



BOARD MEETING MINUTES
STELLA MARIS ACADEMY
May 3, 2018

Present:

Bob Lisi, *Chair*; Paul Fitzgerald, Fr. Richard Kunst, *Vice Chair; Treasurer*; Sister Edith Bogue, *Secretary*; Laura Schauer; Karen Newstrom; Fr Ryan Moravitz, Fr. Peter Muhich, Stephen Olson; Cynthia Zook, *Director of Schools, ex officio*; Hilaire Hauer, *President, ex officio*; Bishop Paul Sirba, *ex officio*

Staff: Mike Mazzio, Business Manager

Visitors: Barry Bigelow

Excused: Fr James Bissonnette

Bob Lisi called the meeting to order at 3:10pm. Fr. Peter Muhich offered the opening prayer.

1. Fr. Ryan moved to approve the Agenda; seconded. Carried.

2. Mission Moments

An elderly woman stopped into the office with a jar of pennies. She said that it belonged to Fr. G (Golobisch). She had seen that the kids were having a penny war, so she brought it in to donate it. She had no other connection to the school.

A Board member reported learning to pronounce "magnanimity" and realizing that, in another school, he wouldn't be having that conversation with a 7th grader.

Grandparents for spring program at the Holy Rosary Campus were impressed, saying "I can't believe how well-behaved the kids are and how good the program is." They said that they didn't see that behavior elsewhere.

3. The minutes of the April 12, 2018 Board meeting were corrected to reflect those in attendance accurately. Fr. Ryan Moravitz moved approval. Seconded. Carried.

4. Public comment. None.

5. Next steps on the Formation Model and the SSP.

Visit to St. Agnes School had to be rescheduled from its April date because of a snow day. It is now scheduled for May 8. Getting principals, teachers, staff, and board to see and hear the story at St. Agnes is the next step. It makes the options visible and tangible, and shows us how one transition was successfully made.



The Board asks that those attending the visit write short reports of the small groups in which they participate at St. Agnes. These will share knowledge to all who attended and to the full Board.

6. Solicitation of new Board members.

The form is online, and some applications have come in. These will be read, explored and vetted to put forward a slate from which Bishop Sirba can appoint new members.

There was much discussion about the qualities and skills we are seeking in a Board member. Fund-raising and finance were mentioned. Others spoke of the need to have members who are enthusiastic about Catholic education, eager to promote it.

Barry Bigelow spoke of fund-raising and development as a skill that can be learned, not an inherent quality. While we might seek someone who has those skills, we should also seek to develop competence within the Board and staff.

Fr. Kunst raised the question of whether we should invite someone to the Board if their children were not at Stella Maris Academy or had not been in Catholic Schools. All recognized that there might be reasons a child needed to be in a different school. However, Board members are more believable advocates for Stella Maris if they have entrusted their children to the school.

7. High School Update

Nothing new from the High School Task Force.

Discussion about better ways to communicate about the High School, including the possibility of adding a page to the website. This might help to dispel false rumors, such as the idea that tuition was raised to make the High School possible.

Further discussion focused on the feasibility of the high school. There are families who are interested and ready to be pioneers. However, the staff of our current Pre-K through 8 school is stretched very thin, especially in the time of transition. They could not devote time to the tremendous amount of planning for curriculum and location, nor to the marketing and other functions.

The other primary issue is budget. With our current struggle to reach a balanced budget for the PreK-8 programs for 2018-2019, it is hard to see where the funding for the High School would be found.

A member said that, in essence, we have two major undertakings on the table: the unification of the previous parochial schools and the creation of a high school. The process of combining three schools and building a new school culture is difficult, emotional, and time consuming. It may not let us devote enough time and energy to a second effort.

8. Financial Review and Staffing

Fr Ryan Moravitz moved that the Board enter Executive Session, inviting Mike Mazzio (*Business Manager*) and Barry Bigelow to participate in the discussion of financials. Seconded. Carried.

The Board went into Executive Session at 4:25pm.

Julianne Blazevic, *Principal*, joined the session midway.

Before the discussion of staffing, Barry Bigelow departed from the meeting.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 5:20pm.

Motions passed during Executive Session:

Motion by Fr. Ryan Moravitz to invite Julianne Blazevic into Executive Session. Seconded. Carried.

Motion by Paul Fitzgerald, Seconded. To seek lines of credit from parishes with terms commensurate with the income the parish is receiving on bank accounts or CDs. That these lines of credit are intended to be short term. To empower the President and Business Manager to negotiate these terms. Seconded. Carried.

Motion by Sister Edith Bogue, seconded. That any unrestricted grant or bequest over \$100,000 received in 2018 will be used for debt reduction before other purposes. Carried.

9. Karen Newstrom moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded. Carried.

The meeting closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Sister Edith Bogue