

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
STELLA MARIS ACADEMY  
JUNE 25, 2020**

**Present:** Bob Lisi, Nick Minardi, John Kenney, Barry Bigelow, Paul Fitzgerald, Karen Newstrom, Fr. Drew Braun, Fr. Peter Muhich, Fr. Rich Kunst, Fr. Jim Bissonette, Hilaire Hauer (President, *ex officio*), Cynthia Zook (Director of Schools, *ex officio*), John Matthews (by phone, left 3:25)

**Guests:** Julianne Blazevic, Jesse Murray

**Opened** at 3:04 pm with prayer.

**Agenda approved.**

**Mission Moments:**

- Among families asking for reductions in tuition due to the remote learning of last trimester, there remains a strong passion for the school.
- During recent teacher interviews, it was obvious that today's families and colleges are producing adults who want to be a part of Catholic education. Interviewees often showed knowledge of SMA through networking with school families and familiarity of materials, and commented on the distinguishing marks of the school.
- A well-wisher to Fr. Peter noted the importance of Holy Rosary School and SMA in their children's lives.

**Approval of May 5, 2020 board meeting minutes and June 1 and June 18, 2020 special board meeting minutes** moved by Fr. Peter, seconded and carried.

**Facilities Committee update:**

The lease agreements are currently tabled to allow time for the newly assigned priests to familiarize themselves with parish operations, as well as to allow the committee time to compare them with the model used by Fr. Lachowitz in the Archdiocese of St. Paul. The lease agreements will remain unchanged until that review and determination is complete.

**Motion to endorse the pastors' support of a lease extension until a new lease is presented** moved by Fr. Peter, seconded and carried.

**Finance Committee update:**

- The projected loss for this school year is \$44,000, much less than the \$146,000 loss budgeted.
- The PPP has been extended from eight weeks to twenty-four weeks, and will allow for application for total forgiveness.
- Discussion ensued on the topic of the hazard pay recently approved by the board and the possibility of rescinding the motion. According to Robert's Rules of Order, which is

the generally accepted method for handling items not explicitly stated in our bylaws, a two thirds majority is needed for rescinding a passed resolution. Considerations were discussed in regard to recognizing the extraordinary circumstances through other options such as reimbursements directly related to remote work.

**Motion to rescind the resolution concerning hazard payment to staff and reconsider the use of PPP funds** moved by Nick Minardi, seconded, and failed (four to four).

**Organizational Structure:**

The ad hoc committee reviewing the leadership team structure for the 2020-2021 school year presented their proposal, addressing immediate needs. Key points include:

- Fr. Jim would work as an intermediary with Bishop-elect Mulloy until his ordination, with the first year allowing for Bishop to become acquainted with the school.
- The two principals would have an academic focus with teachers/grade levels and operational focus with “home campuses,” having one principal as a point of contact on each campus, providing continuity for parents. Effective dates are July 1 for the leadership team and August 1 for staff.
- To further leverage skills and capabilities throughout SMA, an opportunity has been identified to consider a leadership role in the faculty at each campus. Principals have identified key areas that will not only support effectiveness at each campus, but will also allow for leadership development at the faculty level. Details are being developed.
- The organizational flow allows for an additional layer in the future if needed.

**Motion to approve the structure reorganization proposed by the ad hoc committee** seconded and carried, with one abstention.

**Other:**

- The annual retreat is scheduled for August 6 starting at 3:00 pm and will serve as an orientation to our new board member priests, Fr. Seth Gogolin (St. John’s) and Fr. Tony Wroblewski (Cathedral of Our Lady of the Rosary).
- Farewells and deep appreciation were expressed to those board members leaving: Fr. Drew Braun, reassigned to Cross Lake, Fr. Peter Muhich to Bishop of the Diocese of Rapid City, and Hilaire Hauer, to an advisory position of past president/president emeritus.
- The need to add the two principals as *ex officio* board members for the 2020-2021 school year will be examined.

**Executive session entered** at 4:48.

**Closed** with prayer at 5:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Newstrom  
Secretary