

Absent Members: Laura Lewis, Father Robert

- Introductions of New Members
  - Recap of golf scramble - Thanks Mike!
  - Update on Current Projects: Library Renovation - Thanks Tony!
  - Update on reaching out to new families and connecting them with parent group communications - Thanks Natalie!
  - Update on Language Arts - Orton-Gillingham materials
  - Update on Counselor position and Foreign Language teacher
  - New Member yard signs: Bryan distributed them to school board members and will send addresses of recipients. Please have the signs placed by 8/11
  - Recommendation that the school board put in writing all of the activities we do throughout the year. For instance ancillary activities such as reaching out to new families and connecting them with room parents, putting out new student yard signs, running open houses etc. To ensure these activities are continued each school year and ease of transition as board members change over time.
  - Discussed initiating a program of having Ascension teachers collaborate with area high schools teachers - Mike will work with Terry on this idea
  - Open discussion on the needs of the school moving forward.
1. Needs: Focus on updating aging infrastructure - Windows have been updated and now the library as well. We need to focus next on hallways, landscaping, signage, exterior painting and some gym updates. As prospective families visit the school they need to see that we are investing in the continual improvement of our facilities. Focus on Marketing - We need to rebuild our name recognition in the Louisville area. We have achieved amazing things and we need to ensure our amazing work is seen by the community at large. We have new marketing tools in the works (profile of a graduate, new booklet for open house, new changes to social media accounts, discussion of billboards and enhanced signage for the Parish and school, lots of good work happening)
  2. Enrollment is down again this year: Discussion about loss of students at transition times (5th to 6th grade/ PreK to Kindergarten). Discussion of student minimums per class to achieve financial viability. Discussion of how school board could reach out to prospective families (personal phone calls to ask if any new questions/concerns). Side note - Last year Bryan personally invited prospective families to trunk or treat - we need to continue to add personal touches to the recruiting process.
  3. Retention of Teachers: Pre 2019 there was minimal teacher turnover. That is no longer the case. We financially can not compete on compensation between other Catholic Schools (this is set by the Archdiocese). We talked about things we can control - teacher development (PTO gave \$25K for teacher professional development, teacher support - new teachers are already given a "mentor teacher" at the beginning of each year. We asked about if Terry did "exit interviews" from teachers that take new positions - which he does, We recommended periodic check-ins with teachers to find out what they need to support them now to prevent them from looking for other positions (wellness and emotional support of staff).

I am sure there was more. Thank you again to Helen for hosting dinner and thank you to everyone for their open and collaborative ideas and commitment to our school.

Next meeting Tuesday September 5th 6pm at Ascension Library.