

St. Cecilia School Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 6, 2021
Online Group Meeting via “Zoom” due to Federal Social Distancing Recommendations,

Meeting called to order at 7pm

Members present: Mike Cowan, Pablo Raúl Stinga, Carol Bond – Quorum has not been reached at the beginning of the meeting. Barb Read joined at 7:44pm, at which time quorum was reached.

Sara Rooney, Administrator, ex-officio

Father Don Czapla, Pastor, ex-officio

Prayer led by Pablo Raúl Stinga

Agenda changes.

Captain Nicholas Lennie, Chief Deputy at Story County Sheriff’s Office talked about a new emergency radio system, which they expect to be fully operational in July. They provide emergency radios for schools, providing direct line of communication with 911 dispatchers, so all the emergency respondents will be able to listen at the same time, saving response time. Improves communications and lower response times. All public schools in Ames have received one radio for free via a grant. There is a monthly subscriber fee and a yearly maintenance fee. Yearly total is 520 dollars per radio per year. St. Cecilia will have to buy its radio. All the nearby schools will be connected so they are all aware of the same emergency. There is also a nonemergency channel that connects all the schools in Story County that have such a radio. Harris Radio, model XL-185 are about 5,000 dollars, they have their own towers in Story County. Another radio with less functionality is about 2,500 to 3,000 dollars. Training would be provided to keep the communication content consistent and there will be drills every approximately 6 months.

Public commentary.

Johanna Walker. Concern about continued lack of communication, wearing shorts during warm weather, does not like masks in hot weather, complain about responses from the Principal, water bottles are not provided.

Sara Markely. Wants to recognize the Principal for her work, she has been a principal for only 3 years, one of them covid year, she deserves a shout out for all her good work, for her flexibility, for her support, on behalf of other staff members.

Karen Smidt. Wants to thank the Board and the school staff for all their good work, likes the Zoom format board meeting and the diversity and participation of families, it is easy to attend, wants to have the link always available, wants to be included in the school and board meetings and requires to have our meetings broadcast, noticed that kids were happy for the mileage club, minutes are not really available through the website, can they be sent via principal notes?

Elayna Hanson. Expressed support for the Principal, she wears many hats: recess duty, front office, etc., doing everything for everybody, she has a lot going on, water bottle situation has been the same all year long, she commends the Principal.

March Minutes.

March 2nd and 11th minutes, tabled to the end of the meeting until reaching quorum.

Unfinished business.

None.

New business.

- a. 2021-22 calendar discussion tabled.
- b. Dress Code Policy. Perhaps we should add a policy to allow for shorts in case the National Weather issues a heat weather advisory before April 15th, as suggested by the Principal and the Pastor.

Visioning.

Plans on doing the May Crowning outside. It would be nice to have an online option.

Administrative issues.**Principal report.**

- i. Mr. Stanley is coming back as band instructor for the 2021-22 academic year, as he is staying in Ames. Mary Kay Pollachek expressed interest in joining the music program as an instructor after her retirement.
- ii. Strategic Planning. Sara and Carol met with Cathy Walz, superintendent for catholic schools. SWOT survey was reissued, due April 15th. Committee will analyze responses, draft goals, bring information to the Board in June for approval. Meeting with Maria Ribera will happen in May. The Board should provide their feedback.
- iii. EANS Funds. Covid relief federal funds for non-public schools. St. Cecilia will receive some funds to address learning loss. It will be used to hire personnel to help mitigate learning loss. Services will be paid by third party. This hire is beyond the Board hiring policy approved in the past months. We do not know yet how many hires will be, depends on funds (initial projected amount is 98,000 dollars) that need to be used in 2 years. The Arch recommended a few companies to manage these hires, like FACTS. Board, staff and families should provide names of possible candidates (retired teachers, someone with no previous job who would need experience).
- iv. Commitment forms - We plan for commitment forms for the 2021-22 school year to be returned by April 12. After forms are received, we can allocate staff for the 21-22 school year.
- v. New Hire - Regardless of the amount of EANS funds we receive, we will still be hiring an additional.

Back to new business.

- a. 2021-22 calendar discussion resumed as quorum has been reached. Proposed calendar is very similar to Ames Public. Motion to approve 2021-22 calendar as presented by Pablo Raúl Stinga. Second by Carol Bond. Motion passes unanimously.

- b. Dress Code Policy. The Principal has been asked to come up with a revised dress-code policy to allow for extraordinary weather circumstances.

March minutes.

March 2nd and 11th minutes. Quorum is reached at this time.

Motion to approve the March 2nd minutes as presented by Barb Read. Second by Carol Bond.

Motion passes unanimously.

Father asked for clarification on March 11th minutes: Board approve 25% tuition discount for all St. Cecilia School staff, regardless of being part time or full time.

Motion to approve the March 11th minutes as presented by Carol Bond. Second by Barb Read.

Motion passes unanimously.

Committee reports.

- i. Marketing. Continue with Strategic Plan.
- ii. FSA. Sara Leto informed that they met to organize teacher appreciation day, they will have a meeting before the end of the academic year.
- iii. Finance. No report.
- iv. Faith Formation. No meeting in March.
- v. Pastoral Council. Kayla Greiner presented about youth ministry. Columbarium, hvac system and new audio system in the worship space, kitchen improvements conversations, new chiller should be ready to go soon. Pastor will discuss with Pastoral Council and church staff on when to allow food back in the building.
- vi. Facilities. No report.
- vii. Elections, constitutions and bylaws. A few nomination forms have been filled, they have been contacted, only one nomination for School Board so far. There are openings for Pastoral Council and Faith Formation.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02pm.

Submitted by Colin Murphy