

Immaculate Conception Grade School Board Meeting Minutes September 11, 2017

The Immaculate Conception Grade School Board met on September 11, 2017 in the Media Center of the rectory. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM. Present: Very Reverend Thomas Paul, V.F. Pastor; Father Christopher Lankford, Parochial Vicar; Mrs. Cathy Linley, Principal; Mrs. Sharon Meyer, Assistant Principal; Board Members: Ray Hill, President; School Board Members, Katy Ahern, Amy Brandt, Alina Cahill, Tom Dewbray, Robert Moore, Jim Papp, Aamir Rajan, and Erin Raniere; and Director of Development, Kathleen Hillsman

Opening Reflection: Ray Hill

ICGS school board members were then commissioned.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Principal's Report: Mrs. Cathy Linley

-We have been in a period of transition with some staff changes and feel we are in a good place right now. We've had several very successful events-ice cream social, new parent meeting, strong teacher workshops before start of school enabling teachers getting to know each other.

-MAP testing has been underway and then 9/20 we start ITBS diocesan testing. Younger grades do Cogat testing (tests ability). These tests evaluate group retention so we can plan for the group going forward. MAP testing allows us to look deeper into individual student skills.

-Proud of the furthering of our Active Brain learning initiative with our teachers. We shared our list of activities with Dr. Anne Goldalde (sp?). The best possible scenario is that when it is so embedded in our curriculum that the children don't even realize they are doing Active Brain activities. Ideally, it should be similar to how we incorporate our faith into our lessons. It's becoming part of the daily schedule. We have some stand up desks and may be looking to get more. Even just allowing students to stand at their regular desks makes a difference for some students.

-Looking at expanding our critical thinking/STEM components-including in our after school programs (Coding & Robotics). Ms. Rudis and Mrs. Truty are looking at incorporating this in the classroom too. This allows us to expand student creativity.

-Thank you to our Board for working on providing a Back to School bonus for our teachers.

-Enrollment: Looked at enrollment comparison from last year to this year. We had recommendations and endorsements from several ICGS families that were influential. We lost a few families because they know their children will be attending public h.s. and they are transitioning them early. It was suggested that maybe we look at our students who may have some minor needs and look at what District 205 offers as accommodations and maybe try to adapt some techniques on our own. We have our own TAT team that uses a program from Loyola-the same program that the public school uses. The use of this program is documented and continually revisited. ICGS documentation of any accommodations is then taken to high school in case accommodations need to be made in high school. It may be beneficial to market the way we work with District 205.

-Maureen Shaw will need to sit down with several members of the parish staff, including the new Business Manager to re-evaluate where we are with our budget now that our

enrollment numbers have been established for the year. We also may want to consider a more conservative budget next year.

-Several ideas for reaching out to various segments of the parish, school community, and Elmhurst community were discussed to target families for next year.

President's Report – Ray Hill

-Liaisons will be attending their assigned meetings

Strategic Planning- Ray Hill and Jim Papp

Technology-Aamir Rajan

Finance: Tom Dewbray

Parents Club: Katy Ahern and Alina Cahill

Marketing & Enrollment: Erin Raniere, Alina Cahill, and Jim Papp

Annual Appeal & Endowment Fund: Robert Moore

Athletic Board-Ray Hill

Faith Formation: Amy Brandt

Pastor's Report: Father Tom

-Mrs. May was in her 21st year of teaching at ICGS when she passed away. We should as a board look at creating a type of memorial in her memory.

-Endowment Fund is at about \$751,550 with \$51,253 in contributions for last calendar year

-Annual Appeal improvements were made to 8th grade classroom, Art room, and storage room, as well as 3rd floor hallway (asbestos abatement work involved) so the top floor is now completely renovated.

New Business:

-Ray Hill suggested it would be helpful to have meeting Minutes sooner after the school board meetings take place. The goal is within a week's time.

Old Business: None

Closing Prayer

Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Hillsman