

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ST. FRANCIS MONTESSORI CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

WHO IS ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR ST. FRANCIS?

Kelley Chaplin

Natalie Culp

Holly Ortiz

Dave Upham

Polly and Joe Christensen

Jen Dreisbach

Paul Stauduhar

HOW ARE CAMPAIGN DECISIONS BEING MADE? WHAT IS THE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE?

The board has met and approved a strategy for expansion identifying key must-haves in a new property. Any funds donated so far or that will be donated are restricted into a fund that must be spent on capital expenses. Any decisions or concrete plans to pursue growth will be voted on by the board.

HOW IS THE SCHOOL'S GENERAL FINANCIAL HEALTH, ESPECIALLY AS WE EMBARK UPON GROWING?

St. Francis remains nimble and lean in our operations but we are able to cover general operating costs each year. We do not have excess in our annual budget to accommodate any needs for growth and expansion, hence the campaign. We are able to keep tuition incredibly affordable, something that we are proud of and intentional about. Family fundraising and generous parent volunteer time help fill in the operating expense gap that tuition does not cover. Tuition and annual fundraising go to our general operating costs.

We have a mortgage still on St. Clare's and St. Francis that is accounted for in our annual costs. We have paid off more than half the value of those properties.

HOW WILL THE \$800,000 BE SPENT?

The board has established a budget that includes the purchase of the property and required renovations to meet the commercial and safety standards of the city and state. The requirements are converting the building from a residential house to a commercial school, as well as necessary driveway adaptations.

WHAT ARE THE DETAILS AND FAVORABLE QUALITIES OF THE NEW PROPERTY AND THE EXPANSION?

- An acre of land for farm and garden projects as well as the ability to host outdoor Mass and large community events
- Basketball court, two climbing structures, and a scooter area
- Outdoor patio for an outdoor work area for the children
- 15 raised garden beds with well water and irrigation
- Space for a future library for SFM families
- Ample indoor space for two elementary classrooms and an atrium
- Full custom-built, up-to-date kitchen
- Extra space for personalized student accommodations
- A ten-minute residential walk from St. Clare's; one-minute drive around the corner

WILL THIS NEW BUILDING SATISFY ALL OF OUR SPACE NEEDS?

Yes! The new building on Pecan will satisfy all of our current needs, focusing on Lower Elementary. Our school continues to expand and grow. There will be opportunities to pursue in the coming years for dedicated indoor community space as well as additional environments for Upper Elementary.