

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

**Present:** Fr. Seth Gogolin (Chair), Sr. Kathleen Del Monte, Nick Minardi, Fr. Tony Wroblewski, Fr. Rich Kunst, Joe Gerard, John Kenney, Margaret Romano, Paul Fitzgerald, Karen Newstrom, Fr. Jim Bissonette (arrived at 4:05PM), Wade Mathers (Director of Schools, *ex officio*), Andrew Hilliker (President, *ex officio*)

*Via teleconference:* Andy Busam, Bob Lisi

**Absent:** None

**Guests:** Hilaire Hauer, Mike Mazzio, Jesse Murray Jenny Boran, Cheryl Foldesi. Melissa Swor, Kiki Watts

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

**Mission Moments:**

- The response of alumni of Duluth Catholic schools to engage with SMA as their home has been incredible, with many great stories.

**Approval of Agenda:** Moved by Paul Fitzgerald, seconded and carried.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes amended for clarification. Motion to approve amended minutes moved by Paul Fitzgerald, seconded and carried.

**President's Report:**

**High School:** Work continues on construction, with the water main in place and drywall and framing underway. Engagement with current student families is ongoing, as is planning with CSW. Construction loan closing was today. Inquiries are being made to enable the use of the trail system for cross country and skiing.

**Catholic School Center of Excellence:** CSCOE is awarding \$10,000 impact grants to Catholic schools in greater Minnesota, with stipulations on which areas the funds may be used. SMA qualifies for three grants for the St. James, Holy Rosary and St. John's campus.

**Give to the Max Day:** Close to \$15,000 was raised for faculty and staff compensation endowment.

**Planning for the '23-'24 School Year:** Areas being evaluated and defined include staffing needs, school schedule, elective/athletic/co-curricular activities and additional rooms for preschool licensing and operations, including adding the ability to accept childcare assistance.

**Early Catholic Family Life:** An ECFL program, similar to the public schools' ECL programs, is being explored, particularly for the St. James campus.

**Calendar Update:** The January calendar has been adjusted with January 16 an in-school day and Professional Development on January 23 and 24.

**Enrollment:** Current enrollment is 579 students.

**Upcoming Events:** The Christmas party for board members is December 9. Christmas programs will be held December 13 (Holy Rosary campus), 15 (St. James campus) and 20 (St. John's campus).

**Grade Configuration:**

- Discussion included delaying the change, converting to junior high rather than middle school, transportation time and obtaining our own bus.

**Motion to approve the grade configuration as presented by President Hilliker.** Moved by Fr. Tony Wroblewski, seconded. **Motion withdrawn to allow for public comment.**

**Public Comment:** Cheryl Foldesi and Kiki Watts both expressed support of the configuration but expressed concerns about losing families over it and how we can best promote the benefits of it.

**Motion to approve the grade configuration as presented by President Hilliker.** Moved by Fr. Tony Wroblewski, seconded, passed (Fr. Jim Bissonette abstained due to late arrival on discussion.)

**Motion to amend the above motion to include transportation qualifications.** Moved by Fr. Rich Kunst, no second.

**Task Force to Strengthen St. James Campus Enrollment:**

- Needed to address issues affecting growth
- Members sought from faculty, families, and community
- Board members on force: Joe Gerard, Fr. Rich Kunst. Fr. Jim Bissonette
- Chair to be determined

**Naming of the High School Campus:**

- Bishop Felton would like two possible names submitted to him.
- Assigned to the high school committee with input from the ninth grade.

**Finance Committee:**

- Funds have been transferred from the Schwab account to North Shore Bank per the construction loan agreement.
- The search continues for an investment management partner.

**Policy and Planning:**

- Reviewed draft High School Student Council Governing Bylaws and provided comments to the student council advisor and members for review.
- Anticipate receipt of revised bylaws for consideration at the January board meeting.

**Moved to Executive Session at 4:25 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Newstrom  
Secretary