



NORTH SIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2019

Present: Board Members: Jim Brigham, Michael Zuccarello, Vivian Gibson, Alison Nash, Byron Francis, Tracee Holmes, Tom Hoerr, Ross Woolsey, Chris Haffenreffer, Ryan Bumb, Mike Carpenter, Ken Rinderknecht.

School Administrative Staff: John Grote, Chester Asher, Janine Gorrell, Brian Gross, Deb Cottin.

4:50pm Meeting called to order by Jim Brigham.

Minutes for the April 9, 2019 and March 12, 2019 Board meetings and the March 25, 2019 call-in Executive Session were reviewed and approved.

1. Administrative Report: John Grote reported on the school nurse situation at North Side. A nurse we had been employing resigned to accept a full-time position elsewhere. BJC is offering a new program in which North Side could get a nurse, for which a commitment of \$7,000/year for five years would need to be made. Some financial support for this may be available, for which application has been made. Alison Nash is very optimistic about getting an R.N. and getting the subsidy through BJC. Per Alison, the full-time nurse would keep tabs on medications and illnesses, provide education to staff and review immunizations. North Side will have a choice in the nurse selection. BJC does not indicate whether the full-time nurse is for an 11 or 12 month time period.

John presented information regarding 2 different school attendance measures used in Missouri. General average attendance is the figure used to determine state funding. North Side's figure for this school year is 94.7%. A second measure used is "90/90" - meaning at least 90% attendance at least 90% of the time. The "90/90" measure is used in the APR (Annual Performance Report). John indicated North Side will fall short of 90% on this measure this school year, but this will have no impact on school funding.

John reported for Stella Erundu that Stella is working to staff new teachers for new classes, has good candidates and is making progress. The middle school has been dealing with some cyber issues/on-line threats. Stella has developed protocols to deal with these. Some remodeling at the middle school is underway for next year, for which Third Baptist had underestimated the overall cost. John reported it is too early to tell what percentage of current 4th graders will move up to middle school for next year.

Janine Gorrell reported a new 4th grade teacher will be added next year. One

Kindergarten teacher position and one teacher interventionist (formerly called teacher's aide) position are open. Janine said about 75% of North Side students will be part of a celebration at the end of the year because their individual improvement made this year was higher than targeted. Janine reported this is Charter School week, with guest readers coming in for classes this week. Also, this coming Friday is Spirit Day at North Side.

Chester Asher reported he is feeling very welcome, realizing this is still the "honeymoon stage" for him. He is meeting one-on-one with all staff members - still has about 10 more staff members to meet with. Asher indicated his goals for next year are not yet finalized. He stated a desire to develop consistency in practices regarding student behavior, and develop some data regarding where our scholars/children go upon leaving North Side.

2. Governance: Tom Hoerr presented the names of 2 prospective new Board members: Ebony Duncan-Shippy, an Assistant Professor in the Washington University Department of Education, and Beth Louis, former North Side Board member. Both Ms. Duncan-Shippy and Ms. Lewis were affirmed/approved as new Board members by a unanimous vote of the Board. Tom also reported Governance Committee recommendations for Board Officers for the upcoming year: Jim Brigham as President, Michael Zuccarello as Vice-President, and Ken Rinderknecht as Secretary. A vote was taken and these officers were affirmed/approved for the upcoming year.

It was noted that Jim Brigham has been serving as Treasurer since Chris Haffenreffer resigned as Treasurer because of business and family commitments. Brian Gross has been overseeing Finance Committee matters. The Finance Committee will meet again before the next Board meeting. It was noted Sue Cejka has volunteered to come back on the Board. Mike Carpenter also offered to serve as Treasurer.

Discussion was held regarding the already approved resolution to be able to expand the Board to 19 total members and to change the length of time Board members could serve from 3 two-year terms to 2 three-year terms. The merits of allowing possibly 3 consecutive three year terms were discussed. The benefits of having less frequent Board member turnover were noted. Byron Francis stated he likes the idea of having Board members be off the Board for a year and then being extended the opportunity to return to the Board. The current By-Laws allow for a maximum of 3 two-year terms.

Tom noted good ideas were presented for review and discussion by the Governance Committee. It was also noted the maximum 19 total Board members would include both the President of the PTO, as an ex-officio voting member, and a Young Friends Board member.

Tom also presented the prospect of having, as yet unscheduled, a Board retreat sometime this summer or fall.

3. Development: Deb Cottin reported the survey results/responses for the Gala were very good, and money for the Gala is still coming in. Deb indicated the Gala site will likely be changed for next year. She is hopeful of having a decision on the site by next Board meeting.

Deb reported her expectation of having raised a net of \$585,000 by the end of the fiscal year (the end of June).

Deb talked about the very good media response regarding the hiring of Chester Asher as North Side's Executive Director.

Deb reported on progress she and Rob Ciampoli are making regarding updating the North Side website. They are not happy with some of the photos for the website, but Captiva

Marketing will be doing a pro-bono photo shoot next week. Also, North Side now has an Instagram account.

There will be a meeting this Friday morning with one of two firms to be receiving an RFP (Request for Proposal) to possibly serve as a consultant for the Capital Campaign. Deb requested Board members offer any other prospective names for consideration as possible Capital Campaign consultant. Jim reported having received an email recently from Social Venture Partners (SVP) regarding entering the third year of partnership with SVP. Jim presented the idea of using the \$25,000 funding from SVP to help pay for a Capital Campaign consultant, believing that to be an appropriate use for the funding.

4. Assessment Data: Chris Haffenreffer presented a report on his efforts to develop a framework for how to use data to both improve student academic performance at North Side and to inform Board members and others about North Side student performance. MAP scores data (Missouri specific) and NWEA data (National, percentile based) are both used in assessing North Side student performance. Chris reviewed the MAP data he got from the Missouri DESE website, which he used in charts to compare North Side's MAP scores with those of other charter schools; those of other schools in the 63112, 63113, and 63115 zip code areas; and those of top area elementary schools in Ladue and Clayton. It is notable North Side's MAP results for 2018 far outstrip those of other schools in the first two comparison categories, but also compare rather favorably with those of the Ladue and Clayton elementary schools. Chris has a goal to be able to present charts/dashboards to the Board two or three times/year. For the next Board meeting Chris expects to have 6 years of NWEA data to report.

5. Finance: Brian Gross reported on March, 2019 financials. He indicated North Side is in the black through March, 2019. Checks written for over \$10,000 were reviewed, and the check register for April, 2019 was reviewed and approved. Brian provided an update on the check fraud situation North Side experienced recently when a Mr. Mayham, III fraudulently cashed a check from North Side and deposited it into his own account at Bank of America. Brian has been in contact with St. Louis Police and the FBI. Midwest Bank has decided to return North Side's funds, totaling \$29,319.70, so there is no longer a need to make an insurance claim. Brian reported signing up for a service called Positive Pay through Midwest Bank to prevent this from happening again.

Brian discussed various aspects of the draft budget for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. The preliminary numbers include a 3% salary increase for teachers and staff; the costs for a new nurse and new social worker; and the new part-time marketing position. These are all in the Strategic Plan. The projections for the building expansion projects are slightly different than previously presented. The plan for student enrollment is to over-enroll at first, given that North Side may lose some of the initial students. Title I, II, and IV projections will be reviewed at the June Board meeting.

Brian discussed the possibility St. Louis Public Schools may push for an increase in the amount charter schools must pay into the Public Schools Retirement System. Regular public schools currently pay 19% of pay and benefits into the retirement system, while charter schools pay 16%. Any change could only be done by the State Legislature, not by any Court action.

6. Facilities: Ryan Bumb reported the bid package with Interface Construction is being finalized. Any new, updated cost information should be known by late June to mid-July.

January, 2020 is currently targeted to begin construction, with improvements to the parking lot and pickup/drop off areas to begin in the summer time of 2019.

This being John Grote's last official Board meeting, Jim and the entire Board offered profound gratitude to John for his wonderful work as founding Executive Director of North Side Community School.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Rinderknecht". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with some loops and flourishes.

Ken Rinderknecht, Secretary