



St Mary's - St Alphonsus

Regional Catholic School

St. Mary's-St. Alphonsus Regional Catholic School Regular Meeting of the School Board July 27, 2023

Board Members

Present: Kathy McNulty (President), Patti Siano (VP), Mark Olechowski, Patrick Gormley, Anne Casola, Mary Tully, Janet Curley, Kate Fowler, Father VanDerveer (Pastor), Nancy Underwood. **Absent:** Rosario Gallo, Rachel Dutra, Francine Buser, Theresa Aslin (PTSA)
Guests Sally Behan, Bev Kerpka, Kristine Henel, Jennifer Casolaro, Bonnie Smith, Joy Smith, Kayla Louie, Katie Loughmiller, Jennifer Leland

Meeting

- Kathy McNulty called the meeting to order at 5:53 PM.
- Father Scott VanDerveer offered the opening prayer.
- Roll call was called by Patti Siano.
- 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:** Anne Casola; **Second:** Mary Tully; Motion carried.
- June's meeting minutes were approved and sent out.
- New members Janet Curley and Kate Fowler were welcomed to the Board.
- Nomination of Kate Fowler as Secretary to the SMSA School Board. Vote 7-0 to approve.

Pastor's Report

Father Scott reported that he has 3 goals for the coming year:

1. Enrollment

- a. Patrick Gormley and Sally Behan will lead these efforts. Father would like to enhance the school's presence in the community. To that end, a banner is being created to hang on the west side of the building (3rd floor/brick wall) to be very visible from the round-about. It will showcase alumni success and be visible for all 4 seasons. Megan Seeley will be working on this project.
- b. Father has approved some funding for advertising with local media.
- c. Sally Behan will be tracking families who enrolled in 2022-2023 but have not yet re-enrolled. They will be contacted.

2. Parent/Community Communications

- a. Patrick Gormley and Katie Sullivan have been trained on FACTS, which has a Parent Communication app attached. This allows parents to be well-connected to school and teachers. Allison Hancock has found a Catholic school version. Katie Sullivan will compare it to the public school version to see if purchasing the Catholic school version is worth the extra charge.
- b. The tuition grid on the website is being revised to help parents better understand the per/week or per/month cost.

3. Finance

- a. Father has interviewed a strong Business Manager candidate. Deana White, the current Business Manager, will stay on to act as a mentor (for possibly up to a year) after a new manager has been selected.
- b. We have been fully approved to have 4 international Middle School students through APEX International. We will need 2-4 host families. Requirements are: a 2-parent household and each student must have his or her own bedroom. Families can host up to 2 students. Families will receive 1000.00 per student per month. If host parent is a teacher, there is a 1000.00 sign-on bonus.

Principal's Report

In his first 15 days, as principal, Mr. Gormley reports:

- a. The building has been very busy. Summer enrichment is going well, and he has met several teachers.
- b. Vacation Bible School is about to begin.
- c. He has had meetings with several people on the staff “under the apple tree!” One of the impressive ideas being discussed is Ben Rowley and Erin Dove’s ideas regarding a St. Mary’s Arts Academy.
- d. Interviews continue for grades K; 1; 5; Middle School Math/Science; Art and STREAM. Candidates are impressive.
- e. Enrollment: Mr. Gormley shared enrollment numbers, which are fluid as families are continuing to enroll. Many families are still waiting to re-enroll so the potential numbers are much greater.
- f. Hiring thus far: 3rd grade, 5th grade, Art positions have been filled; they will be announced when contracts are signed. Middle School Math/Science, STREAM resumes are still being accepted.
- g. Promotion of SMSA:
 - a. Social Media blitz to be held in mid-August with help of Megan Seeley.
 - b. A letter for the website from Mr. Gormley is being prepared to introduce him and to explain his vision for SMSA.
 - c. Emily Hampton will help with a video. It will include contact information for viewers to ask questions.
- h. Mr. Gormley will attend a mandatory leadership conference in Canandaigua in August.
- i. Amy Noonan is doing a great job with the Food Pantry mural.
- j. Gary Patton and Dave Wilkinson, along with the help of others, are doing great work getting the building ready for the school year.
- k. Safety Committee: Mr. Gormley stressed that, as building leader, safety is a big priority for him. To that end, he will meet with members of the Glens Falls Fire Department and Glens Falls Police Force soon.

COMMITTEES

1. **Catholic Identity** (Kathy McNulty): No report.
2. **Finance** (Nancy Underwood):
 - a. The committee meets on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 9:00 AM.
 - b. A discussion was held at the last meeting regarding the responsibilities of the committee.
3. **Recruitment & Enrollment** (Kathy McNulty):
 - a. Sally Behan will be training some School Ambassadors.
 - b. On *Back-to-School Night*, there will be informational tables for various groups to share information with parents.
 - c. The committee is looking into finding a safe plan to allow parents to come into building at times during the school day.
4. **Buildings & Grounds** (Mary Tully):
 - a. The committee would like to clean out the desks that are stored in the back of the boiler room. Rosario Gallo is talking to a scrap metal company to arrange disposal of the desks, which will also bring in some revenue.
 - b. The committee is hoping to schedule a date to clean out the locker and shower rooms.
5. **PTSA** (Theresa Aslin): No report.
6. **Sub-Teams**
 - a. **Lunch** (Kristine Henel for Rachel Dutra):
 - a. A training has been held (Safe Environment/food safety/safe use of equipment/sanitizing, etc.). We have some volunteers for the lunch program.
 - b. There will be another training on August 3rd from 6:00 PM-8:00 PM.
 - b. **Code of Conduct** (Kathy McNulty):
 - a. There are currently 2 members – Rosario Gallo and Patti Siano. A 3rd member is needed. Kathy McNulty will send out a notice.

Guests Opportunity to be Heard

In response to questions from guests:

- a. Mr. Gormley announced Jenn Leland has been hired as the 3rd grade teacher.
- b. Bev Kerpka reported that Noah's Ark is down slightly from last year. This may be due to Universal PreK.
- c. K-8th grade enrollment is up from last year at this time and many parents are waiting to re-enroll so the numbers should increase shortly.

6:47 P.M. Mary Tully moved to close the meeting. Mark Olechowski seconded the motion.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kate Mahoney Fowler, Secretary