


All Saints Academy
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES

DATE/TIME: Wednesday, January 12, 2011

PLACE: All Saints Academy – Diamond Campus – Media Center (library)

BOARD

MEMBERS: Dayna Bearss Lisa Frey Michael Kunzler Chris Markham
Kathy Mitchell Pat Needham Damon Obiden Nikki Outhier
Kim Pedler Sheila Woodman Michael Yskes

BOARD OF PASTORS REPRESENTATIVE: Fr. George Darling

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION: Chris Burns Anne Harpold Mary Bristol

Meeting was called to order at 7:00. Chris Markham led the group in prayer.

December meeting minutes were approved in advance electronically and are posted on the website.

Pat Needham had no additional comments to share.

Father George Darling distributed a letter from the GR diocese regarding an upcoming workshop focusing on various governance models for the diocesan schools. ASA needs to have a presence at the meeting from the school board. Father mentioned that the budget committee would be meeting with the Board of Pastors on January 13th to discuss numbers for the 2011-12 school year.

Chris Burns pointed out the recent school newsletter contents and the success of the Middle School spelling bee. ASA will be hosting a regional Spelling Bee event on February 22nd. Chris highlighted the distinctions between a middle school and a junior high and referred to the handout included in the set of advance reports.

There were no general comments from non-board members. It was mentioned that several ASA school families had received mailings from the area Christian schools as part of their mass marketing campaign, just one more piece of evidence of how competitive it is out there.

Reports of the various committees / school groups are now distributed electronically before the meeting for review. There were no comments or questions on the distributed reports. Chris Burns handed out a technology report which was used as the basis for discussion with the Board of Pastors the previous week regarding the school needs and status of current equipment and infrastructure.

Current financials were distributed along with a chart showing the status of tuition collections. Kim Pedler will respond to a question regarding an account balance after she has a chance to review the underlying data. Kim then presented a summary of the preliminary budget information that would be shared with the pastors the next evening. Discussions ensued regarding tuition levels, changes in tuition plans and the efforts involved in funding a solid educational program without putting families into bankruptcy.

During the budget discussion, Father George highlighted the need to have a written policy on who ultimately approves the budget/expenditures of any group raising money on behalf of the school, including, but not limited to, Home & School and Boosters. The objective is not to place restraints

on the spending, but rather to make sure that expenditures are in the best interest of the Catholic School and further the overall objectives. Currently, there are no problems with the manner in which the groups are operating which makes it the perfect time to draft a policy to avoid future issues which could happen down the road when the players are new and don't have the history behind the practices.

The next item on the agenda was a discussion of the proper name for the group and the various options based on the nature of the responsibilities, etc. After a thunderous discussion, the vote was not to change the name. We will remain known as the ASA Board of Education, or as most people refer to it, "the School Board."

With respect to the work on the strategic plan, we are still gathering data to determine the viability of the preliminary list of goals/objectives. Damon reiterated that developing a strategic plan takes time, it is not an overnight process. Anne Harpold will provide a copy of last year's school survey for distribution; the board will review the draft of the plan and the survey to generate additional questions to seek parental input to make sure we are on track with the prioritization of plans for the school. Chris asked that a synopsis of the work completed to date be presented at the January 27th meeting with the target areas. Kim agreed to present this along with the financial information.

Chris Burns mentioned the marketing efforts that will be made during Catholic Schools Week, highlighting the draft copies of the flyers included in the advance board reports. If the group has any questions or comments, they should be directed to either Chris or Dayna.

Kathy Mitchell reminded the group of the discussion held in December regarding reaching out to alumni for donations or a sponsor type of program. Chris mentioned that we do have a few "Guardian Angels" who sponsor some of the school children financially, more are always welcome.

The agenda for the February meeting will primarily be focused on the strategic plan with an update on the status of the budget work. The February meeting will be held on February 9th at the Middle School Campus (4 Mile Rd).

Sheila Woodman led the closing prayer.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Pedler
Secretary