

**St. Cecilia Catholic School Board Special Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, November 17, 2020**  
**By Zoom**

**Members:** Fr. Don Czaplá, Mike Cowan (Chair), Pablo Raúl Stinga (Vice-Chair), Colin Murphy (Secretary), Barb Read, Carol Bond, Ayinde Popo  
Administrator Present: Sara Rooney

**Opening:** Meeting was called to order at 7:00PM

**Prayer:** Prayer led by Ayinde Popo.

**Agenda Changes:** None.

**Public Comment:** Parents and teachers invited to comment. No comments.

**New Business:**

- Hybrid Model/Remote Learning. Story County has a positivity rate of approximately 17.5 percent. Our absentee rate is 5.45 percent and is on par with other school in the Archdiocese. Actual rate of absenteeism due to "close contact" with COVID-19 positive person is lower. No current positive students. Staff is nervous about contracting virus from students now that positivity rate is higher. Stress may be affecting quality of instruction. Staff need time to transition students from live to online instruction and on short notice. Numbers of online students is increasing and they have unique demands that require personalized attention from staff. STC has resources to provide computers to those in need. Former STC teachers in other districts praise their hybrid model (4 days per week in-person instruction). Staff voiced support for hybrid model because it also affords additional preparation time.

Fr. Don recommended moving to the hybrid model for two weeks starting tomorrow, November 18 (second week is Thanksgiving Wednesday where there is no school). The board discussed whether it would be more appropriate to consider hybrid instruction through the month of December (12/2, 12/9 and 12/16 virtual learning) due to anticipated rising positivity rate after Thanksgiving gatherings. The same could be said for Christmas and New Year holiday gatherings.

Mike Cowan moved to continue hybrid learning model through first full week of January 2021. Second by Ayinde Popo. Motion carried 5-1 with Colin Murphy opposed.

**Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.**

*Submitted by Colin Murphy*