

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**STELLA MARIS ACADEMY**  
**Stella Maris Academy High School Campus**  
**March 8, 2024**

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

**Absent:** None

**Guests:** Fr. Ben Hadrich, Craig Moe (via video), Kristi Stroh (via video)

**Opened at 3:03 PM with prayer.**

**Mission Moments:**

- At a women's retreat, mothers of students were recounting how their own faith has grown through their children's faith formation at school.
- We are blessed to have teachers at all campuses who willingly go above and beyond their normal duties.
- A member is thrilled that a young nephew is a new Sentinel.

**Approval of Agenda** with corrected date moved by Fr. Seth Gogolin, seconded and carried.

**Approval of Minutes** moved by Fr. Seth Gogolin, seconded and carried.

**Public Comments:** Chris Moe had questions regarding the probability of the high school hockey program and the improvement/addition of athletic facilities.

**President's Update:**

Phase 2 renderings are complete and the public launch is forthcoming.

Capital Campaign/We're All In! raised funds need \$133,700 more by the end of the calendar year for the Phase 2 match. Participation is encouraged for faculty, staff and board. Digital media is being set up and a video will be shot tomorrow. A snag with the IRS regarding the tax number, a problem which included many Catholic schools, has been rectified but may take time to resolve.

Upcoming dates to note include no school due to a professional development day on March 22, Spring Break from April 15 through 19, a musical April 25 through 27, board meeting May 2, and Stellabration May 31.

A curriculum/parent night will be held at the high school campus on March 11, geared towards students fifth grade and above.

Dual credit enrollment options will begin next year for juniors.

Adjustments to the shared services agreements include the transferral of custodial maintenance at the Holy Rosary campus to SMA effective March 13.

Planning for next school year includes removal of coat closet walls at the St. John's campus to increase classroom area, and adding a wall in the computer lab at Holy Rosary to create another classroom. Adjustments to campus administrative structure are being evaluated with the leadership team. ISD has not yet finalized their calendar for '24-'25; upon their completion us will be finalized. Positions open for next year are being identified and include cook and elementary teacher.

Stellabration will have an Italian theme, La Dolce Vita! Tickets for the May 31 event go on sale April 1.

Marketing initiatives include direct mail to West Duluth, digital campaigns and talks at Cathedral School in Superior.

Enrollment is currently at 640, with an anticipated 701 students for next year.

**Finance Committee:**

The committee approved spending up to \$25,000 for a plow truck; a truck has been purchase for \$6,000 but the plow still needs to be procured. Due to increased spending and lower revenue, we are currently reasonably behind budget. The establishment of a general booster club was discussed. A draft of the budget should be ready for review in May.

**Nominating Committee:**

Three spots will be open next term, with two more next year. Several names have already been received for potential members. The committee will investigate and bring a slate to the next meeting. The office of secretary will also be open; members are encouraged to consider applying for it.

**Policy and Planning:**

It was decided that rather than changing the bylaws, a better education of them is needed. The committee is currently working on faculty/staff compensation and the school's mission and values.

**Moved to Working Session at 4:10 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Newstrom

Secretary