

SMCS Board of Trustees' Meeting

Wednesday, August 20, 2018 - 6:30 p.m.

Present: Helen Englebert, Nancy Braatz, Kathleen Healy Osland, Lori Vegso, Phil Kerwin, Kristen Bergstrom, Paul Seveska, Kim Massey, Dan Engelhard, Steve Pable, Pat Breen, Ron Steffens, Brian Rosiejka, Terry Jack, Steve Pable and Mary Krueger

Absent/Excused: Fr. Paider Fr. Bergsbaken, Fr. Seidl and Dustin McClone.

Opening Prayer: Ms. Healy-Osland began the meeting at 6:30 p.m. and led the group in opening prayer.

Open Forum: No one present.

Consent Agenda: Consent Agenda items included the Board Minutes from June 20, 2018 and Executive Committee Minutes from 08/13/2018. Motion to approve by Mr. Seveska. Second by Ms. Massey. Motion passed.

New Board Members Welcomed: The board welcomed Terry Jack, Brian Roseijka and Ron Steffens to the board. Returning board members invited to introduce themselves to each of them after the meeting.

New Staff Introduced: Two new members of the high school administration were introduced. These were Ms. Sarah Graper – New Director of Development and Ms. Patti Fouts – High School Principal.

President's Report: Ms. Englebert presented her written report to the board. Copy of report is attached. In verbal comments, President Englebert highlighted that staffing was going well and there were still a few open positions.

New Grading System: Discussion was had around the new grading system at the High School level. New grading system will be implemented in 2018-2019. Grade scale review was started by School Counselor Ms. Julie Castegna and President Ms. Helen Englebert last year. Principal Ms. Patti Fouts discussed new scale. One goal of the revisions is to level playing field for our students for scholarships and college admissions. Another goal is to expand lower level of grading scale to give realistic targets for students on that end of the grading scale. During the process the grading systems of over 30 public and private schools were surveyed. SMCS was an outlier at the high end. New grade scale will be forward looking. No previous grades will be changed. New system may require some changes to valedictorian determination. This is being examined by Ms. Engelbert, Ms. Fouts and their staff. School staff was informed in the morning of the day of the Board Meeting. So far reaction has been mostly positive. In response to questions, Board was informed that the new scale is still at the high end in the area. We are now consistent with high performing private schools. New scale is attached.

Strategic Plan Refresh/Board Committees and Task Forces: Ms. Vegso led discussion/review of strategic plan. Updates to Recruitment were discussed and the strategic initiatives reviewed. Ms. Healy-Osland guided Board that goal is to adopt Strategic Plan and populate Board roles on Task Force and Committees. All committees and task forces should have goals in place by September Meeting. If Board members have ideas for committees, they should communicate those by this time

Motion to approve the Strategic Plan Refresh was made by Mr. Seveska Motion seconded by Ms. Bergstrom. Motion unanimously approved. Board members seemed comfortable with current committee and task force assignments.

Finances: Ms. Jeanne Lee answered questions on financial statements. Mr. Englehard asked for clarification of \$125,000 in operating surplus and net liabilities improvement ytd by \$581,000. Ms. Lee speculated that improvement in both areas due to Miller Bequest and School Choice. Less expenses in staffing (\$100,000). Less money had to be written off. Title funds for programs helped. Two key metrics for financial stability: Operating surplus and net liabilities. Both are moving in positive direction. Question asked is when are these improvements such that we can use these funds. Ms. Braatz asked if audit might change the numbers. Ms. Lee said that she does not believe so. Modified 2018-2019 budget coming in September. Should be available for October meeting.

Enrollment question: Board asked about state of enrollment. Numbers are 845 this year versus 854 a year ago. We are down foreign students. We would like 12 to 15. We had 11 last year. SDS program delegate visit in Spring 2018 was very favorable. But, we have only 8 this year. Neighboring school are down as well, some as many as 20. Chinese students are going elsewhere. Sue Thelen has worked hard to get us the 8 we have. Discussion of possibility of foreign students from other countries at middle school level. We will move forward with this. Ms. Massey will meet with delegate and Middle School Principal Jill Ahles. In the future, we may need to look at other countries.

Motion to adjourn: Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Seveska, seconded by Ms. Braatz. Unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned 7:35 p.m.

Next Meeting: September 19th, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. First 30 minutes will be allocated to auditor's report. Main meeting will begin after session with auditor.

Respectfully submitted,

Phillip Kerwin

