

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 7 , 2008

President Jocelyn Strand called the meeting to order. Jim Macy opened with a prayer. Those in attendance were: Jocelyn Strand, Jill Kliethermes, Melissa Lorts, Jim Macy, Lori Kempker, Debbie Kolb, Janie Wyrick, Sheila Hirsch, Mike Winter, Jill Struempf, and Heather Schrimpf. Sheri LePage and Father Pat Dolan were absent.

Approval of Minutes

Jocelyn Strand asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes and if there were any corrections. Mike Winter motioned to accept the minutes and Melissa Lorts seconded. The motion passed.

Principal's Report

Mrs. Struempf began by discussing the various works of mercy that the students were focusing on each month. There will be a food drive in conjunction with the Central Missouri Food Bank through October 16 with the Samaritan Center directly benefitting from the drive. Next the students will focus on the theme of bury the dead in which they will create and present cards and songs for those living in nursing homes. Jill Kliethermes suggested that some of the students visit our parish homebound and Mrs. Strand suggested a mass at Villa Marie Nursing Home.

Financially the parish and school are not seeing an increase in donations since the letters home and talk at weekend masses. The expenses are still much greater than the income. One of the solutions may be to cut back on the number of teachers. Mrs. Struempf hopes to deal with this through attrition. There has been 5-9 teachers leave the school each year so these positions would probably not be filled. The school policy is to have no more than 24 students in grades 6-8, 23 students in grades 1-5, and 21 in kindergarten. The school is working hard to cut back in as many ways as possible such as refilling ink, less paper copies, turning off lights, etc....

An ad hoc committee was formed to look at the future enrollment of kindergarten over then next several years. Jill Kliethermes served on this committee and reported that for the 2009-10 school year there are 29 definite students with an additional 17 parents not returning the survey. For the 2010-11 school year there could be as many as 57 students but it is not definite they will attend IC. Mrs. Kliethermes also reported that there are 25 families with 4 year olds who are interested in a pre-k program. Discussion followed on possible locations for such a program. Mrs. Kliethermes was asked to follow-up on the people who did not respond to the survey and to talk to those who are interested in a pre-k program if they would like a half-day or whole day program. Mrs. Schrimpf agreed to look into getting a copy of the pre-k program that Herman Catholic Schools developed because it has been approved by the diocese.

All members were reminded of the School Board training to be held on October 15 from 7-9 p.m. in the St. Ann's room.

Athletic Discussion

Mrs. Struempf began by informing everyone that she attended the PALS meeting for basketball. She said there was a discussion at the meeting regarding the inability of small schools to compete with the larger schools because of try-outs. She also stated that last year only four schools had tryouts: St. Joseph, St. Peters, IC, and Trinity Lutheran. Last year there were 21 JV boys teams, 11 JV girls teams, 7 varsity boys teams and 7 varsity girls teams.

Several items were discussed regarding the athletic program at Immaculate Conception. These items included:

- a possible code of ethics for athletes and parents. It was brought to the board's attention that St. Joseph's uses one and requires both athletes and parents to sign.
- bullying of students by classmates. A possible solution is for the athletic committee to talk to coaches about this issue and in turn the coaches talk to both the athletes and their parents.
- the makeup of the athletic committee. It was noted that parents sign up for the committee through the home and school survey during registration.

After these discussions, Mike Winter motioned to follow the athletic committee's recommendation to not hold tryouts for the 2009-2010 school year. Sheila Hirsch seconded. A paper vote was taken and the motion passed on a 5 to 4 vote.

After the motion passed, the board discussed guidelines for moving forward. These included:

- developing a code of ethics
- holding parent meetings before all sports seasons
- re-evaluating the policy for tryouts
- surveying all of the parents regarding tryouts
- appointing school board members to serve on the athletic committee to help create a policy for future years

Jim Macy and Jayne Wyrick will serve on the athletic committee for the remainder of this school year. They will contact Mrs. Schlueter to set up meetings to begin a re-evaluation process.

Mrs. Struempf concluded the meeting with a prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Father Dolan, Pastor

Jill Struempf, Principal

Lori Kempker, Secretary