



**St. Mary's Academy**  
**Regular Meeting of the School Board**  
**February 2, 2026 (To replace January Meeting)**

**BOARD MEMBERS**

**Present:** Father Scott VanDerveer (Pastor), James Viviani, Mike Feeder (President), Kathy McNulty (Vice President), Janet Curley, Mark Olechowski, Michelle LeMay, Mary Tully.

**Absent:** Kate Fowler, (Secretary), Neelo Jaikeran (PTO), Francine Buser.

**GUESTS:** Laurie Butler.

**Meeting**

- Mike Feeder called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.
- Father Scott offered the opening prayer.
- Attendance was recorded.
- November minutes were sent out earlier. Approved.

**Pastor's Report (Father Scott)**

Father Scott updated the board regarding Mrs. Hauser. Mrs. Hauser has been out on family leave and will not be returning to SMA. Mr. James Viviani has been appointed the interim principal for the remainder of the school year. Father was working on an email to notify the faculty and staff on February 3, 2026. Father reported that Sally Behan will send a message with this information to the larger community after the faculty and staff are notified.

- **Arts Academy:**
  - Father Scott handed out a brochure regarding the Arts Academy Open House which will take place on Sunday, February 22, 2026 after mass. A new teacher, Stephen Roderfield has been added to the Arts Academy faculty. He is/was a professional ballet dancer.
  - Recently a donation was made to the Arts Academy for a sound studio.
- **Parent Involvement:**
  - Neelo Jaikeran used PTO funds to purchase Christmas mugs for the SMA faculty and staff in recognition of their work and the holiday.
  - Applebee's breakfast fundraiser was a success with a profit of \$1,480.

- **Finance:**
  - The Gala honoring Dr. William Tedesco raised \$45,000 for the elevator project.
  - Also, Father met with alumna Anne Sheehan regarding help in financing our food service program. Ms. Sheehan will be investigating ways that state funds may be available for SMA. This may take some time as there is a great deal of paperwork to be accomplished.

**Principal's Report/Teacher Representative Report (Mr. Viviani)**

- Report cards and Pace Hour reports will be sent out this week.
  - Mr. Viviani is working with Dr. Beth Hladik to coordinate a retreat for the Middle School students. The tentative plans include a four-night retreat with an engagement component that, hopefully, will include meeting with senior citizens at The Glen at Hiland Meadows.
  - Mr. Viviani has done a site survey regarding safety issues at SMA. This has been done as part of the information needed to secure a grant from Stark Industry. There are some hurdles to overcome regarding how this is financed along with reimbursement issues. This is still in the discussion and exploration stage.
  - Cognia Accreditation observations are taking place this week.
  - A chess club may be starting soon.
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- **Catholic Identity:** No report
  - **Finance:** No report
  - **PTO (Neelo Jaikeran):**
    - **Thankful Turkey** Fundraiser at Queensbury Billiards raised \$2,025.
    - **December PTO Parking Lot** Fundraiser raised \$340.50
    - **Flapjack Fundraiser at Appleby's** raised \$1,480, with \$180.00 allocated toward 8<sup>th</sup> grade field trip.
    - **January PTO Parking Lot** Fundraiser canceled due to lack of volunteers.
  - **Recruitment and Enrollment:**
    - Strategies for Recruitment/Enrollment
    - \*Kerry Blue: weekly;
    - \*Web site advertising/Bulletin/FB ongoing;
    - \*Using social media for alumni spotlight;
    - \*Ambassador program: on hold;
    - \*Be a Dog for a Day is scheduled for April 24, 2026;
    - \*Tri-fold Flyer- a copy was handed out to those present;
    - \*Tours: ongoing;
    - \*SMA lawn signs – 250 done;
    - \*Small books of Kerry puzzles: Will Fowler- done and some were available at Open House.

\*Catholic Schools Week Open House was held on February 1, 2026. Tours of the school took place, teachers and staff opened their classrooms, updated view books, tuition charts and SMA profiles along with bookmarks were available. An alumni table showcased a variety of yearbooks and artifacts from the archives.

\*Kindergarten Open House is set for March 19, 2026. More adult volunteers will be needed. There will be a Recruitment and Enrollment meeting held in February for further planning.

\*The Recruitment and Enrollment Committee is continuing to concentrate on the goals of promoting culture change (including Noah's Ark in all endeavors), improve community service and outreach and to increase enrollment by 15% each year.

- **Buildings and Grounds:**

- Several historic artifacts have been delivered to the Folklife Center at Crandall Library to be digitized and kept at the library. The originals will be returned to the school and kept in the Archive Room on the third floor.
- The book room cleaning out will continue and records will be organized so that they are easily accessible.
- Room 306 needs attention and organization. This will take place in the spring.

- **Parent Teacher Organization:** No report

### New Business

- Board members discussed fundraising for SMA. Perhaps we need to “think outside the box” and come up with some new ideas. A discussion took place regarding what the line item for fundraising is in our budget. In other words, what is expected to be raised via fundraisers? Board member Michelle LeMay is willing to help with this going forward.
- Enrollment/recruitment: A discussion about sending some of our students to other parishes and other Christian groups to talk about SMA took place before we adjourned.

The regular meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.  
Executive Session followed.

The next meeting will be on Monday, February 23, 2026.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Mary Tully for Kate Fowler, Secretary*