



**BOARD MEETING MINUTES
STELLA MARIS ACADEMY
March 7, 2019
St. John's Campus**

Present: Bob Lisi (Chair), Karen Newstrom (via phone), Barry Bigelow, Fr. Peter Muhich, Paul Fitzgerald, Sharon Mollerus, Steve Olson, Fr. Jim Bissonette, Cynthia Zook, Director of Schools, *ex officio*, Hilaire Hauer, President, *ex officio*

Excused: Fr. Rich Kunst, Fr. Drew Braun, Laura Schauer

Guests: Peggy Frederickson, Mike Mazzio, John Matthews, John Kenney, Nick Minardi

Opening Prayer: The meeting convened at 3:05 with a prayer led by Fr. Jim Bissonette.

Agenda approved

Mission Moments:

- One member expressed gratitude for the amazing service of our front office staff at each campus who wear many “hats” while consistently bringing joy to our students, families, and staff.
- Another member noted how parishioners at a non-host parish have enthusiastically embraced Stella Maris Academy – revealing our mission as a school for our entire community.
- The display of martial arts skills by a school parent at the Stellabration brought new meaning to a “live” auction, drawing praise from a member for the gifts shared by our school families to make Stella Maris Academy a great community.

Public Comment: None.

Approval of Minutes from February 7, 2019 Board Meeting moved and seconded. Carried.

Development Committee:

Mr. Lisi expressed gratitude for the efforts President Hauer and Teresa Kenney have made in building relationships with donors. President Hauer reported a successful Stellabration, noting appreciation for the efforts of the volunteers that organized the event.

Facilities Committee:

The Facilities Committee reported the Facility Assessment Team has completed initial walk-throughs at all three campuses with additional data to be collected on facility energy usage. The information will be used to plan for future campus improvements.

Finance Committee:

Mr. Fitzgerald provided a summary of Finance Committee activity, including efforts to advance criteria and establishment of the Stella Maris Academy endowment. The Board reserved final deliberations on the 2019-2020 fiscal year operation budget to executive session. The following motion was approved in executive session.

Approval of a \$3.2M operating budget for the 2019-2020 fiscal year with a projected net loss of \$145,000 based on current enrollment, and a requirement that future budgets reflect at least a \$50,000 deficit reduction year over year to achieve a balanced budget within three years moved by Fr. Peter, seconded and carried.

Board Membership:

Mr. Lisi informed the Board that a slate of new board member candidates will be presented to Bishop Sirba for final selection following the April board meeting. New board members will be announced at the May board meeting and begin their service at the annual board retreat in late June. Additionally, officer positions will be selected at the May board meeting.

Nomination for Mr. Lisi to serve as Board Chair for the next 2-year term moved by Fr. Peter. Mr. Lisi accepted the nomination, seconded and carried. The nomination will be presented to Bishop Sirba for final determination.

SMA Strategic Plan Review:

Principal Frederickson shared a summary of teacher feedback from the January 18th school visits in the Twin Cities. Among the extensive list of notable items, Shared Inquiry and Responsive Classroom received high praise from the faculty. Shared Inquiry supports our quest for students to come to a deeper understanding of what they are learning through the use of interpretive questions – a method that cultivates the exploration of the ideas, meaning, and information found in what they are reading. Responsive Classroom is an approach that supports the Formation Model of Education by integrating academic and social-emotional skills to create a learning environment where our students can thrive. Faculty training on Shared Inquiry was provided at the end of the last school year and is in active implementation. Preparations to provide Responsive Classroom training are underway.

State of the School Event:

The Board agreed to host the State of the School event on Thursday, May 2nd from 4:30-6:00PM at the St. John's Campus immediately following the Board meeting from 3:00-4:30PM.

Executive Session: Entered at 5:00

Adjourned with closing prayer at 5:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Lisi