

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
STELLA MARIS ACADEMY
Stella Maris Academy High School Campus
January 5, 2023

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

Absent: Fr. Jim Bissonette, Fr. Tony Wroblewski

Guests: Jesse Murray, Julianne Blazevic

Opened at 3:00 PM with prayer.

Mission Moments:

- After having to be rescheduled due to the weather, the various campus Christmas programs showcased the quality of teachers and students alike to an outstanding turnout of audiences, and were emblematic of what the school is bringing to families.
- Fr. Seth expressed his pleasure at visitng the St. James campus recently to celebrate the school Mass.

Approval of Agenda: Moved by Fr. Seth Gogolin, seconded and carried.

Approval of Minutes: Moved by Fr. Rich Kunst, seconded and carried.

President's Report:

High School: The water flow test did not perform as anticipated. Evaluations are being done to correct the problem. Demolition is continuing on the second floor, with framing and dry wall going up on the third and fourth floor. Major donors were given tours in December. The recommendation of a name for the high school campus is being sought by Bishop, with input sought from board members, families and students.

Bank Transition: Accounts are being transferred from Wells Fargo to North Shore Bank.

Grade Configuration: Communication continues with Voyageurs and ISD #709 on transportation. The physical needs to expand the Early Childhood Programming have been identified at each campus. Various school information media have been revised to the new configurations. Staff placement is underway.

Catholic Schools Week: CSW starts January 29. School presence is planned at all local parishes.

Special Projects Intern: A student from CSS will start this month, helping with the CUF raffle, food program data entry and business office support.

Weather, Maintenance Staff and Facilities: The recent abundance of snow and reduction of available personnel has challenged maintenance staff. Amid this, St. James recently developed a leak in their roof.

Bishop's Pastoral Letter: Members are urged to read Bishop's recent letter, paying special attention to the perspective of Catholic schools.

Enrollment: Current enrollment is at 576 students.

Finance Committee:

**Motion from the committee to increase all tuition for the '23-'24 school year by 5%.
Seconded and carried.**

Motion from the committee to approve a \$2,000 incentive on '23-'24 high school tuition for current SMA high school students and SMA eighth graders. Seconded and carried.

Policy/Planning:

- An updated School Strategic Plan will be drafted by the end of the year.

Development:

- Three tours were given in December to potential major donors.

Moved to Working Session at 3:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Newstrom