


Purpose: Ascension School Board	President: Bryan Back		Secretary: Katie Spencer	
	Meeting Date: September 5, 2023			
The Vision of the Ascension staff is to foster a Catholic community that models Jesus' teaching at home, school and in our community. We strive to ensure an academic program of excellence, which challenges each student to achieve his/her maximum potential. Our goal is to expand student involvement in global issues, technology, foreign language, and cultural programs.				
Living Faith	We achieve through sustained prayer and faith-filled interaction with each other that marks us as Ascension.			
Embracing Community	We achieve through active participation in service to our parish, neighborhood, metro areas and global community.			
Encouraging Opportunity	We achieve through activities, whether in traditional or community classrooms, to enhance ways in which students learn so they can continue to be life-long learners.			
Respecting Giftedness	We achieve by providing a level of instruction to challenge students to extend beyond the basics to maximize their potential in their areas of strength.			
Celebrating Excellence	We achieve through recognition of student accomplishments and alumni that say, "Well done!"			
In Attendance: Father Robert Barnell, Terry Mullaney, Bryan Back (Chair), Mike Brockman, Bob Feger, Mandy Goodwin, Natalie Ising, Laura Krebs Lewis, Josh Lile, Autumn Monaghan (faculty representative), Jaclyn Mullin, Katie Spencer, Helen Walter.				
Absent: Tony Forns				
	Topic	Presenter	Discussion, Assignment and Responsibilities	Follow-Up
	Approval of Minutes	Bryan Back/Terry Mullaney	Email	

Living Faith	Opening Prayer	Father Robert	Prayer led by Father Robert	
	Quick Introduction of Members	Bryan Back	All present members introduced ourselves to Father Robert and gave background on ages of children/years of services to the Parish/role on school board	
	Reflection on New Mission/Vision Statements	Father Robert	<p>Proposed Mission: To develop thought leaders with a foundation in Christ.</p> <p>Proposed Vision: Ascension Catholic School champions academic excellence in an environment where all are loved, respected and challenged to grow. With Christ as our guide and a vibrant community as our support, Ascension graduates leave prepared for a rapidly changing world.</p> <p>Reflection: Vision is good – no recommendations for change</p> <p>Mission – focus is on “thought leaders”. Not everyone is a leader. Could add development of child's character and values. Foundation in Christ seemed a little as an afterthought</p>	To Do: form small working group to address outside of school board meeting time.

			Review of other Mission/vision statements: Others have a stronger Christian aspect (forming saints/disciples). Assisting Parents who have a primary role in faith formation.	
	Discipline Policy Update	Terry Mullaney	Recap of new policy. Feedback: going well, no negative feedback from middle school teachers	Informative – no follow-up needed
	Stats of student enrollment per grade and school year 2018-2023	Bob Feger/Terry Mullaney	Data received from Susie Thomas, Terry confirmed numbers seem accurate. Discussed reasons for loss (students moved to new neighborhoods, JCPS, Home school, asked to leave due to behavior issues, special needs, class size too small [minimal friend opportunities], too much technology No actionable area identified that needs immediate intervention	Informative – no follow-up needed
	Bullying	Terry Mullaney	Question was asked “Does Ascension have a bullying problem?”	Informative – no follow-up needed

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of past experiences (2020-2021 school year) of a case of potential bullying • Perception by outsiders vs reality of true situations • School board offered ideas on communication and out reach to identify and prevent bullying • Autumn gave insight into how issues are handled when they come up (grade/age appropriate) teacher as first line vs google form for older grades 	
	School Board Topics: Out of uniform dress guidelines	Bryan Back	<p>He has been approached by parents asking about the specifics of the no leggings/specific shorts lengths.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need ensure "appropriate" clothing options are worn by children • Teachers do not use rulers and parents will be notified if students outfits are deemed inappropriate • This is done in a respectful manner toward the child • There are a handful of non-compliant instances that make it necessary to be defined in the handbook 	Bryan to communicate back to families with concerns

			(some outfits worn by students as they walk through church are unacceptable as role models for younger students)	
	School Board Topics: Communication to members	Mike Brockman	<p>Should school board members be present after church to be available to parish member to bring concerns?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logistically may not be ideal (length of time between concern brought to the board/discussion/resolution) • Don't want to stop flow of communication to Terry • May add the board members names to bulletin like Parish Counsel 	Bryan to reach out to see about adding names to of members to bulletin

Mission: As a vital ministry of the Church of the Ascension, our school's mission is to recognize the uniqueness of all students in a caring, disciplined environment that exemplifies Christ's command to serve one another. Ascension School fosters excellence in academics and promotes spiritual, intellectual, emotional, and physical growth of the whole child.

The faculty, supported by the parish staff, School Board, and Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), recognizes that students must be prepared to meet challenges of an ever changing world and to live cooperatively as critical thinkers and problem solvers in a global society. Love of GOD, human dignity, justice, ecumenism, service to others, stewardship, and excellence are among the values lived.