

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
STELLA MARIS ACADEMY
Stella Maris Academy High School Campus
April 7, 2022

Present: Fr. Seth Gogolin (Chair), Sr. Kathleen Del Monte, Nick Minardi, Fr. Tony Wroblewski, Karen Newstrom, Fr. Rich Kunst, Bob Lisi, Margaret Romano, Andy Busam, Joe Gerard, Cynthia Zook (Director of Schools, *ex officio*)

Absent: Paul Fitzgerald, John Kenney, Fr. Jim Bissonette, Andrew Hilliker (President, *ex officio*),

Guests: Julianne Blazevic, Fr. Ben Hadrich, Emily Patrick

Opened at 3:00 PM with prayer.

Welcome to new members.

Mission Moments:

The appointment of Fr. Ben Hadrich as chaplain of the high school is recognized as a blessing to SMA. Fr. Ben's story of overcoming significant health problems and his continual drive are a model of faithfulness to all who know him.

Introduction of new members:

- With Bishop Felton's appointment, Joe Gerard and Andy Busam join the board. Current members introduced themselves.

Public Comment: None

Approval of Agenda: Moved by Margaret Romano, seconded and carried.

Approval of Minutes: Moved by Fr. Tony Wroblewski, seconded and carried.

President's Report (read by Fr. Seth Gogolin):

High School: Final recommendations will be shared at a meeting next week between subcontractors and the architect. The sprinkler system needs to have an increase of water flow to meet inspection. The lead/asbestos report is waiting for samples to be completed. Dee Anderson has been hired as a consultant on interior design.

Funding: Hilaire Hauer has been hired as Capital Campaign Coordinator, with marketing materials supplied by Max Haben. North Shore Bank is underwriting proposals for initial funding of the renovations.

Enrollment: Enrollment opened on February 1, with current enrollment at nine. Open House is scheduled for April 5.

Extra Curriculars: Communication is forthcoming regarding independently hosted activities and cooperation agreement plans.

COVID Update: The level continues to decrease with all campuses at or below Level 2.

Professional Participations and Community Connections: Completed participation in hiring executive director for MNSAA. Hosted community volunteer groups during winter break and share SMA with community organizations.

Stellabration: Plans continue by the committee for the 2022 Stellabration on Friday, May 20, with Save the Date and sponsorship letters to be mailed soon.

Countdown to Kindergarten: Both campuses hosted open houses with strong attendance from a mixture of current and potential families.

CUF Raffle: The annual raffle raised nearly \$62,000, exceeding the budgeted revenue of \$45,120.

CREED Awards: Two awards were received. The first is for an ICLE Leaders Conference in Denver in April, which the President and Admissions Director will attend. The second will allow four members of the board and school to attend a Partners in Mission School Advancement Program conference in June.

Last Day of School: The last day has been moved to Wednesday, June 8, in order to conclude the school year with Mass and a field day.

Department Updates:

Campus principles wrapped up the second trimester, which ended March 11. Elementary grades will change to a daily rotation of phy ed and music. The Schulze grant has allowed support of NWEA PD. Staffing for next year is being looked at for any changes needed.

The Business Office has completed month end reports and projections. The draft budget for next year is in development. Required documentation for a potential loan with North Shore Bank is being prepared, and the door access at the high school campus is being completed.

Marketing and Communications is coordinating with the marketing firm to rebrand the website for the high school. A direct mailer is being sent to targeted households and digital marketing has been rebranded.

Faith Formation is planning a Theology of the Body retreat for middle school students in April. Faculty and staff have been able to participate in a Let's Listen session and a Catechetical Formation Day. Families are being offered Lenten activities.

The Admissions and Enrollment office has answered inquiries and offered tours consistently across the grade levels, hosted the PreK Open Houses in March and leads the Stellabration Planning Committee. Current enrollment totals 529 students.

High School Committee: No update

Finance Committee: Update at next meeting

Nominating Committee: No update

Policy Committee: First draft to be presented at next meeting

Development Committee: Update presented by the Capital Campaign Director at next meeting.

Motion to ask for diocesan approval of a \$3 million construction loan for the construction of the high school moved by Nick Minardi, seconded and carried.

Motion to allow the High School Committee to disburse funds for improvements during the high school construction moved by Nick Minardi, seconded and carried.

High School Chaplain:

- Fr. Ben expressed his gratitude at being named chaplain. He encouraged members to consider adding daily Mass to the school day and advocated fundraising to increase tuition assistance for large families.

Moved to Executive Session at 3:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Newstrom
Secretary