

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

### STELLA MARIS ACADEMY

#### Stella Maris Academy High School Campus

February 2, 2023

**Present:** Fr. Seth Gogolin, Sr. Kathleen Del Monte, Bob Lisi, Joe Gerard, John Kenney (Chair), Fr. Jim Bissonette, Margaret Romano, Andrew Busam, Andrew Hilliker (President, *ex officio*), Karen Newstrom, Fr. Tony Wroblewski, Fr. Rich Kunst

**Absent:** Paul Fitzgerald, Wade Mathers (Director of Schools, *ex officio*)

**Guests:** Fr. Ben Hadrich (Chaplain), Julianne Blazevic, Jesse Murray, Morgan Costley

**Opened at 3:00 PM with prayer.**

#### **Mission Moments:**

Attendance at all SMA Catholic Schools Week Mass was phenomenal. A wonderful event for our school community.

#### **Public Comments**

No comments provided.

**Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was Moved by Fr. Seth, seconded and carried.

#### **President/Administration Update:**

##### *High School Building:*

- Fourth floor is entering finishes phase and Third floor has accelerated 3 weeks from previous timeline.
- Watermain addition – post-installation testing has been completed and City is working with Engineering on final assessments based on flow test results.

College of St. Scholastica Partnerships:

- Tuition incentive / scholarships for Catholic HS students under review with CSS.
- College in the Classrooms opportunities are being developed.
- Fine Arts space at CSS has been offered at no cost to SMA for future events such as the spring concerts.

*2023/2024 School Calendar:*

- Under review now that ISD709 has released their final schedule.

*Marketing:*

- Marketing push through SMA activities with a focus on hockey, football, swim, and fine arts. Videography and content production is underway.

*West Duluth / St. James Taskforce:*

- Initial brainstorming meeting has been held to gather ideas on campus specific marketing with a goal for recommendations to the board in late March.

*Summer Program:*

- Registration opened February 1 for Sentinel Summer Program. Programming will run out of High School Campus; homebase being the 2008 addition with outdoor spaces primarily being the pavilion and activity center. Co-director position established with Mrs. Jodi Paulson and Mr. Reier Sjomeling. Based on positive feedback and participation from last year, we anticipate a strong turnout of registered students.

*SMA Enrollment Events:*

- High School Open House Event - Thursday, February 9 at Jr/Sr High Campus
- Countdown to Kindergarten Event - February 16 at HRO and SJA
- Early Childhood Open House - Thursday, March 2 at HRO and SJA

*Early Childhood Structure prior to Kindergarten:*

- A model was reviewed that will be implemented for the 23/24 academic year. This intentionally separates pre-kindergarten and kindergarten readiness. Response has been positive from families - provides additional flexibility with a greater ability to provide excellent programming focused on developmental progression of the student. The language we use in this structure is important.

*Bishop's Pastoral Letter:*

- The diocese has developed a youth version of the pastoral letter with activities and discussion topics that we will be integrating into the classrooms.
- Bishop Felton is meeting with teachers on February 15 to elaborate on his vision of Catholic schools supporting the mission fields connected to their community.

*Registration Enrollment:*

- Total school enrollment currently stands at 577 students. Current projection for 23/24 school year is 650+ students.

**Financial Committee:**

Members reviewed committee meeting minutes and financial statements. Brief discussion on depreciation of assets affecting forecasted expense, primarily associated with high school campus acquisition.

**Facilities Committee:**

No report

**Nominating Committee:**

Items moved to executive session.

**Policy and Planning:**

Committee has initiated the strategic planning process. A survey has been published for school parent feedback that will help inform the accreditation self-study narrations. We are scheduled to present a draft strategic plan to the Board in May.

**Development Committee:**

Fr. Tony has asked for a new person to take on his role as committee chair due to his other commitments. This position will remain open until further discussions are held with the School Administration.

**Moved to executive session at 3:50 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Lisi

Board Member on behalf of Karen Newstrom – Board Secretary