

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
STELLA MARIS ACADEMY
Stella Maris Academy High School Campus
November 4, 2021

Present: Fr. Seth Gogolin (Chair), Fr. Tony Wroblewski, Sr. Kathleen Del Monte, Fr. Jim Bissonette, John Kenney, Bob Lisi, Paul Fitzgerald, Nick Minardi, Margaret Romano, Andrew Hilliker (President, *ex officio*), Cynthia Zook (Director of Schools, *ex officio*)

Absent: Karen Newstrom, Fr. Rich Kunst

Guests: Julianne Blazevic (principal), Cindy Jennings, Rachel Rowe, Mike Rowe, Rachel Curtis, Sonya Morris, Nichole Gerard, Amanda Baker, Nikki Lukopski, Natalie Eklund, Melissa Swar

Meeting opened with prayer at 3:01 PM

Agenda approved.

Mission Moments:

- Meeting in the new SMA High School campus is a gift!
- Bishop's Dinner was a great evening with wonderful speakers.
- Member shared thanks for the outpouring of prayer and support received while healing from Covid.
- Trunk-or-treat event was a fun evening building community.
- People in the community continue to extend support to our school. By way of example, a local Knights of Columbus group mowed the SMA High School campus lawns ahead of winter.

Public comment period:

Several guests spoke, most voicing displeasure at the required wearing of masks at school.

Approval of 10/14/21 Board Meeting Minutes: Moved by Fr. Tony, seconded, carried.

President/Administration Update:

- No new Covid cases within the school since the last board meeting.
- Continuing collaboration with organizations and schools in the area for future opportunities.
- Discussions ongoing re: transportation and IED services with ISD709
- Meetings with MN State High School League re: activities as we expand into high school grades.
- EANES funding is being evaluated.
- Finalizing publications over the next month as it relates to registration and enrollment resources. Also planning open house events for pre-K, K, and High School grades.
- Admissions staff visited St. Cloud Cathedral to understand their process/procedures for enrollment.
- Development position remains open.

- Enrollment is currently at 528 students

High School Committee:

- Focused on critical path items needed for open enrollment.
- Curriculum map drafted consistent with Catholic Liberal Arts, providing 24 HS credits (22 needed for graduation in MN).
- Requesting MNSAA visit in Fall 2022 for accreditation of 9-12.
- Extra-curricular activities discussions with current middle school students. Evaluating which programs we could self-offer or provide through cooperative agreements with area schools.

Finance Committee:

- Catching up on financials as other duties have required attention for the acquisition of the HS property.
- Preparing an update to the tuition policy for the next meeting.

Facilities Committee:

- New lease agreements are in place and effectively addressing capital needs at each site.

Nominating Committee:

- In initial formation and reaching out to potential new members.

Policy and Planning Committee:

- In formation as a new committee.

Development Committee:

- Priority on hiring new Development Director.

Board Meeting Structure:

- Per the board retreat, we will begin a new structure for board meetings with public comment first (separate from the meeting), action meeting, then a closed work session. Beginning next month the meetings will start with 3:00pm-3:20pm public comment period, 3:25pm action meeting starts, followed by a closed work session led by vice chair. Executive committee will prepare motions for the next board meeting that may develop from the work session or committee efforts.

Executive Session entered at 4:10PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Lisi

On Behalf of Karen Newstrom - Secretary