



NORTH SIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
April 9, 2019

Present: Board Members: Jim Brigham, Michael Zuccarello, Kathy Anderson, Vivian Gibson, Alison Nash, Byron Francis (by phone), Tracee Holmes, Tom Hoerr, Ross Woolsey, Chris Haffenreffer (by phone), Ryan Bumb, Ken Rinderknecht.
School Administrative Staff: John Grote, Stella Erondu, Janine Gorrell, Brian Gross (by phone), Deb Cottin, Chester Asher (by phone).
Others: Brian Feld of HKW Architects.

4:45pm Meeting called to order by Jim Brigham.

It was agreed review of the minutes for the March 12, 2019 Board meeting and the March 25, 2019 call-in Executive Session would be by-passed until the May 14, 2019 Board Meeting.

1. Finance: Brian Gross presented by phone that the financials for January and February, 2019 look good - trending well in total revenue, a little down in some state funding areas. The check register for March, 2019 was reviewed and approved.
2. Administrative Report: John Grote reported North Side is losing two 1st grade teachers and one middle school teacher for next year. One 3rd grade teacher is being shifted to 1st grade and another 1st grade teacher has been hired for next year. Three middle school teachers are being sought for new classes next year. A contract has been offered to a math teacher. A new art teacher has been hired for middle school and there will be more music at middle school next year. Interviews are being held for a full-time social worker, and the search for a full-time nurse has not yet begun. Janine Gorrell reported MAP (Missouri Assessment Program) testing begins next week. This week is MAP spirit week, with Kindergarten through 2nd grade decorating doors at the middle school and a school-wide rally scheduled for Monday, April 15, 2019. Bill Mendelsohn today advised that relative to other school districts with students of color, North Side actually did better on MAP results last year. Stella Erondu and Janine met with the ELA Test coordinator, who indicated the MAP test this year will be as rigorous as last year. Stella reported the middle school students have been practicing to take the test. John commented that while we do not want to overemphasize MAP results, North Side has tried to address ways to

improve scores. Stella and John both emphasized North Side has never “taught to the test” per se, but rather has taught with the goal of having students develop the skills needed to advance to the next level. Tom Hoerr stated it is important North Side find out where our students go after leaving North Side and whether they continue to succeed academically.

Jim reported on a Court decision a few weeks ago which threw out the St. Louis Public Schools’ challenge to the allocation of funds to Charter Schools, because the suit was filed in Federal Court. It is uncertain whether the suit will be refiled in State Court.

3. Development: Jim Brigham congratulated Deb Cottin and the entire event committee on the success of the Magic of Childhood Gala. Deb reported she will put out a survey for feedback from all who attended. Deb provided a preliminary statistical summary regarding number of guests and revenue raised this year compared to prior years. This year’s Gala was the best ever in terms of number of guests (335) and gross revenue (\$215,780). Many positive comments were received about having the student ambassadors be part of the evening. Deb reported the need next year to put more emphasis on securing pre-event sponsorships.

Kathy Anderson reported she will handle the ice cream social for middle school teachers and staff this Thursday, April 11, 2019. This is a Board sponsored event to show our appreciation for teachers and staff. Ice cream socials will also be held at the main campus and ECC in May. Janine suggested these be scheduled during Teacher Appreciation Week, May 6-10, 2019. Ken Rinderknecht and Barbara Wallace have committed to be at the main campus, Vivian Gibson and Kathy at the ECC.

4. Governance: Tom Hoerr reminded Board members all must submit a Personal Financial Disclosure Statement to the Missouri Ethics Commission by May 1, 2019. This can be done on line. Tom reported he will be talking with two possible Board candidates later this week, and we still have spaces to add four people to the Board. Jim reported the by-laws have not yet been submitted to our attorney for review.

5. Facilities & Master Plan: Brian Feld of HWK Architects gave a presentation of the Master Plan which was emailed last week to the Board by Kathy Anderson. The Master Plan is a recommended path forward for possible future growth in student numbers and facilities expansion. There is a General Contractor/Construction Manager in place and all is ready to be able to begin construction regarding the most immediate plans - for the additional classroom building and the cafeteria expansion. Completion of this first phase of the plan is to be ready by the 2020-21 school year. The rest of the plan represents a recommended road map for possible future growth and has no timetables attached. Deb Cottin indicated big asks for the capital campaign should begin soon, stressing every Board member should make a financial commitment to be involved in this campaign.

Ross Woolsey raised a procedural question whether the Board needs to vote on the entire Master Plan at one time. Jim feels all the Board needs to do at this time is to commit to Phase I. Discussion was held whether construction could begin this summer. Brian Feld indicated if construction starts in October or November, 2019, an 8 month construction plan should work for having Phase I completed for the 2020-21 school year.

Brian also discussed some of the possible future plans outlined beyond Phase I. Various aspects of this included: a possible addition to Building I, a new configuration for student drop-off and pick-up, increased parking availability, and a proposed under-sized soccer field. The current strategic plan projects student growth to 660 students through 2020. Adding classroom space to Building I would put potential growth to 720 students. It was noted the overall plan would serve to make North Side more secure and more inviting. Jim pointed out that how much of the overall plan can be implemented is related to how much money can be raised. Long term goals in the Master Plan do not include moving middle school students back to the main (Euclid) campus.

Jim suggested the Board should authorize formation of a capital campaign group to facilitate fundraising for the Master Plan. A motion to approve Phase I of the Master Plan was made, seconded and passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Ken Rinderknecht, Secretary

