

SMCS Board of Trustees – Meeting Minutes

Meeting held February 15, 2023

Mission: Preparing and inspiring students to lead meaningful lives, rooted in the teachings of Christ, in our Catholic tradition.

Attendance:

Present: Daniel McKenna, Phil Kerwin, Bryan Rosiejka, Dr David DeWitt, William Bittner, Leila Mousai, Ron Schreier, Ron Steffen, Meghan Healey, Mary Krueger, Fr Bob Kollath, Fr Nonito, Kristen Bergstrom, Fr Judah Pigon

Missing: Terry Jack,

Guests: Bill Acton, Brian Fairholm, Steve Pable, Chris Decker

BOT MEETING START TIME: 6:30 PM

Opening Prayer: Bill Bittner

MOTION:

CONSENT RESOLUTION

- Ron Steffen moved to accept the January BOT and executive committee meeting minutes
- Second by Ron Schreier
- Call to vote – unanimous
- Motion carried

OPEN FORUM

- Bill Acton (view all on a presentation)
 - Three senior partners involved.
 - Review occurred from October thru January
 - 26 interviews taken place
 - Review of
 - Background information
 - Financials
 - Individual giving histories
 - Objectives
 - Williness to support school
 - Range of potential fundraising
 - Recommends a strategy.
 - Prepare a budget
 - Feedback
 - Vision of the future
 - Operational needs of the school
 - Quality of school leadership
 - Giving capacity

- Advancement efforts at SMC
- Challenges the school faces in an endowment campaign
- Key findings
 - Deep fondness in schools
 - Strong tradition of generosity
 - Tuition is affordable relative to competitors
 - Facilities are outstanding
 - Investments are strong though still short
 - Current finances allow for low tuition but foreshadows mid and long term challenges.
 - Have 8 million but really need 20 – 25 million for upcoming challenges
 - Should be doubling the 8 million in the near future
 - Great Teachers!!
 - Normally tuition funds 70% of the educational costs and SMCS is at 35%
 - Fundraising is strong
 - Little has been done to broaden stakeholders
 - Missing a potential 3 – 5 million
 - SMC needs to move forward to continue momentum and stay ahead of future challenges
 - Board and school leaders must rally around a long term funding model and culture of philanthropy that will secure the future
- Sample pyramid shown
 - Top 12 gifts should equal 61% of the total gift giving
- Recommendations
 - Move to prep phase followed by major gift solicitation
 - Begin prep now
 - Sustain momentum
 - Cash flow will start second half of calendar year
 - There is an urgency to get started
 - Study and board work should be the foundation for support
 - Use campaign model as a permanent sustainable major gift model
 - Market it and sell it to get momentum going
- Planning on voting on the advancement of the campaign to occur at a later Bot meeting

SUPERINTENDANT REPORT

- Focus on the core functions of the school
 - Find time to improve the methods of teaching our students
 - Open to different ways to get to that goal
 - Working hard to improve the culture of the school
 - Intentionally building leaders
 - Through curriculars and extra curriculars
 - How do we equip our students to be leaders?
 - Major goals for next year are staffing and curriculum
 - No questions were raised about the tuition increase letter

- No known negativity
 - Many 8 to 9 grade transitioning students have already signed up for HS
 - 47 new students already enrolling for next year
 - Right now is it hard to determine if that is a good number, looking at around 115 new students to cover attrition
 - Tim Bergstrom reached out to push parents to cover full tuition cost
 - Not generated by SMC
 - Currently have about 17 committed to full price
- Steve Pable on Bishops letter
 - Steve has actual letter
 - As well as the study guide
 - Diocesan communication
 - Been worked on for a while
 - Acting as chief catechist
 - Should be important to us, as it was for the Bishop
 - Imports not to share as leaders of the Church
 - Trying to communicate a sense of unity
 - Invitation to missionary discipleship
 - Seven parts to the pastoral letter
 - Remember not so much the information, but the transformation
 - Jesus at the center
 - Not as much about obligation
 - Disciple pedagogy
 - Discover Jesus
 - Follow Jesus
 - Worship Jesus
 - Share Jesus
 - Rediscover the power and beauty of the Mass
 - No holy numbers to qualitatively measure changes in our lives
 - How do we continue to become disciples on the way
 - Father Bob to lead some of this in the BOT meetings in the future

FINANCE COMMITTEE

- Bill speaking
 - Shared on minutes
 - On BOT packet
 - Link in to letter to tuition increase
 - Competitive tuition shown
 - Similar increases in other schools
 - Still room to grow in tuition
 - Minor changes to the budget but no real change to deficit
 - Still needs approval by the Bishop
 - Phil suggests additional funds be used for funding deficit first

- Dan mentioned any additional funds are to be discussed with the BOT first

MOTION

Bill motioned to propose approval of the deficit budget

Kristin second

Call to vote – unanimous

Motion carried

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Dave and Chris are responsible for the Committee charter binder
 - Leila to refresh in two weeks
- Bryan reactivate the athletic committee
 - Forming goals
 - Bryan to forward goals to Leila soon
 - Matt running athletics so well the committee really hasn't been needed
 - Starting 11 man a year earlier, from Matt's work
- Governance committee
 - No meeting this month
 - More people asking about the BOT
 - About 10 individuals interested in the BOT
 - Phill got the BOT website working
 - Invite for your email for repository coming this week

OLD BUSINESS

- No old business

NEW BUSINESS

- Dioceses corporate meeting will be March 15th
- Any questions should be directed to Phil or Dan

MOTION

Ron Schreier motioned to give Director authority to sign in behalf of SMC

Get details from email

Second by Meghan

Call to vote – unanimous

Motion carried

- Operating calendar will be refreshed for next month
- March 15 is Diocese corporate meeting AND BOT meeting
 - Should we skip the March meeting
 - Send the packet out and decide if we need to meet

- Can send out a presentation of BOT candidates
- Proposing cancelling the March BOT
- Encouraged to attend the Diocese corporate meeting
- Will be hosted at SMCHS
- Any updates will be emailed.

MOTION

- Ron Schreier moved to begin executive session
- Second by Leila Mousai
- Call to vote – unanimous
- Motion carried

MOTION

- Dr David DeWitt moved to end the executive session
- Second by Ron Schreier
- Call to vote – unanimous
- Motion carried

MOTION

- Ron Schreier moved to end the BOT meeting
- Second by Meghan Healey
- Call to vote – unanimous
- Motion carried

Meeting ended at 8:22 PM