

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
STELLA MARIS ACADEMY
January 9, 2020

Present: Bob Lisi (Chair), Fr. Rich Kunst, Paul Fitzgerald, Nick Minardi, Sharon Mollerus, John Matthews, Karen Newstrom, John Kenney (via phone), Hilaire Hauer (President, *ex officio*), Cynthia Zook (Director of Schools, *ex officio*)

Absent: Steve Olson, Barry Bigelow, Fr. Drew Braun, Fr. Jim Bissonette, Fr. Peter Muhich

Guests: Julianne Blazevic, Peggy Frederickson, Mike Mazzio

Opening: The meeting began at 3:05 pm with prayer.

Agenda approved

Mission Moments:

- A student aptly recalled the school Mass homily in response to a question in religion class.
- An altar server for a school Mass offered her kneeler to a Eucharistic Minister who was without one.
- While waiting for the speaker to arrive at a school assembly, the children were able to discuss posters asking to Keep Christ in Christmas.
- Students were able to recognize various family customs at Christmas, such as putting up the tree on Christmas Eve and opening presents on Epiphany.

Approval of November 7 board minutes deferred to email voting after corrections made regarding attendants.

Board Priorities and Metrics:

- Revenue enhancement components include enrollment, tuition, parish support, development, endowment and major gifts. The current enrollment trend is downward, echoing the national trend; it is imperative that enrollment increases.
- Various ideas were discussed on how to increase enrollment, such as looking at how much value programs affect enrollment decisions versus tuition costs, weighing at what point the amount of students affects the quality of an SMA education and whether parish encouragement or non-Catholic growth should be actively pursued.
- Action plans: The focus for 2020 needs to be on both enrollment and tuition. A working group should be established in consultation with the President, and both a financial analysis and a competitive analysis should be completed.

Catholic Liberal Education Update:

- Faculty members have now observed four CLE schools, the latest being St. Jerome's School in Hyattsville, Maryland in November. Teams later met together to discuss what they found inspiring in each school and how we can best implement a CLE.
- A slide show of the team's data gathering from the last trip was presented to all faculty in December and is available to board members on request.
- Curriculum needs to be addressed. A study of virtues, which are intertwined in all subjects, has already been introduced. The way history is taught is pivotal, with an emphasis on its impact rather than just events. Outcomes will be affected, tending to be more in depth than broad. Teacher training is essential. Another prime consideration is how graduates will transition to the current common educational practices when entering high school.

Approval of the Portable Radio Policy and Procedures and Door Access Policy as presented moved by Sharon Mollerus, seconded and carried.

Financial update:

- Funds are currently \$42,000 ahead of budget, but there remains a deficit.
- There are two open seats on the endowment committee.
- An IRS Form 990 needs to be prepared and filed.
- A financial audit will most likely occur in August.
- Steps are being taken to make the brokerage account accessible to others besides the President.

2020-2021 Budget:

- The proposed budget includes a 1.5% tuition increase as well as an increase of five students. CPI for 2021 is 1.7%.

Approval of the 2020-2021 Budget as presented moved and seconded by the FinanceCommittee, and carried with one abstention.

Approval of the 2020-2021 Tuition Policy as presented moved by Paul Fitzgerald, seconded and carried.

Executive Session entered into at 5:16 pm.

Adjourned with closing prayer at 5:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Newstrom