



St Mary's - St Alphonsus

Regional Catholic School

St. Mary's-St. Alphonsus Regional Catholic School Regular Meeting of the School Board December 4, 2023

Board Members

Father Scott Van Derveer (Pastor), Patrick Gormley (Principal), Kathy McNulty (President), Patti Siano (VP), Kate Fowler (Secretary), Theresa Aslin (PTSA), Francine Buser, Janet Curley, Rachel Dutra, Rosario Gallo, Mark Olechowski, Mary Tully. **Absent:** Nancy Underwood.

Guests: Sally Behan, Jennifer Casolaro

Meeting

- Kathy McNulty called the meeting to order at 5:46 PM.
- Father Scott offered the opening prayer.
- Roll call was called by Kate Fowler.
- Kathy McNulty read the Board's Mission Statement and explained procedure for community members to offer comments or ask questions at end of meeting.
- Approval of tonight's agenda - **Motion:** Janet Curley; **Second:** Rachel Dutra; **Motion carried.**
- October's meeting minutes were approved and sent out. (There was no meeting in November).

Pastor's Report

- **Finance:**
 - The Gala was held on December 2, 2023. Total revenue is still to be determined. Every dollar of revenue supports the SMA accessibility project.
 - It is important to begin Phase 1 of the accessibility project soon. Riley Thayer, the architect, attended the Gala.
 - There is a possibility that the original elevator shaft may be used if it can be brought up to code.
 - Many thanks to Gary and Lisa Patton, and to all who helped, for their work on the Gala.
 - This may be an annual event (with an honoree) at the beginning of Catholic Schools Week each year.
 - Outside events such as this are important to pursue; the Great Hall is in demand.
 - A survey was done of the staff regarding the temperature in the building; the overheating problems have been resolved.
- **Parent Communication/Relationship:**
 - PTSA is working to build community with parents post COVID.
 - Monthly events: A SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) sheet to help volunteers should be created for each event.
 - Upcoming events:
 - 1/27/24 60s & 70s Dance;
 - 1/28/24 Catholic Schools Week Open House
 - 3/16/24 Trivia Night
- **Enrollment:**
 - We will celebrate the 30th Anniversary of Noah's Ark soon!
 - Enrollment looks encouraging for the coming year.
 - We should determine and provide parents information regarding the true cost of educating a child at SMA.
 - How do we get the message out about the benefits of attending SMA?

Principal's Report:

- SMA is on a solid path.
- Thank you to all who worked at the Gala, especially Gary and Lisa Patton.
- We have hired 2 new veteran teachers to help students with learning challenges: a retired speech therapist and a retired special education teacher. SMA teachers can make recommendations based on student assessments. This is in addition to regular special education services already provided. We also have a volunteer counselor.
- 8 Firedrills have been completed.
- Lockdown drills will begin after mid-terms. Mr. Gormley is working with the Glens Falls Police Department and with the New York State Police to implement drills.
- 12/8/23 Elf Day for students and faculty
- 12/16/23 Ugly Sweater Day.
- 1/15/24 Mid-term exams will take place. Middle School parents will be notified about the procedure and the weight of these exams.
- We are piloting an online typing course (Duolingo) for our 6th graders. Duolingo is an American educational technology company that produces learning apps.
- Miss Casola is taking our students to the Hyde; Mrs. Stocker is taking students to the Synagogue. Both field trips are meant to expose students to different religions and cultures.
- Upcoming Concerts - Each child will be given 4 tickets. Info is going home.
 - 12/14/23 - Chorale
 - 12/19/23 Instrumental
- Girls and Boys basketball teams are off to a strong start and are doing well. A parent has purchased shirts for the team. Thank you to Coach Dave, who is doing a great job. Outside families (coming to games) are asking about the school.
- We are looking into the possibility of renovating the trophy cases and creating an SMA Athletic Hall of Fame.

Committees/Teams

1. **Catholic Identity** (Kathy McNulty)

- Kathy asked that each team provide their 3-5 year goals to be sent to Mark and Nancy on the Finance Committee.
- We are planning to welcome newly baptized children with a small gift.
- The committee members will be sending Sally Behan monthly prayers to be printed in the Kerry Blue.
- Elaine Stocker is looking into a staff Bible study and a student Bible study.
- Sacraments: Lisa Patton has proposed that students make their sacraments during Catholic Schools Week.
- 12/12/23 Reconciliation from 10 AM - 12 Noon.
- 12/18/23 SMA 6th grade will host the Christmas themed Mass.
- 1/4/24 Catholic ID Committee will meet to discuss Catholic Schools Week and Open House.

2. **Finance** (Mark Olechowski)

- Grant funding is up.
- Fundraising is down (July-October) 4700.00 budgeted/3800.00 actual
- Annual letter is scheduled to go out this month.

3. **Recruitment and Enrollment** (Kathy McNulty)

- Back to School Night was a success. Setting up groups in the Great Hall worked well.
- Except for Noah's Ark and Kindergarten, Open House was poorly attended,
- "Be a Kerry Dog for a Day" is being planned.

Recruitment and Enrollment (continued)

- The Kerry Blue and the SMA website are much improved.
- The Evangelist is hosting an essay contest, "Why I Love My School." Terri McGraw will provide the rules.
- The Parent Survey has gone out; it will close on 12/17. We hope all families will participate.
- There will be an enrollment summit meeting before the holidays.
- Sally Behan is working with Lisa Lehman to create palm cards for display and distribution to school visitors during basketball season. Sally and Lisa are also working on "good news" postcards that teachers will send home to parents.
- Catholic Schools Week: Open House in Great Hall on 1/28/24 - after 11:15 Mass. There will be an art exhibit. Parishioners will be invited for coffee hour at that time. The SMA Ambassadors program has been put on hold.
- The next meeting is 12/11/23.

Note: A discussion ensued regarding possibly creating informational materials to be placed at events such as the Thanksgiving Breakfast, etc. These materials would provide talking points for parents to share with others in order to promote SMA.

4. Buildings and Grounds (Mary Tully)

- The Archive Room is finished. History information (ancestor's photos, yearbooks, etc.) are easy to find. Class rosters are tucked away but still accessible.
- Mary attended the finance committee meeting to understand how budget works. It is suggested that we create a capital campaign for necessary projects.

5. PTSA (Theresa Aslin)

- 12/6/23 *Dine to Donate* at Chipotle. 4:00 PM-8:00 PM; 33% of proceeds will be donated to SMA.
- 12/15/23 *Drop and Shop Night*. Parents may drop off students for Pizza and the Polar Express Movie.
- 12/16/23 Hockey Night at the Adirondack Thunder Game.

Grant Task Force (Janet Curley)

- Committee is focused solely on identifying multiple grants for the accessibility project; other grants are on hold for now.

Sub-Committee

a. Lunch (Rachel Dutra)

- Strengths
 - Students are enjoying lunches.
 - Ashley Wood and Gary Patton have been very supportive.
 - 12/20/23 Stewart's Flavor Cow visits.
 - SMA Volunteers are working out well. There are 5-6 steady volunteers.
 - We are ordering from CISCO.
 - Dishwasher works well now; we will buy a freexer.
 - FACTS continues to be an issue in terms of ordering lunch.
- Goals
 - More ala carte items to be added;
 - We are reviewing NYS Child Nutrition requirements.
 - Kathy McNulty will contact volunteers to get them VIRTUS trained.

Old Business

- None

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- 12/13/23 SMA Parking Fundraiser - to support freezer purchase
- 01/22/24 Tentative in-service with John Lefner, CEO of Hyde to discuss running a not-for-profit institution.

Other Business

- Patti Siano thanked Sally Behan for her hard work on the Kerry Blue and the SMA Website.

The meeting adjourned at 7:17 PM.
The next meeting will be Monday, January 22, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Fowler, Secretary