

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES
STELLA MARIS ACADEMY
February 6, 2020**

Present: Bob Lisi, Fr. Drew Braun, Fr. Rich Kunst, Fr. Peter Muhich, Sharon Mollerus, Paul Fitzgerald, John Kenney, John Matthews, Barry Bigelow, Karen Newstrom, Cynthia Zook (Director of Schools, *ex officio*), Hilaire Hauer (President, *ex officio*; via phone)

Absent: Steve Olson, Fr. Jim Bissonette, Nick Minardi

Guests: Julianne Blazevic, Peggy Frederickson, Mike Mazzio, Jesse Murray

Opening: The meeting began at 3:04 pm with a prayer.

Agenda approved

Mission Moments:

- A student, asked to choose a reward for good behavior, chose open gym time before school and, unselfishly, an activity for the whole class.
- A school parent is joining RCIA after learning about the Church through her children.

Approval of January 9, 2020 board minutes moved by Sharon Mollerus, seconded and carried.

Financial report:

- The major donation received in December has brought the budget out of the projected deficit, although an upward trajectory was already starting.
- Financial audit options are being explored, such as whether to do an internal or external audit, who should do it and when. Being listed on Guidestar, such decisions may be dictated.
- The investment process is being reassessed.

Approval of the Video Surveillance Policy as presented moved by Paul Fitzgerald, seconded and carried.

Buildings and Grounds:

- A masonry and window re-caulking renovation on the Holy Rosary campus building is projected to cost upwards of \$160,000. Johnson Masonry will make a presentation to the Cathedral Finance Committee on February 27.

Revenue Enhancement – Enrollment Growth:

- Public dissatisfaction of the Duluth Public School's potential boundary change was discussed. SMA's busing is independent of DPS, depending instead on the nearest campus.

- Marketing efforts are underway using various media, such as billboards, magazines, television and online advertising. The business office has noticed SMA name recognition is taking hold.
- The potential enrollment growth rate goal was discussed. All campuses have room for growth, serving potentially 600 total students across SMA. Rapid growth can pose challenges to maintaining the school mission, so steady, mission-aligned growth is desired.

Other business:

- Student representation at the installation of the yet-to-be-named bishop was discussed. Options include busing whole campuses or sending student representatives.

Executive session entered at 4:14 pm.

Adjourned with closing prayer at 4:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Newstrom
Secretary