

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
STELLA MARIS ACADEMY
Virtual ZOOM meeting
October 14, 2021

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

Absent: None

Guests: Julianne Blazevic (principal), Amber Michelizzi, Beth Nimens, Cindy Jennings, Emily Patrick, Greg Gerard, Rachel Rowe, Amanda Baker, Amber Michelizzi, Rachel Curtis, Sara Seehus- Privette, Stacey Dunbar, Steve Gerads, Kimberly Esser, Sonya Morris

Meeting opened with prayer at 3:03 PM

Agenda approved.

Mission Moments:

- A middle schooler gave a prime example of friendship, this month's virtue, by gifting a game's candy reward to a student who dearly wanted to, but did not, win.
- A new family expressed their pleasant surprise at the excellence and dedication of our faculty, as well as their child's declaration that weekly Mass was a favorite part of school.
- The middle school students at both campuses show exceptional maturity.

Public comment period:

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

Approval of Minutes: Moved by Fr. Tony, seconded, carried.

President/Administration Update:

- The first month was busy with Sentinel Service work and field trips, among other daily events.
- High school planning is underway with yesterday's purchase of the Hills. The task committee will report its progress later in the meeting.
- There have been six positive COVID cases on campuses this year to date, with four quarantines and one classroom paused.
- Professional participation and community connections include the Minnesota Independent School Forum Leadership Conference, MNSAA board meetings and strengthening relationships with other area schools.
- Preparations for the Bishop's Dinner, to be held October 24, are underway.

- The Schulz Family Foundation is offering two grants of \$25,000 each if the academy is able to match those amounts in new funds raised.
- Principals are doing a wonderful job of supporting teachers and families, implementing curriculum development plans and filling open positions.
- A grant has been secured from the county for a mentor through the Check and Connect Student Engagement program for the next three school years.
- The business office is finalizing the audit from CLA.
- The marketing department has been busy getting the Annual Report and Bishop's Dinner invitations ready and sent, as well as working on media advertising targeting West Duluth for next year.
- The Faith Formation director is planning to increase her presence at all campuses this year and strengthen the relationship of SMA with parishes throughout the city.
- Enrollment is currently at 527 students,

High School Committee:

- The committee has three subcommittees: Student Culture and Identification, Finance, and Facilities.
- Curriculum, accreditation and extra-curricular programs are being developed.
- With the closing completed on The Hills property, divestiture of the fixed assets and installation of fiber optics will be addressed.
- Tuition cost will be determined by the end of the calendar year.

Finance Committee:

- The Agreed Upon Procedure from CLA showed no inconsistencies. Still to be determined is whether to continue the audit yearly.
- St. James has requested SMA contribute to the hiring of an additional janitor. The committee recommends supporting 50% of the cost.

Executive Session entered at 3:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
 Karen Newstrom
 Secretary