

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
STELLA MARIS ACADEMY
Stella Maris Academy High School Campus
May 5, 2022

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

Absent: None

Guests: Julianne Blazevic, Heather Seyfer

Opened at 3:00 PM with prayer.

Mission Moments:

- The appreciation and respect that families have for our teachers is obvious through the many gifts and acts of kindness shown to them this week, Teacher Appreciation Week.
- Family Movie Night was a success with a large attendance, evidence that the SMA community enjoys getting together for social activities.

Public Comment: None

Approval of Agenda: Moved by Fr. Tony Wroblewski, seconded and carried.

Approval of Amended Minutes: Moved by Bob Lisi, seconded and carried.

President's Report:

High School: Removal of hazardous material will commence soon after the May 25 deadline for bid packages, with demolition to start in conjunction. Work continues on the fire suppression issue. Ordering of the HVAC unit is in process.

Funding: Capital campaign is progressing, with various needed adjustments made. Bank approval has been confirmed for a line of credit, and the appraisal is nearing completion. Approval of the bishop has been received.

Marketing: The second round of direct mail will be sent next week. Parish announcements will be made and representatives on hand at local parishes the weekend of May 14 and 15. A renewed digital campaign is underway.

Extra Curriculars: MSHSL approval is expected in June to formalize the cooperative agreement with Lakeview Christian Academy. Stand-alone activities currently being worked on include hockey, swimming, football, track and cross-country. Other possible activities are soccer and tennis.

SMA Positions Open: Postings and interviews are underway for five elementary positions and two high school positions.

Stellabration: The annual fundraiser is scheduled for Friday, May 20. Board members are encouraged to not only attend, but volunteer if the need arises.

Summer Program: Current registration is at ninety-four for some degree of the program, with weekly attendance varying between thirty to forty students. Due to location and numbers of registrants, the program will only be held at the Holy Rosary campus.

COVID Updater: SMA currently has eleven active cases. An updated mitigation chart provided this week will allow administrative response to groups and classes rather than entire campuses should the rate go above the 4% threshold.

Professional Participations and Community Connections: Attendance at the Spring Education meeting for the MN Catholic Conference Education Committee provided insight on lobbying efforts and legislative initiatives for Catholic and independent schools. A visit to Our Lady Of Lourdes School in Denver allowed further insight to a Catholic Liberal Arts curriculum. North Shore Community School was also visited; SMA may prove a great secondary option for those students. The future role of the Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus at SMA is ongoing.

Department Updates:

Campus Principals are working on faculty and staff placements and interviews for next year. End of year classroom observations are being conducted. History and math curriculum and resources are being refined for adoption.

Business Office has finalized policy and working on implementation of system to manage. Tuition contracts have been sent out for next year and families have been contacted concerning tuition needs. The high school building needs for IT are being addressed.

Faith Formation hosted the Theology of the Body Retreat in April and is organizing an all-SMA Mass in June. Spearheading social media presence continues.

Admissions and Enrollment offers shadow days for prospective students and manages inquiries and school tours for potential families. Inquiries are consistent, particularly at the PreK/K and middle school levels. Total current enrollment is 529, and enrollment for '22-'23 is at 559.

High School Committee: No update

Finance Committee: Both the High School Capital Expenditure/Depreciation Policy and the budget for the '22-'23 school year were presented and discussed.

Motion to approve the budget for the '22-'23 school year moved by Bob Lisi, seconded and carried.

Motion to approve the High School Expenditure/Depreciation Policy moved by Sr. Kathleen Del Monte, seconded and carried.

Facilities and Buildings Committee: A study is underway for traffic and pedestrian traffic at the high school.

Policy Committee: Last year's handbook is being repackaged to flow better with the high school information.

Nominating Committee: No update

Development/Marketing Committee: No update

Moved to work session at 3:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Newstrom
Secretary