student to assist with document management.

Maintenance: Fall protection is being added to the Extended Day landing and stairway. The terrazzo floors will be cleaned over the holidays. The Women's Room near the school office will be repaired.

Enrollment: We will continue to evaluate ways to increase our PK and Kindergarten enrollment.

Parish Outreach

Home and School: No report.

ALMS: Will meet January 9.

Extended Day: No report.

Community Space: No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Outsourcing Tuition Waiver requests.

NEW BUSINESS:

All day Kindergarten should be reviewed as part of our preparation for the school Open House.

Submitted by Mark Szaflarski
Next meeting January 12, 2009 at 7 PM in the Parish Center