

## SMCS Board of Trustees – Meeting Minutes

Meeting held September 20, 2023

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

Attendance:

Present: Leila Mousai, Daniel McKenna, Ron Steffen, Kristen Bergstrom, Meghan Healy, Bryan Rosiejka, Paul Seveska (via phone), William Bittner, Patti Purcell, Ron Schreier, Ron Steffen, Rev. Judah Pigon

Missing: Father Mike Lightner, Fr. Nonito, Barra Dr David DeWitt, Troy Noel

Guests: Kathleen McCurdy, Justina Pleman

BOT MEETING START TIME: 6:32 PM

Opening Prayer: Kristen Bergstrom

MOTION:

CONSENT RESOLUTION

- Ron Steffen moved to accept the May BOT. Ron to reconstruct September BOT minutes after gathering information from BOT members
- Second by Ron Schreier
- Call to vote – unanimous
- Motion carried

OPEN FORUM

- No open forum

INTRODUCTION OF NEW DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT

- Dan introduced Kathleen McCurdy as our new Director of Advancement
  - Her family moved to the area and registered their oldest children for Pre-School at St. Margaret Mary 17 years ago
  - Her youngest is now a Sophomore at SMCHS and feels full circle to be working more formally with SMCS now
  - She looks forward to working closely with Dan McKenna and Kristen Bergstrom in addition to Ryan Valentine, the SMCS Foundation President

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

- Justina Plemon updated the BOT on recent technology advancements
  - St. Mary Catholic Schools is integrating technology into the curriculum content, rather than having a separate technology class.
  - SMCS is adding a new position of Instructional Technology Coach to support faculty and staff with this transition.

- SMCS believes that this change will benefit students by providing more opportunities to practice using technology in a meaningful and relevant context, and by helping students meet the technological standards set forth by the Diocese of Green Bay.
- SMCS is committed to ensuring a smooth transition and providing the best education possible for its students.

#### ENDOWMENT PLANNING UPDATE

- Working with advancement partner to set up event
  - Submitting invites
    - Should see them soon
  - Video to be shown at the event and then meet with potential candidates
    - Shows that we are serious
    - About 110 couples invited
- Goal is 20 million dollars
- Telling our guests something is coming and get the case statement at the event
  - May still ask for a number based on the audience
- Miller funds are a bridge to get to the goal of 20 million
  - But want to save Miller funds as much as possible

#### UPDATE ON CAPITAL PROJECT

- Capital project/construction project
  - Work is underway for conversion of the VEX building into an outdoor locker room and Athletics classroom.
  - An additional project will start over the next summer, visionary project from donor for black box changes
  - Not a number one priority but needed to be done
    - Good project for making things happen for our donors
  - Working on other spots for equipment that was in the black box
  - Will help raise visibility of STEM program
    - Will run STEM better in the black box
  - Other than theater, not much use of the black box
    - Can be used on the weekend for other events

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Enrollment update
  - 977 current enrollments
  - St. Mary and St. Margaret Mary having enrolment declining, some going to St Gabriel's instead
  - No new 3-year-olds in preschool
  - Post covid likely caused some backward movement
  - Need to promote a little more and get more visibility particularly at St. Margaret Mary

- There was a suggestion to offer high school requirement service hours and run facilities at St. Margaret Mary
- Maybe offering service hour daycare for Sundays at St. Margaret Mary
  - Empty room available for options
- Lost some international students
  - Seems more international student are less interested in coming to US
  - Seemingly no reason on our side to lose international students
  - Xavier also lost international students
- Middle school and high school enrollment looking good
  - But need new young students to keep attrition
- Dan discussed the new cell phone policy
- Dan commented on changes to the conduct policy

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Finance committee update from Bill Bittner
  - State of Wisconsin voucher rates have increased
    - Surplus in WI helped
    - 16% increase K – 8
    - 36% for high school, budgeted a 2% increase
    - Adds up to approximately \$450,000 additional funding
    - Rates for next year will be about 3% over that
    - Big help for this year
    - Some schools in Milwaukee have 100% choice students
    - Good chance School Choice is not going away
    - The Bishop has some concerns about potential ‘adjustments’ to the school to meet the needs of school choice students
    - Need to educate the Bishop on the importance of School Choice
      - Many are catholic families
      - Should be OK as long as there aren’t impactful strings attached
    - Now we are at about a \$85,000 deficit
      - Modified budget the reason for minor change versus seemly large income gain
        - About 16 families paid the full price
        - Seem to be way behind in donations
        - Missed out on about \$175,000 of food program costs
        - Need to reflect on changes in salaries, always a churn
        - Need to hold people accountable for their budgets
          - Need to come up with a method
- Governance committee update from Bryan Rosiejka
  - Meeting held September 13
  - Started the recruitment process
  - Discussed the potential for an attendance policy

- Reminder to turn in conflict of interest forms and confidentiality agreements
  - Reminder to provide updated Charters to the Governance committee
  - Meghan Healy presented the results of the BOT self-evaluation
- Athletic committee update from Bryan Rosiejka
  - Working with Matt Schoultz to schedule a meeting
- Catholic Community committee
  - Bryan noted that the Catholic Community committee was being revised
  - Phil, Mary and Dan started working on a new Charter
  - Kristen will work with Dan to complete the Charter

#### OLD BUSINESS

- No old business to discuss

#### New Business

- Kristen provided an update on the calendar development

Closing Prayer – Rev. Judah Pigon

#### MOTION

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

Meeting ended at 7:42 PM