



BOARD MEETING MINUTES
STELLA MARIS ACADEMY
September 6, 2018

Present: Bob Lisi, *Chair*; Fr. Richard Kunst, *Vice Chair*; Paul Fitzgerald, *Treasurer*; Barry Bigelow, Fr. Drew Braun, Sharon Mollerus, Karen Newstrom, Steve Olson, Fr Peter Muhich, Laura Schauer, Fr. James Bissonnette (joined at 4:40pm), Cynthia Zook, Director of Schools, *ex officio*; Hilaire Hauer, President, *ex officio*.

Excused: Sister Edith Bogue, Fr. Ryan Moravitz

Opening: After prayer, the meeting opened at 3:10 pm.

Welcome: Chair Bob Lisi welcomed the visitors.

Mission Moments: Board members shared times when they saw the Stella Maris Academy mission made visible.

- The vocational prayer calendar includes prayer on the 31st of each month for “future seminarians and religious,” some of whom may be present students in our school. A quote from Daniel Webster also reminds us that the work we do with young minds will have a lasting effect.
- The blessing of the new playground at the St. James campus, which is made possible through generous donors, was a touching event.
- Children of one board member are coming home from school happy, making it a good start to the school year.

Public Comment: Stephanie Winter expressed her support for Catholic high school programming and said many other home school families are also in favor of it.

Approval of August 2 Board Meeting Minutes: There was discussion about how to record public comments in minutes with recommendation to record the names of those who spoke, and a summary of comments received. Motion by Mr. Bigelow to approve the minutes with such editing. Seconded. **The motion carried.**



Development Committee: Mr. Bigelow and President Hauer offered the following update on current development activities and the formation of the Development Committee, which will begin meeting next month with several new members.

- Development management software will be explored as well as mobile applications that may make donations easier through mobile devices.
- The Bishops Scholarship Dinner Committee is actively seeking table sponsorships. Board members are encouraged to assist in identifying sponsors.
- New this year, the Work-A-Thon event will recognize corporate sponsorships with their logo on the back of the event shirts.
- Stellabration is scheduled for Friday, May 10th which is the day before fishing opener. The organizing committee was advised to not hold the event during Lent which limits the available weekends in the spring. The Board supported keeping the date as scheduled.

Finance Committee: Mr. Fitzgerald reviewed the Finance Committee minutes with the following highlights.

- We continue to monitor developments with the Cassie Trust with uncertainty as to when a distribution will be received.
- The Business Office and Principals continue to work with families who have delinquent accounts and are reaching positive outcomes.
- A recommendation that will be brought to the Business Office is to start the 10-month payment plan option in August so all payments are completed in May.
- The annual financial/administrative report is in progress with a report due to the Diocese by the end of September.
- General discussion was held to establish a draft 2019/2020 budget with major assumptions for the November board meeting so that subsequent financial decisions can be made such as tuition and staff compensation.

SMA Strategic Plan Review: Members focused discussion on Objective 1 with the following updates.

- Faculty have begun exploring five areas to advance our focus on Catholic Liberal Education; shared inquiry, book lists, memorization, religion curriculum, and Latin. Primary focus for this school year is on shared inquiry. Items requiring funds for implementation will be identified and prioritized.
- We will continue to work with St. Agnes School as we learn more about Catholic Liberal Education.
- President Hauer presented a proposal to send an SMA team to the Institute for Catholic Liberal Education conference at Our Lady of Lourdes in Denver in November. Funding to

attend this conference will be sought while there is an impending deadline to register for the conference.

Motion: Fr. Peter Muhich moved to send President Hauer, Principals Murray, Frederickson, and Blazevic and three teachers to the ICLE workshop in Denver. Seconded. **The motion carried.**

Executive Session

The Board entered Executive Session at 4:20 pm. The Board exited Executive Session at 5:08 pm.

Adjournment was at 5:10 pm, following a closing prayer led by Fr. Peter Muhich.

Respectfully submitted,

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Karen Newstrom