

North Side Community School

NORTH SIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOL Board Meeting Minutes January 8, 2019

Present: Board Members: Jim Brigham, Michael Zuccarello, Kathy Anderson, Vivian Gibson (by phone), Alison Nash, Byron Francis, Tracee Holmes, Ryan Bumb, Ken Rinderknecht.
School Administrative Staff: John Grote, Stella Erondy, Janine Gorrell (by phone), Brian Gross, Deb Cottin.
Teachers: Megan Tosh, Hannah Finfrock, Sarah Sanchez.
Others: Brian Feld of HKW Architects.

4:45pm Meeting called to order.

Minutes for November 13, 2018 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Ryan Bumb was welcomed by all as our new Board member.

1. Administrative Report: John Grote reported on the MAP assessment proficiency scores for 2018. The test and the evaluation process were changed in Missouri for the 2018 testing, effectively raising the standards and “cut scores”. North Side Community School’s ELA and Math scores were down from previous years, but John noted scores were down across the entire state. NSCS was right at the state average, having been well above this in the past. John reported North Side’s MAP test preparation process was altered during the past school year by attempting to integrate preparation for MAP throughout the year. This may have been a factor also, although it was noted our own internal evaluation and testing would have predicted higher MAP scores. Janine stated the students’ level of excitement to perform well on the MAP seemed dampened from prior years. “Zap the MAP” was not emphasized as much, and the celebration of the prior year’s good results was probably held too early last year. 3rd grade results were relatively lower than other grades, which has historically been the case. This speaks to the relative progress North Side students make each year. Janine noted there were more 3rd graders with reading and behavioral challenges last school year, and those 3rd graders are now 4th graders this year, and are getting more reading and individualized interventions. North Side will be looking for ways to rally enthusiasm for the MAP testing this year.

Some discussion was had regarding the need to adjust North Side’s approach in order to get back to previous standards. DESE is also under pressure from school districts for changing to the current Missouri standards rather than Federal standards. It was also suggested that while the MAP results are the public face of North Side’s progress, our own proficiency measures may be more useful in evaluating the progress of students at North Side.

John reported the Codification Study process has proceeded through Phase 1. There will be a meeting this Friday, January 11, 2019, with Lindsay Smith present, to review the 5 or 6 areas identified for codification to see how to flesh them out. This will lead to Phase 3 - looking at areas in which improvement may be needed. The Codification report is to be completed in February.

2. Facilities: Brian Feld of HWK Architects reported that since the last Board meeting, 3 possible construction firms have been explored: United, KWAME, and Interface. The Facilities Committee felt Interface Construction, an MBE firm, would be the best fit for our new building and cafeteria addition projects. Drawings and plans have been submitted to Interface. A bit more square footage has been added to the plan for the new classroom building which now will be about 4200 square feet. The cafeteria extension will be about 1600 square feet. Boundary and topographic surveys have been done. Interface's budget range for the construction is between \$1.7 - \$1.8 million, a little bit higher than originally projected but includes adding footage in the new plan - including a storm shelter. Per Brian, as of 2018, a storm shelter is required for any new building with a capacity of more than 50 children. Brian believes North Side can do a little bit better than the above projected cost in a competitive bidding process. Kathy reported the Facilities Committee is very impressed with the Interface people. It was discussed that tonight's meeting is a milestone, with a need to determine whether to continue to proceed toward a March, 2019 start in order to ensure an August, 2019 completion date. Jim reported the Executive Committee has met and discussed the need to raise the targeted \$500,000. We are not there yet. Jim reported we have gotten a commitment from Kemper for a \$150,000-\$175,000 challenge grant. Also, Jim will be meeting with Robert Stewart this week and asking for \$500,000 from him. A cover letter and fact sheet to use in approaching other prospects is being developed this week. John asked the question if North Side is committed to this project. The consensus is yes. Discussion was held regarding the need to borrow money, which may add as much as \$1.2 Million to the existing debt service. It is unknown whether the revenue generated from having additional students in the future would cover increased debt service costs. The merits of having a capital campaign before construction begins, or while construction is on-going, were explored.

Discussion was also had regarding the possibility of delaying the start and having construction completed by December, 2019 instead of August, 2019. Janine indicated it would be possible to make current classroom space work for additional student population next school year. This would probably necessitate using some basement classrooms and having somewhat larger class sizes for a period of time, which is not ideal. Janine stated a preference for a March, 2019 construction start. Teachers present expressed some concern about having many students be moved to different classroom situations in mid-year. Brian expressed there is a time contingency for an August, 2019 construction completion date, and the Board cannot delay until the February, 2019 Board meeting to decide whether to go forward with the March, 2019 construction start date. Brian pointed out there will be additional costs incurred over the \$45,000 authorized at the prior Board meeting, but that these additional costs would be part of the ultimate total cost.

3. Development: Deb Cottin reported the plans for the Magic of Childhood Gala (MOC) are proceeding. Some Board members and Young Friends members have already purchased a table or committed to being a table captain for the event. Board members are encouraged to purchase

or share in the purchase of a table to bring prospective donors/contributors to MOC.

4. Human Resources and Search: Michael Zuccarello reported the search for the new Executive Director (E.D.) has gone very well. The deadline for receiving applications for the position is Friday, January 11, 2019. North Side has received 17 official applicants so far; all are African-Americans. There is a tour scheduled tomorrow for 2 candidates with local ties, which will include viewing classrooms. A meeting will be held to determine a final pool of 4-6 candidates. February 5 and 6, 2019 are blocked off as interview days for the finalists.

5. Finance: Brian Gross reported the Federal money request will be submitted later in January, 2019. The numbers for November, 2018 were better than those for November, 2017. Projections for the new Middle School finances are looking better than originally anticipated. Check registers for November, 2018 and December, 2018 were reviewed and approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Ken Rinderknecht, Secretary