

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES
STELLA MARIS ACADEMY
March 5, 2020**

Present: Bob Lisi, Paul Fitzgerald, John Kenney, John Matthews, Karen Newstrom, Fr. Jim Bissonette, Cynthia Zook (Director of Schools, *ex officio*), Hilaire Hauer (President, *ex officio*)

Absent: Steve Olson, Fr. Drew Braun, Fr. Rich Kunst, Fr. Peter Muhich, Nick Minardi, Sharon Mollerus, Barry Bigelow,

Guests: Julianne Blazevic, Peggy Frederickson, Mike Mazzio, Jesse Murray, Teresa Kenney

Opening: The meeting began at 3:17 pm with a prayer.

Due to the lack of a quorum, this was a non-voting meeting.

Mission Moments:

- Students at a recent school Mass showed excitement while donating what was obviously their own hard-earned money to CHUM at the offertory.
- A kindergartner demonstrated how essential prayer is to SMA students when she chose to draw a young girl praying during free time.
- Although some upper middle school students may seem indifferent to the Church, as in the Parable of the Sower and the Seed, teachers are preparing the ground so those students can fully come to a life of faith.

Approval of February 6, 2020 board minutes deferred to electronic approval.

Public Comment:

- Teresa Kenney noted that the 5K for God will be held April 25 at 9:00 AM at St. Raphael's. Eric Swenson, with help from the parish's Knights of Columbus, holds the race annually to build community, with all proceeds benefiting SMA. Teresa hopes for a 100% participation rate from board members.

Individual Campus Capital Improvements

- Leases for each campus state that SMA is responsible for up to \$10,000 per year for capital improvements.
- Past projects include the windows at the St. James campus, while tuckpointing at the Holy Rosary campus is being anticipated.
- Facility assessments are nearing completion at all campuses. An update to the board from the facilities committee has yet to be scheduled.
- Improvements need to be prioritized.

Finance Committee Update:

- The trend continues towards a balanced budget. Curriculum development money not used this year may be carried over to next year.
- An investment model is being crafted.
- Quotes from a St. Cloud financial firm for auditing are forthcoming.

CLA/ Curriculum Advancement:

- A timeline is being formed for mapping subjects to aid in the transition to a liberal arts curriculum, also allowing intelligent decisions regarding training and materials spending.

Approach to State of the School:

- Alternatives to a formal event are being explored, such as mixing the information in with other parent events. MNSAA does not prescribe how the State of the School is communicated to families.

School Strategic Plan:

- An update of the SSP is due to MNSAA by June 15. Discussion followed on how adjustments to the plan need to be explained and validated, but are expected.

Revenue Enhancement Update:

- A digital marketing campaign by Midwest Communications will run from late March through mid-May using detailed targeting and geofencing.

Board and Committee Member Needs:

- The board bylaws indicate the board shall consist of between 13 to 15 members, of which two are non-voting positions. Steve Olson has resigned, leaving the board with 13 members and two openings. The SMA website has an open template for those interested in serving on the board. Additionally, current members are encouraged to identify potential candidates.
- The bylaws may need to be changed to allow for continuation of terms for campus priests.

Executive session entered at 5:11.

Adjourned with closing prayer at 5:20.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Newstrom
Secretary