

Immaculate Conception Grade School Board Meeting Minutes November 7, 2017

The Immaculate Conception Grade School Board met on November 6, 2017 in the Media Center of the rectory. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM. Present: Father Christopher Lankford, Parochial Vicar; Mrs. Cathy Linley, Principal; Board Members: Ray Hill, President, Katy Ahern, Jim Papp, Erin Raniere, Alina Cahill, and Aamir Rajan.

Opening Reflection: Erin Raniere

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Principal's Report: Mrs. Cathy Linley

Cathy gave a summary of the following items:

- Move your Feet was a great success. The children enjoyed the experience and asked to do it every week!
- The All Saints Day coffee was well received. The panel included Cathy (shared Kathleen Hillsman (provided facts on the success of students beyond ICGS and also shared her personal experiences); Mrs. Donovan (discussed the benefits of being at a Catholic school and shared her positive experiences of how the students are living their faith in Junior High and beyond), and Megan Phillips (shared the positive experiences her children of various ages have had at IC, how wonderful the IC family is, and how much her and Troy have been rewarded by sending their kids to IC). She received (and Board members did as well) a lot of positive feedback.
- Testing scores across all levels were excellent for both tests – MAP and ITBS. For ITBS, ICGS scores were at the Diocesan level or above for all categories. Also, many grades scored at the Cogat predicted level or higher. Overall, Cathy was pleased with IC performance for the tests, and there were no specific areas of improvement that stood out. Also, she shared that the tests help IC determine what areas to focus on going forward.

Katy Ahern

- Strategic plan will be emailed to everyone because when printed it is too small to read.
- Building on the success of the panel format for the All Saints Day Coffee, Katy proposed that we revamp the Open House gather in September. During the parent meeting session, parents would hear short “TED TALK” style presentations from a various presenters, similar to the coffee. Then parents go to the classrooms and follow their child’s schedule and attend a short session (maybe 7-8 minutes) which each teacher. This way, parents can have more information about the curriculum vs. just speaking with the homeroom teachers.
- Proposed allowing room parents to collect money for teacher gifts. The rule was installed over a decade ago, and current parents would appreciate someone collecting money for a gift. Of course, parents can always opt out and give their gifts as they choose.

Ray Hill

- Shared information on the Partners in Education meeting on Wednesday, November 8 and encouraged all board members to attend.
- Provided an update on the new tax credit law. More information will be shared at the Partners in Education meeting. Alina asked that we confirm if you can select a school to be the recipient. This would be ideal to know before the IC Dinner Dance for the “Fund the Knight” program.

Enrollment: no updates

Finance: Amy Brandt shared that Tom, Robert and Amy met to discuss ways to promote the endowment fund including promoting “#givingday” on November 28th, and also encouraging families, parishioners, and others to set up a recurring donation starting in December through May (remainder of the school year). If 362 donors participated at a \$100/month, we would meet our goal of \$1 million.

Also, Amy shared what she learned from St. Michael’s School in Wheaton about retaining Kindergarten students for 1st grade and beyond. She stated that Wheaton only has one Catholic school in town, so that helps a little. If a student comes to St. Michael’s from a parish that doesn’t have a school, they pay in-parish tuition rates. They have a “Step Up” day where the students receive an “I stepped up to 1st grade”. The school believes this helps retention rates. Also they have offered after school care for several years. They charge \$15/day until 6 pm. This creates a profit for the school and helps the conversation rate from Kindergarten to 1st grade. The group discussed that more than 40 schools in the Joliet Diocese have an after school program. The lack of an ideal space is a challenge for IC, but the group discussed taking another look at some options. Budget wise, if IC could retain 20 additional students due to after school care and create a profit from the program it would be ideal.

Pastor’s Report: N/A

New Business: None

Old Business: None

Closing Prayer

Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm. The next board meeting is Tuesday, January 9.

Respectfully submitted,
Katy Ahern