

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**STELLA MARIS ACADEMY**  
**Teleconference**  
**March 4, 2021**

**Present:** Bob Lisi, Karen Newstrom, Fr. Tony Wroblewski, Fr. Seth Gogolin, Fr. Rich Kunst, Paul Fitzgerald, Nick Minardi, Barry Bigelow, John Kenney, Julianne Blazevic (principal, *ex officio*), Jesse Murray (principal, *ex officio*), Cynthia Zook (Director of Schools, *ex officio*), Fr. Jim Bissonette (Diocesan Administrator)

**Absent:** None

**Guests:** Melissa Cornett

**Opened** at 3:00 pm with prayer.

**Approval of agenda:** Moved by Fr. Seth Goglin, seconded and carried.

**Mission Moments:**

- A recent school Mass included a very moving solo in Latin by an eighth grade girl, accompanied by three male classmates. It was a beautiful testament to how students are encouraged to celebrate God's gifts.
- The Stella Maris community stepped forth to help raise more than \$65,000 through the Catholic United raffle, well over the \$45,000 budgeted.

**Public Comment:**

- Questions of when and where the planned high school is to take place were raised. The chair noted that, as announced earlier, the academy will expand to at least ninth grade by fall of 2022, with the location in existing facilities.

**Approval of Minutes** moved by Fr. Tony Wroblewski, seconded and carried.

**Board Chair Elect:**

- To ensure a smooth transition from the current chair, whose term is ending in May, and having received the nominations from the board and given consideration to various qualifications, diocesan administrator Fr. Jim Bissonette, acting as Sole Member, has appointed Fr. Seth Gogolin as the new board chair, to take effect at the annual meeting. Gratitude was expressed for the years of commendable leadership given by Chair Lisi.

**Nominating Committee:**

- The committee has a current list of ten potential board nominees, of which four are from non-campus parishes. The bylaws state at least two members should be from non-campus parishes.

- Current board members not wishing to continue as members should notify the Sole Member by March 18.

**President Search:**

- The field of applicants has been narrowed to three for a second interview to be held in person on March 11. Candidates will receive a tour of each campus, intermingle with faculty, meet with the interview committee, and meet with the Diocesan Administrator and Diocesan Director of Schools. The board as a whole will not participate in making the final selection, rather, it will be determined by the Diocesan Administrator after receiving a recommendation from the interview committee.

**Principal Update:**

- Classes will move to a regular daily schedule on March 16; any remaining remote students will receive synchronous instruction. Classes will retain the ability to shift to remote learning if deemed necessary by COVID cases.
- Those quarantined for COVID close contact may now return after a seven day waiting period and negative test result.
- The vaccination program has expanded beyond classroom teachers to include volunteers and substitute teachers.

**Campus Lease Agreements:**

- Negotiations on the leases are ongoing with a meeting between campus pastors and committee members scheduled.

**Finance:**

- There is no significant change in current finances. Expenses are below budget, annual raffle revenue went above expectations, and a generous anonymous gift was received in December.
- The committee approved purchase of pre-K classroom furniture using state pre-K program grant money.
- Applications have been submitted to Catholic United Financial for the endowments.
- A brokerage account will be initiated with Schwab/AmeriTrade.
- The engagement letter has been submitted to CLA.
- A method needs to be determined to track funds designated for the high school.
- The '21-'22 budget should be ready for approval at the April meeting.

**Entered Executive Session** at 3:54 pm.

**Closed** with prayer at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Newstrom  
Secretary