

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
STELLA MARIS ACADEMY
Stella Maris Academy High School Campus
January 4, 2024

Present: John Kenney (chair), Sr. Kathleen Del Monte, Andrew Busam, Paul Fitzgerald, Fr. Seth Gogolin, Fr. Matt Miller, Bob Lisi, Joe Gerard, Margaret Romano, Karen Newstrom, Andrew Hilliker (President, *ex officio*)

Absent: Fr. Rich Kunst, Nick Minardi, Robb Enslin, Wade Mathers (Director of Schools, *ex officio*)

Guests: Fr. Ben Hadrich, Chris Lemke

Opened at 3:00 PM with prayer.

Mission Moments:

- The Christmas concerts were exceptional this year and a delight to hear.
- The sixth graders who sit with a kindergarten partner at the weekly St. James campus Masses are truly embodying the academy's motto of "Lead, Love and Serve."

Public Comment: None

Approval of Agenda moved by Fr. Seth Gogolin, seconded and carried.

Approval of Minutes moved by Fr. Matt Miller, seconded and carried.

President's Update:

High School Renovations: Punch list items from Phase 1 were being addressed over Christmas break and should be finished during winter break in February. The final draft for the Phase 2 science wing is nearing completion with an anticipated cost of \$2.5 million, above the original estimate due to the need to increase the space. LHB's feasibility study for the outdoor plan should be received by mid-month.

Capital Campaign/We're All In!: A Twin Cities foundation notified the president that an anonymous donor is gifting the academy \$1,000 for the Capital Campaign. Another donor has given a match fund of \$1.5 million for the campaign, to be matched at the end of each month and distributed by \$500,00 yearly from 2024-2026.

Upcoming Events: No school on MLK Day (1/15) or January 22 (PD/Teacher Catechetical Formation Day); Catholic Schools Week: January 28 - February 2, with Mass celebrated by Bishop on January 31 at 9:30 at the Cathedral. Next board meeting: March 7.

MNSAA Report/Response: The MNSAA Board approved accreditation for SMA with *no conditions* for Pre-K through 12th grade. Standard follow up to the team report has already been submitted ahead of the March 1 deadline. A plan for work on the SSP, broken into Objective/Strategy, Action Step, Responsibility and Update, was shared.

24/25 School Year: Tuition rates need to be determined by February 1, with board voting on the Finance Committee's recommendation by then. Handbooks should be ready for review by February 15, and the Policy and Planning Committee will present it at the March meeting. The calendar should be finalized by February 1 after receiving the district calendar.

Student/Family Surveys: A student survey for 7-10 grade students was conducted in December. The inaugural annual survey to all SMA families will go out mid-month.

Summer Program: Registration for this summer's program opens on February 1. Staff and site remain the same as last year.

Enrollment: Enrollment is down by one student from last meeting, to a total of 645.

Blessing by Fr. Ben before his departure.

After School Activities:

The activity director shared a handout on after school activity registrations, which are projected to be up in the coming school year. Of note, a baseball team of 7-9 graders is planned to compete with local junior high and JV teams. Football players will be required to play on SMA teams, with two teams for both 5-6 grade and 7-8 grade. A JV hockey team will be formed if numbers permit. Costs associated with activities and MSHSL challenges were discussed.

Finance Committee:

Kathleen Kelly willed \$800,000 to SMA. The committee proposes directing \$500,000 toward the capital campaign and \$300,000 to endowments. The increased deficit is expected to improve, due to various factors such as delays in receiving funds from the Bishop's Dinner and parish contributions. The campus wide lunch program is being reviewed to get it as close to budget as possible. The Shared Service agreement at Holy Rosary campus is being restructured to more closely resemble that at St. John's. A survey being developed to report SMA student affiliations with parishes could be used to determine parish contributions per student/family. A tuition philosophy may help guide tuition decisions.

Motion to approve the Catholic Communities Foundation gift instruments documents as presented, moved by Sr. Kathleen Del Monte, seconded and carried.

Nominating Committee:

The committee is encouraging members to submit names of potential board members. Currently two members, Bob Lisi and Karen Newstrom, will finish their allowed terms on the board this year. Fr. Seth Gogolin spoke with Bishop Felton regarding the status of the Director of Schools

as both his designee and a voting member. His wish is to keep the Director's voting status and reassign as his designee Fr. Seth. Bishop also suggested that not all three campus priests need to be on board, but could be represented by a single member. The possibility of a needed change in bylaws to reflect the above will be considered.

Moved to Work Session at 4:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Newstrom
Secretary