



**Stella Maris Academy Board Meeting**

**November 2, 2017**

Diocese of Duluth Pastoral Center

**Present:** Bob Lisi (Chair), Fr. James Bissonette, Fr. Peter Muhich, Fr. Ryan Moravitz, Fr. Richard Kunst, Paul Fitzgerald, Mary Lou Jennings, Laura Schauer, Stephen Olson, Cynthia Zook, Karen Newstrom, Interim President Hilaire Hauer *ex officio*

**Excused:** Sister Edith Bogue

1. Opening prayer

- a. Chair Bob Lisi opened the meeting at 4:04pm and led the group in prayer.

Approval of the Agenda. By acclamation.

2. Mission Moments

- a. President Hilaire Hauer noted families have told her how thrilled they are with SMA. She also shared an experience of a distraught student who was calmed by an artwork of Jesus, Mary and angels in the school.
- b. Cynthia Zook was pleased to see so many from the St. Michael's community at the Scholarship Dinner, and expressed thanks to the young girl who spoke there, which was echoed by the board. She also was delighted to see the various saints which students dressed as for All Saints Day.
- c. Fr. Ryan Moravitz talked of the attention and questions he received as the result of wearing his SMA jacket during his recent trip to Rome.

3. Public Comment

- a. Jennifer Deming, Executive President of the Family Association, reported that an all-school Halloween Carnival was successfully held last Friday. A middle school lock-in at the St. James campus is coming up. The St. John's campus will host a winter activity, probably during Catholic Schools Week, and St. James will host in spring. Association by-laws are being worked on. The Cathedral Pastoral Council questioned where the money from the school-wide work-a-thon will go. Paul Fitzgerald confirmed it will be put towards funding the general budget.



b. Julianne Blazevic, principal at the St. James campus, noted that the accreditation visit was successful with no surprises on the committee's lists of SMA's strengths and weaknesses. The committee was excited to see our three campuses and had a very positive regard for the school.

4. Approval of minutes

Minutes of the October 5<sup>th</sup> board meeting were reviewed. Request was made to add Karen Newstrom to members present and make a spelling correction. **Moved and seconded. Carried.**

5. Approval of Public Comment Policy

**Motion** by Stephen Olson to approve the Public Comment Policy as presented. **Approved unanimously.**

6. President's Update

Enrollment is strong and tours are scheduled for more potential students. A discussion followed concerning an outreach to those families who left this year. A Girls Night Out, Boys Night In event is being planned to reconnect with middle school students who have left. Laura Schauer suggested also sending letters reaching out to former school families.

The accreditation team was impressed with how far we've come. Strengths include an administration that is admired and trusted, strong instructional strategies and a solid mission statement. Concerns seen are a perhaps overly-aggressive School Strategic Plan and the challenge of getting the high school up and running. The MNSAA board will review the findings at their December meeting and we should hear back from them in January. As a side note, Cynthia, Hilaire and Julianne will attend a MNSAA conference tomorrow.

**Motion** by Fr. Ryan Moravitz, seconded to extend appreciation to all those involved in the successful completion of the school accreditation visit and submittals. **Approved unanimously.**

7. High School Task Force

The High School Task Force currently has five outside members, with an open invitation to all SMA board members. They will meet at noon tomorrow and will report to the board. Concern was expressed about the lack of a clear budget for the school. Also, SMA currently does not have uniformity among its two campuses concerning which grades

comprise middle school. How will we bridge our middle school into high school? Bob Lisi suggested three focus groups be created to (1) determine a Unified Middle School Structure, (2) determined the next steps on the President position and (3) develop a 3 to 5 year financial model for the school, inclusive of high school programming. **Moved and seconded. Carried.**

8. Committee Updates

- a. Development Committee: Mary Lou Jennings reported that the Scholarship Dinner netted \$107,000. This year's honorary chair, George Goldfarb, has graciously offered to chair next year as well. Erin Makela would like to take over organizing the dinner next year, with Mary Lou Jennings acting as a consultant. Catholic Schools Week appeals need to be sent out. The possibility of using the Scholarship Dinner list and using Redicker for its donor management capability was discussed. The work-a-thon gained \$67,000. We will have a spring benefit dinner in place of the dinner and auctions held at each school in the past. A motion was made to gratefully acknowledge those who helped make the dinner a success, especially Erin Makala and Mary Lou Jennings. Carried unanimously.
- b. Facilities: Fr. Peter Muhich stated that a new range hood with proper ventilation is needed in the Holy Rosary campus kitchen to meet certification for certain food service activities, particularly open flame cooking. This will be an expensive addition.

9. Executive Session

The Board went into Executive Session at 5:28pm to discuss staffing. The Board returned to Open Session at 5:51pm.

- 10. Closing prayer was led by Fr. Peter Muhich. The meeting adjourned at 5:51 pm.

## Important Dates for Board Members

### 2018 Board Meeting Dates - Location TBD

(First Thursday of every month from 4-5:30pm unless noted otherwise)

Board Meeting (4:00-5:30pm)	Executive Committee Meeting
January 4	December 21
February 1	January 18
March 1 (Annual meeting)	February 15
April 12 (moved from April 5 due to spring break)	March 22
May 3	April 19
June 7 (board retreat)	May 24
July 12 (due to July 4 <sup>th</sup> holiday)	June 21
August 2	July 19
September 6	August 23
October 4	September 20
November 8 (moved from Nov. 1 due to All Saints Day)	October 18
December 6	November 29 (moved from Nov. 22 due to Thanksgiving)

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Karen Newstrom*