

**St. Cecilia Catholic School Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, November 3, 2020**  
**Social Hall – North End 7:00 PM**

**Members:** Fr. Don Czapla, Mike Cowan (Chair), Pablo Raúl Stinga (Vice-Chair), Colin Murphy (Secretary), Barb Read, Carol Bond, Ayinde Popo  
**Administrator Present:** Sara Rooney  
**Others Present:** Eric Cochrane, Sara Leto, Angela Carl (by video), Johanna Walker (by video), Tanya Clausen (by video)

**Opening:** Meeting was called to order at 7:01PM

**Prayer:** Prayer led by Carol Bond.

**Agenda Changes:** None.

**Public Comment:** Some STC parents demanded clarification over recent school board action requiring masks at recess. Questioned official rationale for mandate and new guidelines for quarantine. Claimed promised/advertised outside learning was not delivered. Complaints over communication from school administration. Questioned no live mass attendance for K-1. Concerned over clutter in classroom creating potential safety issue because lockers are not in use. Requested Zoom access to attend future board meetings. Board committed to responding to issues raised before next Tuesday (11/10/2020).

**Approval of Previous Minutes:** Barb Read moved to approve the October 6, 2020 minutes. Second by Colin Murphy. Motion passed.

**Unfinished Business:** None.

**New Business:**

- New CDC Guidance amends previous guidance for who is considered a “close contact” with a positive COVID-19 person. IDPH has not adopted this yet, so STC will abide by earlier guidance until informed otherwise, *i.e.*, less than 6 feet for 15 consecutive minutes.
- COVID-19 Paid Leave – Pays two-thirds of regular pay for up to 80 hours.
- COVID-19 School Protocols – Problems with temperature checks at door because thermometers are not responding appropriately in cold weather. McFarland Clinic also discontinued use for same reason. Colin Murphy moved to eliminate temperature checks at the school entrance due to cold weather issues. Second by Barb Read. Motion passed unanimously. Highly recommend that parents screen children for symptoms prior to arriving at school. This more closely aligns STC with Ames Public procedure. Face gaiters with two layers are now approved as a face mask by the CDC. Ames Public allows gaiters. Colin Murphy moved to permit CDC-compliant face gaiters at STC. Second by Barb Read. Motion passed unanimously.
- Medical Advisory Group – Sara Rooney recommends that we follow lead of Holy Family in Dubuque and create an ad hoc medical advisory group to provide guidance to school board and administration regarding COVID-19 mitigation.
- Snow Days – Sara Rooney is looking into the use of virtual learning should classes be canceled due to inclement weather and will report to the school board in December. Looking at what other schools are doing. We have some snow days banked for later use.

**Visioning and Catechetical/Faith Formation Planning:** Staff devoting less time to prayer due to pandemic. Concerned that social distancing impacts sense of community. Interested in optional book study to bring staff closer together.

**Administrative Issues:**

- Strategic Planning. Continued progress with Catholic School Management. Q and A session in October and upcoming meeting with Archdiocesan contact in November.
- Positive Feedback from New Parent on impact that in-person learning is having on child.
- Free Hot Lunch will be extended until the end of the academic school year.
- Gym Rental. There have been some requests to rent the gym for basketball and soccer training. Generally, the school prefers to keep outside groups from interfering with current mitigation efforts. Also, cleaning late at night is not ideal.

**Committee Reports:**

- Marketing: Nothing new in addition to Strategic Planning.
- FSA: Completed Read-a-Thon. Close to goal. Reduced participation. No meeting next month.
- Finance: Budget process underway. \$21,000 monthly shortfall. PPP loan covered shortfall until now. Special parish-wide appeal planned for November.
- Faith Formation: Edge programming well received. Confirmation classes starting.
- Pastoral Council: Columbarium project. Katie Patrizio developing video series on Advent. No books will be purchased this year for parishioners.
- Facilities: Additional security cameras to be added on church side of campus. Roof project completed. Chiller project coming up.
- Election, Constitution & Bylaws: No meeting.

**Meeting was adjourned at 8:40PM.**

Next meeting will be December 8, 2020 at 7:00PM. Likely in Parish Hall.

*Submitted by Colin Murphy*