



# St Mary's - St Alphonsus

Regional Catholic School

## St. Mary's-St. Alphonsus Regional Catholic School Regular Meeting of the School Board September 25, 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, Nancy Underwood. **Absent:** Anne Casola.

**Guests:** Sally Behan, Michael Feeder, Amy Noonan, Joy Smith, Noreen Harris, Bonnie Smith.

### Meeting

- Kathy McNulty called the meeting to order at 5:51 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:** Theresa Aslin; **Motion carried.**
- August's meeting minutes were approved and sent out.

### Pastor's Report

#### 1. **Building Financial Picture**

- A 16,000. grant has been secured with the help of Betty Little. A firm that specializes in the work of Ralph Adams Cram is creating an architectural plan to make the school more accessible.
- The Parish's 175<sup>th</sup> year gala is being planned for December 2, 2023. Ticket sales are going quickly and will cover the gala's expenses. We are looking for sponsors at the \$5,000. level - also through ads in the program. The goal is \$15,000. in profit, all of which will go toward the accessibility project. Father emphasized the importance of the relationship between the school and the parish for various activities and projects.

#### 2. **Strengthening Community & Family**

- Back-to-School Night (September 26, 2023, 6:00 PM- 8:00 PM). Parents will visit classrooms for casual conversations with teachers.
- Fundraising - The Noonan family is working on a fundraising handbook.
- Parking for Civic Center events – St. Mary's Parish and the Law Offices of FitzGerald Morris Baker Firth are donating their parking lots to SMSA for events. We are looking into vinyl signage and reflective vests.

- SMSA is looking into developing guidelines and standardizing fees for the athletic program and for enrichment programs, as well.
- BLOOMZ - staff is being trained on this communication platform, which will serve both the school and the parish. The cost of this is being shared by both.

### **3. Increasing Enrollment**

- Noah's Ark – 82
- K through 8 – 98
- Tours are continuing

## **Principal's Report**

1. Opening day went smoothly.
2. A letter was sent to parents describing COVID protocols that will be followed this year.
3. Fire drills are about to begin.
4. New teachers have acclimated well. Thank you to veteran teachers who have been helpful.
5. School climate is spirited. Morning prayer is an important way to start the day.
6. Thank you to Anne Casola, the SMSA i-Ready testing coordinator, and to Michelle Waters, who is helping with this. Teachers are getting students ready for NYS tests that will require the use Chromebooks.
7. The previous STREAM teacher has resigned. Classroom teachers are providing STREAM lessons until a new teacher is hired, Mr. Gormley has created STREAM kits for the teachers.
8. There is an opportunity for SMSA to connect with the Adirondack Folk School. We also have the opportunity for BOCES to provide lessons and materials.
9. Susan Beyer has been hired as our new Art teacher. Thank you to Mrs. Clohessy, who is helping with the transition.
10. Mr. Gormley attended the diocesan Principals' meeting, which focused on NERIC and aligning with NYS Standards.
11. Kyle Noonan is helping with the change in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade science curriculum. Thank you to Sue Sutherland for work with 7<sup>th</sup> grade students as they prepare for next year's curriculum.
12. Mrs. Mary Tully will take our students to St. Mary's Cemetery on October 3<sup>rd</sup> to work on gravestone restoration. Students will learn about the priests and nuns buried there. Thank you to Saratoga Central Catholic for providing a bus for this project.
13. Mrs. Mara Powell is working on obtaining Title funds.
14. A video is being created to get the word out about SMSA. Mr. Gormley will appear on Look TV on October 10<sup>th</sup>.
15. Thank you to Anne Casola for orchestrating the hot air balloon visit. Our 7<sup>th</sup> graders helped, and our students were complimented.
16. PBIS is working well. Thank you to Patti Siano and Elaine Stocker and the classroom teachers for their efforts.
17. SMSA Soccer Team has had a tie and a win. Excitement is building for this and other team sports later. There is a great deal of potential with our sports program.
18. Mr. Gormley has a meeting scheduled with John Lefner, CEO of the Hyde Collection to discuss a partnership with SMSA. The Hyde is very interested in having our students there and possibly using our Great Hall for future art displays.

19. Thank you to the teachers and the office staff for their incredible work toward a smooth opening.

## **Committees/Teams**

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

- a. Items are continuing to be placed in the Kerry Blue;
- b. The Baptismal bib with the Noah's Ark logo has been approved to be given to newly baptized babies as a means of recruitment;
- c. A procedure is being developed to help students, who wish to be baptized or who wish to make their First Communion;
- d. Lisa Patton will have a table at Open House to highlight the Sacraments, etc.
- e. Important Dates:

October 13, 2023 - School Wide Rosary

October 23, 2023 – Theme mass – Board is asked to attend.

Kathy noted that we are lucky to have such a great relationship with the parish.

### **2. Finance (Mark Olechowski)**

- a. July: Total income: \$307,000.
- b. August: Sprinkles fundraiser brought in \$2,500.
- c. Income vs. Expenses: \$157, 657.
- d. Deana White has resigned as Chair of Fundraising. We are looking for a replacement. Meetings have changed to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month. The committee is creating a 3-5 year plan for fundraising.

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

- a. No meeting was held last month.
- b. Back-to-School night will be held 9.26.23. The Board is invited to attend.
- c. Interested parents of students not yet enrolled at SMSA will be invited to attend Open House in October.

### **4. Buildings and Grounds (Mary Tully)**

- a. Clean Up Day: 100 + desks were thrown away; the locker room was cleaned out; nothing should be stored in the locker room;
- b. 2002 is teacher storage room; a work order should be created if teachers have anything they'd like disposed of.
- c. A bin of sports jerseys has been found;
- d. There are reflective vests and signs (in the locker room) that could be used by parking lot attendants;
- e. Jack Hall will replace the water fountains soon.
- f. Goals are being developed that include plumbing and electrical issues. A discussion took place regarding enumerating projects (and the amounts of each) in future donation letters.

### **5. PTSA (Theresa Aslin)**

- a. October 11, 2023 – Panera fundraiser.
- b. November – Jersey Mike & Chipotle fundraisers.

- c. 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month will be SMSA sponsored Coffee Hour after Mass. Thank you to our 7<sup>th</sup> graders, who hosted last week.
- d. December 16, 2023 – SMSA Hockey Night – SMSA students will sing the National Anthem. Tickets are \$20.00 - \$4.00 of each ticket and ½ of the 50/50 Raffle goes to SMSA.
- e. Popcorn Fridays at dismissal will begin soon. The money will support field trips and classroom funds.

#### 6. Grant Task Force (Janet Curley)

- a. We are waiting to hear about 2 grants which we have applied for.
- b. A member of the GTF attended the diocesan teacher training on AI for ideas on using AI in grant writing.
- c. We are waiting for the architect to identify the needs of the school.

#### 7. Sub-Teams

##### a. Lunch (Rachel Dutra)

- Lunch program kickoff: Friday, September 29th with the ever-popular *Pizza Friday*.
- Our themes this year are: *Pastability Monday, Taco Tuesday, Picnic Wednesday, Soup/Sandwich Thursday, Pizza Friday*
- Lunch is \$3.50; milk is \$.65. All orders are placed in FACTS.

#### Triumphs:

- Ashley Wood is a great fit as our Lunch Program coordinator. Our menu for October looks great!
- The support for the lunch program has been outstanding, and we have received no complaints about the delayed start.
- The lunch trays that were donated by Ann Sheehan are wonderful.

#### Tribulations:

The appropriate licensing was not obtained over the summer, so we are behind the eight ball with our opening, but we are fully certified now and ready to go.

We have a serious lack of volunteers. With the lunch program coordinator being part-time, this is challenging. We need AT LEAST 2 people (one serving, one checking the students in) to have a successful lunch. Three to Four people is ideal.

Pricing: We were not happy with the pricing from Glens Falls Produce, but they provided us with excellent service in a pinch.

- There are some equipment and plumbing issues that are slow to be fixed.
- FACTS is not always user-friendly, so we are working to disseminate information to parents about how to set up ordering and how to order.
- We are slowly retraining school staff that the cafeteria kitchen is now held under a higher authority, and we need to strictly follow protocol. Ashley is working to make spaces for the teachers' and Camp Kerry's food items. She is cleaning out the refrigerator in the cafeteria so that it may be easily used by staff and Camp Kerry. We have also designated refrigeration for non-cafeteria items to mitigate confusion.

**b. Code of Conduct (Rosario Gallo)**

Many schools have already created a *Code of Conduct*. The committee has created a document that reflects a merger of the public school and Catholic school versions. A draft will be sent before the next meeting for Board review and offer feedback. A discussion followed regarding how detailed the document should be.

**New Business**

- a. A discussion took place regarding inviting new and veteran teachers to a social gathering (cheese and crackers or coffee and cake, etc.) prior to a Board meeting once per quarter.
- b. Kathy McNulty will look into arranging a Board in-service. Each team should be creating 1-year and 3-5 year goals. Father Scott and Mr. Gormley should be consulted. Goals should be simple. A discussion followed regarding the possibility of a creating a larger strategic plan. Kathy asked the Board to review the Catholic ID goals that have been sent out and to send comments back to her.
- c. A question was asked about the Board's Mission Statement and what is meant by "educating the whole child." It was pointed out that the school's Mission Statement is (necessarily) different than the Board's statement.

**Guests Opportunity to be Heard**

- a. Amy Noonan reported on several soccer games. 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> graders will be playing in Schroon Lake on Open House night. The October 12<sup>th</sup> is Homecoming Game is SMSA vs. North Warren at 7PM. It is also Spirit Day. A discussion took place regarding the possibility of a pep rally.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kate Mahoney Fowler, Secretary

