

Minutes of September 11, 2006 Ascension School Board Meeting

Present: Father Larry McNally, Mary Jo Burns, Lynn Fredrick, Neil Heskins, Ted Anderson, Tom Carraher, Patti Farlee, Peg Mackie, Craig Shannon, Liz Skalitzky, Terry Thiese, Michaelle van Linden, and Vic Vanek.

Meeting was called to order and an opening prayer was offered.

There was no public comment.

Father McNally introduced Neil Heskins, Ascension Parish's new Business Manager. Father McNally reported that he will not be able to begin his usual classroom rotation in the School until October. He also reported that as part of the ongoing renovation of the Church, he will give a "spotlight presentation" after each Mass during the last weekend in September. He hopes that this will alleviate peoples' concerns regarding the painting on the ceiling. Father McNally also reported that there will be a Pastoral Council meeting on Thursday, October 12 at 7:30 pm and the focus will be on leadership in our Parish. Father McNally noted that the meeting is open to all parishioners and that the Council is looking for people to help work on the Parish Centennial Goals, including bringing the parish closer together, celebrating diversity in the parish and focusing on prayer. Father McNally was very happy with the Parish retreat and one is already being planned for next year.

Mary Jo Burns gave the Principal's Report. Current enrollment is 513. The school is off to a good start, despite some computer problems which are being addressed. One of the themes for this year is prayer and prayer forms. With the assistance of Chris Ondrla, teachers will be looking for ways to expand the students' prayer routine and create a good environment for prayer. The school had three separate peace services to commemorate 9/11. Teachers are also working together on projects and every teaching team now has opportunity within their weekly schedule to get together.

Ms. Burns reported that the new lunch schedule seems to be working out, except for some concern about the time allotted for students in the Extended Day program to eat. She is looking into that issue.

Finally, Ms. Burns presented some policy issues/proposals that she would like the School Board to consider:

1. Fundraising - a policy that outlines the procedure for allocating any income raised above what is needed for overall operating costs for the school year.
2. Fundraising volunteers- a policy that specifies which volunteers are exempt from fundraising obligations as an acknowledgement of the work managing fundraising programs.
3. Shopping certificates – a policy that all shopping certificates must be paid for at the time ordered or received (i.e., no one is permitted to take certificates and pay later).
4. Staff Discount/Staff Scholarships – a policy that outlines the schools commitment to retaining staff and details the tuition discount to staff members. The discount is in proportion to the hours a staff member works and is applied to the first child's tuition. Additional children are eligible for the standard multiple child discount.
5. Development goals – a policy that annual fundraising and development goals are set by the School Board as part of the annual budget process. Goals are reviewed in the fall.
6. Legislation and Public Policy – a policy that one school board member will act as a liaison to the Legislative Action person and the administration. This liaison will report to the School Board concerning state legislative issues.

Lynn Fredrick gave a report for the Development Office. Lynn asked that we consider using “best use” money (money that is donated to the school for whatever projects the School deems appropriate) to finish installing air conditioning units in the school. It was agreed that we should move forward with air conditioning for an additional 10 classrooms, leaving PK4 and Kindergarten to be done in the future because of needed electrical work.

Lynn also raised the issue of the Auction Fund a Need and suggested that it be targeted to the needs of the Arts, including tables with folding arms, light

boards, a Bass for the music department. The School Board agreed with that suggestion.

The Board also discussed the state of the gym bathrooms. Liz Skalitzky will ask the Maintenance Committee for guidance on the likely expense of improving those.

Michaelle van Linden presented an outline for a possible Strategic Plan agenda. The Strategic Planning Committee (Michaelle van Linden, Terry Thiese, Liz Skalitzky will begin drafting a five year plan for the School that complements the Office of Catholic Schools' School Improvement Plan.

Ted Anderson reported on the Finance Committee and presented the Board with a calendar of the budget cycle for the current school year. He also provided a one page summary of the current school budget.

Terry Thiese will serve as the School Board liaison to the Technology Plan. She will contact Ed Yala to review the technology plan, going over what has been accomplished thus far and what remains to be done.

Liz Skalitzky reported on the Maintenance Committee. The MC has sent the cornice project out for bid, with a target of summer 2007 for completion. Father McNally mentioned that the Rectory most likely will also be demolished in summer 2007.

Tom Carraher reported that the Village Parking Commission voted 5-1 in favor of providing a crossing guard at East and Harrison. He will prepare a letter for parents to sign in support of the crossing guard and that will be presented to the Village Board.