

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School Board Update – Fall Committee Report

What a great start to the school year! We have had an incredible Fall not only filled with perfect weather but also with some great moments for STA. We beat the Walk-A-Thon Goal with over \$27,000 raised, greeted over 300 people at our Special Persons Event, and hosted many amazing HSA and administration-led community events. We also had the largest golf team participation on record! Most importantly, you can feel the positive spirit of our students and witness their daily engagement in the classrooms and with each other. St. Thomas is thriving! Please continue to spread the good news about St. Thomas and invite friends and neighbors to our upcoming Basketball Tournament and encourage them to reach out to the school to learn more about what educating with Faith, Family and Foundation is all about.

We wanted to use this Fall update to preview initiatives and activities underway in the Committees of the Board of Directors at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School. They are working hard, and a lot of wonderful things are happening as a result.

If you have questions, please reach out to the Board at board@stasonline.net – we would love to hear from you.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee has finalized the 24-25 school budget which has been approved by the Board and submitted to the Diocese of Bridgeport. The budget is carefully built bottoms-up reflecting historical performance, trends and planned initiatives. This year's budget is expected to result in a modest surplus and a moderate level of planned cash outflows due to the substantial investment made in the school's security infrastructure this past Summer. Over the past few years, we have built cash reserves for purposes such as this and continue to retain a healthy cash position and balance sheet. *Members: Erin Russell, Tracy Strub, John Joyce*

Academic Committee

The Academic Committee has been busy assisting Miss Campbell and Mr. Piorek along with the administration in the roll-out, training and pacing of our new Amplify Science curriculum in grades 5-8th. We are lucky to have such extensive science experience on this committee. They are now turning their focus to the iReady personalized learning platform to engage with the data to ensure not only successful use of the platform but also to inform our faculty and administration on go forward areas of focus. *Members: Darcy Ronan (chair), Tim Dee (Fairfield Prep Principal), Marissa Haddad, Fred Paulmann, Jeanine Pocoski, Tracy Strub*

Advancement Committee

The Advancement Committee's primary goal is to raise over \$225,000 annually and help source and secure scholarship funding and other grant opportunities. Without losing sight of this mandate, the committee has placed greater focus on increasing engagement with STA's broader community in these initial weeks of school. This started with the development of the Wildcat Den, a quarterly chronicle, that aims to better connect our parent alum, alum and special persons to the school. The committee also elevated the programming and communication around our Special Persons Day. Current projects include the Alumni Showcase and a plan for a Holiday Alumni Soiree as well as the launch of the Annual Appeal fundraising campaign mid-November. *Members: Erin Russell (chair), John Gnibus, Johnna Hoffman, Lauren Marshall, Sarah Nocerino (HSA), Barbara Turner*

Catholic Identity Committee

The Catholic Identity Committee has been working with the administration on the effective roll-out of the Virtues Program to the school community. In addition, they have developed parameters for working with the Parish as well as the Community Engagement Committee and are planning a number of collaborative programs and events. *Members: John Joyce (chair), Christina Landon, Peter Rausch, Father Roman, Darcy Ronan, Tracy Strub*

Community Engagement Committee

This Community Engagement Committee was formed to better engage STA with the Fairfield community to not only have a positive impact on the area but also build brand awareness and a more purposeful service in action program. They have been busy – beginning with the adoption of Ruane Street to securing a constructive partnership with Wakeman Boys & Girls Club including the sponsorship of their new K-2nd grade development basketball program that starts shortly. They are also discussing exciting partnership opportunities with Fairfield Parks & Recreation, Pequot Library and Fairfield Junior Women’s League. In addition, they are working on a number of service initiatives. Stay tuned.

Members: Kathleen Curran (chair), Molly Galbo (HSA), Paul Halas, Morgan Mooney, Nicole Rumball

Facility / Technology Committee:

The Facility / Technology Committee completed most of its capital improvements in Summer 2024 when students were not in the building. They are working on a cash generating, asset rationalization initiative and in process of a fulsome security procedures and infrastructure review. *Members: Greg Sargent (chair), Adam Fielding, Paul Landino, Father Roman, Erin Russell, Katie Scinto*

Marketing / Enrollment Committee

The Marketing / Enrollment Committee just hosted a successful Fall Open House. They are also taking inventory of our marketing assets and working on strategies and resources to enhance our presence online, with our prospective and current families, and in Fairfield and its surrounding communities. They have been in the development phase of our new website which should be launched in the new year. *Members: Jen Anderson (chair), Kathleen Curran, Andrea Espach, Peter McSherry, Veronica Sarno, Christine Stafstrom (HSA), Barbara Turner*

Student Life Committee

The Student Life Committee has primarily spent the Fall working with the Sports Committee to define the guiding principles of our overall athletic program at STA. This has also required a deep dive into documentation governing these programs. Now they are turning their focus to instrumental music and other non-athletic

programming opportunities at St. Thomas to elevate the overall student experience.

Members: Fred Paulmann (chair), Adam Fielding, John Gnibus, Ndidi Moses, Sarah Nocerino (HSA), Caroline Rice