

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
STELLA MARIS ACADEMY
Stella Maris Academy High School Campus
September 1, 2022

Present: Fr. Seth Gogolin (Chair), Sr. Kathleen Del Monte, Nick Minardi, Fr. Tony Wroblewski, Fr. Rich Kunst, Bob Lisi, Joe Gerard, John Kenney, Fr. Jim Bissonette, Karen Newstrom, Margaret Romano, Paul Fitzgerald, Andy Busam, Wade Mathers (Director of Schools, *ex officio*), Andrew Hilliker (President, *ex officio*)

Absent: None

Opened at 3:00 PM with prayer.

Mission Moments:

- The Back to School Night proved to be a positive and exciting event with a true sense of joy among attendees.
- The enormous time and work invested in the production of Vatican Unveiled proved to be a worthy investment, as the end result was fantastic, with more than 4,000 visitors. Special thanks to Fr. Rich Kunst for generously sharing his collection as a fundraiser for SMA and Star of the North Maternity Home.
- The excitement among teachers at the Holy Rosary campus for the beginning of the new school year was obvious on a recent visit.

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

Approval of Minutes: Moved by Sr. Kathleen Del Monte, seconded and carried.

Retreat Takeaways:

- The board should ask for the discernment of the Holy Spirit.
- An increased awareness of the four movements of the Holy Spirit (detachment, surrender, discernment and trust)
- Most families are looking for hope, healing, and joy, and should easily find those qualities in our school.
- The board and its committees should aim for representation from a wide variety of groups throughout the diocese.
- Healthy expectations for members to have active lives outside of board work

President's Report:

- A request for prayers as a school family from St. James experienced the unexpected death of their father last week.
- The high school received its Certificate of Occupancy for the '08 addition. The first day of school will include special activities including a blessing for Bishop, breakfast treats and adding student signatures to a temporarily bare wall in the demolition area.

- Staffing for the year will be complete with the expected hiring of a music teacher for the St. James campus.
- The federal lunch program will support approximately seventy students academy wide. Lunches at the high school will be cooked at and brought over from the St. John's campus. Yellow Bike Coffee is partnering with the school and will utilize the high school kitchen while serving the students and providing a la carte breakfast foods.
- A partnership between SMA and CSS continues to be explored for not only academics, but also potential incentives to attend CSS, Catholic education branding and co-/extra-curricular opportunities.
- Bishop's Dinner is scheduled for October 30 at the Greysolon Ballroom with Msgr. Shea from the University of Mary, Bismarck as speaker.
- Vatican Unveiled revenue is currently around \$320,000 total, with profits to be split between SMA and Star of the North.
- Total school enrollment currently stands at 580 students, up from last year's total.
- The Minnesota Catholic Conference is September 7 in St. Paul. Board members are invited to attend.

Administration Goals for '22-'23:

- Support the whole formation of our students.
- Grow advancement impact at SMA.
- Improve retention and grow enrollment.
- Foster relationships with parishes and the diocese.

Areas for President's Personal Goals for '22-'23:

- Communication
- Community connections
- Relations with families and stakeholders
- Formation and mission development

Motion to delay seeking MNSAA accreditation until the spring of 2023 or fall of 2023 when the high school is moved into the renovated space, at which time accreditation for grades 9-12 will be sought. Moved by Fr. Tony Wroblewski, seconded and carried.

High School Construction Costs:

Unexpected construction issues have increased the cost of renovation, including many projects from Phases 2 and 3 which have been moved up for practicality. North Shore Bank is willing to increase the loan amount. A discussion on the capital campaign goals ensued.

Motion to increase the current construction loan amount up to four million dollars. Moved by Fr. Tony Wroblewski, seconded and carried.

Motion to approve the Phase 1 consolidated construction cost amount of \$6,043,995. Moved by Sr. Kathleen Del Monte, seconded and carried.

Financial Committee:

The committee will email members financial numbers for approval. The names on CUF documents for endowments need to be brought up to date. The question of how to utilize directions and identify where to direct them needs attention.

Facilities Committee:

A donation of wood chips has been received for the playgrounds at the St. John's and St. James campuses.

Nominating Committee:

Cynthia Zook has agreed to continue on the committee as a non-board member.

Policy and Planning:

The next focus will be on addressing the School Strategic Plan process and structure to ensure it meets the needs for regular reporting/tracking, annual goal setting, and accreditation.

Moved to work session at 4:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Newstrom
Secretary