



**St. Mary's Academy
Regular Meeting of the School Board
June 23, 2025**

BOARD MEMBERS

Present: Father Scott VanDerveer (Pastor), Kathy McNulty (President), Kate Fowler (Secretary), Janet Curley, Mike Feeder, Mark Olechowski, Sandi Ryan & Matt Jones (PTA), Elaine Stocker.

Absent: Francine Buser, Marielena Hauser (Principal); Patti Siano (Vice President), Mary Tully.

GUESTS

Laurie Butler; Sally Behan; Jen Casolaro; Beverly Kerpka

Meeting

- Kathy McNulty called the meeting to order at 5:51 PM.
- Father Scott offered the opening prayer.
- Kate Fowler called roll.
- Kathy McNulty read the Board's Mission Statement and explained procedures for the community members to offer comments or ask questions at the end of the meeting.
- Approval of agenda: Motion: Mike Feeder; Second: Janet Curley. Motion carried.
- May minutes were reviewed and approved.

Pastor's Report (Father Scott)

- **Arts Academy:**
 - Fundraising has been remarkable.
 - Room 3006 is being renovated into a recording studio, which will be rentable.
 - A summer dance camp is being planned for August.
 - Income from the Academy will be used to hire a website designer and for masonry work on the building.
- **Parent Relationships:**
 - A decision will be made regarding the use of Blooms or FACTS.
 - Work is being done to make FACTS more user-friendly and to make it easier to use in order to communicate with families, alumni, donors.

- **Finances:**
 - 8/18/25 Mrs. Hauser, Gary Patton, Sally Behan will attend a meeting at Kateri Tekakwitha school, which is financially successful, to learn their strategies.
 - Timmy McInerney is working on the enrollment page on the website to make it more interactive.

Principal's Report (Elaine Stocker for Mrs. Hauser)

- The school calendar will be published early.
- Thank you to Sally Behan for all her work on the Kerry Blue. It has made a big difference.
- Results from I Ready Diagnostics (in math and reading) have been extremely positive. The amount of growth has been tremendous.
- Team meetings (K/2; 3/5; and Middle School) have been implemented.
- There is an opening for a Middle School science teacher.
- A conference room is being created on the first floor to be used as a reception space for prospective families.
- A fundraiser may be added in the fall to replace the car fundraiser.
- Sidekick Creative is creating new merchandise with the new logo.

Committees/Teams

- **Catholic Identity (Kathy McNulty)**
 - No report
- **Finance and Development (Kathy McNulty for Francine Buser)**
 - No report
- **Recruitment & Enrollment (Kathy McNulty)**
 - See attached report
- **Buildings & Grounds (Father Scott for Mary Tully)**
 - New 1st & 2nd grade rooms to be set up.
- **Grant Task Force (Janet Curley and Jen Casolaro)**
 - Elevator/Accessibility Project – is in the preliminary stages.
 - The GTF is creating a list of annual grants for teachers.
- **Faculty (Elaine Stocker)**
 - No report
- **PTA (Matt Jones)**
 - PTA will continue to meet during the summer.
 - 9/14/25 (12:30 PM-2:30 PM) New Way Lunch Hot Dog eating contest. There will be prizes and T-shirts. More parent volunteers are needed.

Old Business

- Kathy McNulty asked the Board for comments on the draft of the revised Constitution and Bylaws. They will then be sent to Father and Mrs. Hauser. After their input, a final vote will be held.
- Board evaluations were distributed.

New Business

- No new business

Guests' Opportunity to Be Heard

- Laurie Butler reported that grades 1, 2 and 4 have published class books.
- Mark Olechowski commented that the Arts Academy show was terrific with an amazing amount of talent. Congratulations to Ben, Erin and Brendan.

The regular meeting was adjourned at 7:22 PM.

The next meeting will be September 15, 2025

Respectfully Submitted,

Kate Fowler, Secretary



ST. MARY'S ACADEMY

SMA Recruitment and Enrollment Meeting Minutes (May 29,25)

- Strategies for Enrollment
 - Kerry Blue
 - Web site advertising/Bulletin/FB
 - Using social media for alumni spotlight (college/trade school military grads)
 - Chronicle: [School Views](#)
 - Ambassador program: Diana Steves has spoken at masses
- Tours: ongoing by Sally
- Status of New ideas on how to increase enrollment
 - Tri-fold flyer (Will Fowler assisting Sally)
 - fun events for Noah's Ark and K to 8: [NA Little Explorers after-school enrichment: well received](#)
 - improved access to school on St. Mary's website: [done](#)
 - Increase clubs: Legos, American Girl Doll, Sea Perch, Young Authors Club
 - SMA lawn signs: [approx. \\$475 raised, await design by Will Fowler](#)
- Looking ahead:25/26 SY Events with R and E component:
 - Welcome back Ice Cream Social: [Sept 2nd](#)
 - Back to School Night: [Sept 23](#)
 - Catholic Schools Week Open House: [Feb1st](#)
 - Snowball Dance
 - Kindergarten Open House: [Mar 19](#)
 - Be a Dog for a Day: [April 24](#)
 - Other: [create Communications calendar so that parents/staff have sufficient time to prepare for the event and advertising is out well ahead of the activity](#)
- Committee goals
 - Increase Enrollment (by 15 %)
 - [Hoping for enrollment of 120 next year \(a net increase of 10 students\)](#)
 - [KG enrollment current at 25, making it the largest KG class in 9 years](#)
 - [Enrollment from Noah's Ark to KG is highest level in 10 years \(18/25 are from NA\)](#)
 - [of new enrollees 3/6 are boys, of 12 possible transfer students 9/12 are boys](#)
 - Improve Retention ([no more than an 8% loss](#))
 - Increase name recognition (how)??

- Summer action plans:
 - finish enrollment material and flyer (Sally)/ new banners done to display downtown in Glens Falls
 - lawn sings design complete (Sally)
 - review existing materials. So that all have the same look, same logo
- Next Meeting: August 14 @ 10 am