



NORTH SIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2019

Present: Board Members: Jim Brigham, Beth Louis, Kathy Anderson, Byron Francis (by phone), Tracee Holmes, Ross Woolsey, Alison Nash, Ryan Bumb, Lamechia Bradford, Mike Carpenter, Tom Hoerr, Ken Rinderknecht.

School Administrative Staff: Chester Asher, Janine Gorrell, Stella Erondy, Celeste Metcalf, Brian Gross (former staff), Deb Cottin.

Teachers: Sonya Taylor, Mikayla Thompson, Megan Tosh, Rita Daniels (teacher assistant).

Others: Bill Mendelsohn, of UMSL and Doug Thaman of MCPSA.

5:00pm Meeting called to order at the Main Campus by Jim Brigham, following a brief student presentation as part of a "Mission Moment" in the main building.

Minutes of the October 8, 2019 Board meeting were reviewed and approved.

1. Financial Report: Brian Gross was present to formally give the September financial report. Brian has been walking through the financials process with Celeste Metcalf. Brian reported revenue of \$1,574,251 and expenses of \$1,615,717, with a ending cash balance of \$1,984,325. Estimates of revenue to be received from DESE are conservative, and there will be a Re-assessment of the number of students lost this year by the first of 2020. Brian discussed other elements of the financial report. It was suggested that future financial reports be condensed or streamlined, to present the basics in a more simplified manner. The October check register was reviewed and approved.

2. Charter School Funding Equity: Doug Thaman, Chairman of the Missouri Charter Public School Association (MCPSA) gave a presentation regarding a legislative campaign to bring equity in funding for Missouri public charter schools. Doug provided an overview and history of various problematic issues regarding funding payments since the law authorizing charter schools in Missouri was passed in 1998. The 1998 law established that St. Louis charter schools were to be paid their funding locally by St. Louis Public Schools (SLPS). Doug reported this did not work all that well, and in 2007 the law changed, with the State of Missouri directed to pay funds to charter schools. However, the local tax component for establishing funding is still based on 2004-2005 property tax rates.

MCPSA is working on language for legislative consideration to overcome any funding discrepancies and the unintended shortfall in payments to charter schools. SLPS is currently receiving funds legally that should be going to charter schools. It is not really advisable to bash SLPS for this, but they may argue they cannot afford to lose revenue. If new legislation is passed, the benefits to charter schools would not accrue until 2021.

3. Executive Committee Report: Jim Brigham reported that recent staff survey results were discussed at the Executive Committee meeting. Further, there will be an additional survey conducted that was prepared by Tom Hoerr and Ebony Duncan Shippy.

Jim reported there is to be a Board Retreat in the Spring 2020. Time, venue and details to be determined later. It is anticipated it may involve Friday evening/Saturday morning sessions, to be facilitated by someone or group outside the Board as yet chosen.

4. Public Comment Period: A teacher present expressed feelings that teachers are struggling with the pressure of the pace and extent of changes taking place at North Side. Some of the changes were felt to be affecting teachers' lives away from school. The stresses of completing home visits was also mentioned. Gratitude was expressed about the Board's willingness to listen to and consider staff concerns expressed in meetings and in survey results. The teacher expressed feelings of loving coming to North Side from a prior "bad school" situation, and a desire not to lose the community feel of North Side. The teacher was thanked for the willingness to come forward and was assured the Board wants to be responsive to, and considerate of, teachers' concerns.

5. Administrative Report: Chester Asher reported North Side has recently had visits from EL (Expeditionary Learning) personnel and from a national charter schools association. Some of their comments included that the school environment and classes are very good but that rigor and the amount of challenging work could be increased. Asher discussed elements of the November Board Report, which included a breakdown by grade level of North Side's 2019 MAP testing results. Asher, Stella Erundu and Janine Gorrell all discussed ANET (Achievement Network) scores, a new evaluation measure being used this year. Asher provided a breakdown by grade of ANET average scores in math and ELA. ANET scores can be used to evaluate how North Side students should do on MAP testing, and this should allow staff to assess areas in which students need to improve. This Friday, November 15, will be Data Day", which will allow a full day of data assessment while students will not be present.

Asher discussed his belief there is need to make changes in school discipline approaches to achieve more uniformity in interventions when student behavior problems occur. The goal is to use a restorative justice approach to improve student behaviors and cut down on the numbers of suspensions.

It was determined that a Board vote on approving the new Family Handbook and Employee Handbook will be tabled, to be taken at a future meeting. Discussion was also held regarding streamlining the Administration Report to shorten the amount of time it takes during Board meetings. Asher feels this is very doable. Asher also reported he has reached out to two firms, including Common Ground, to receive quotes for providing public relations services to benefit North Side. He is hoping to reach out to at least one more firm.

6. Capital Campaign Report: Beth Louis and Ken Rinderknecht reported on how the Capital Campaign to raise funding for the new building and cafeteria expansion is proceeding. The Capital Campaign committee met on November 6 to update progress in seeking major six-figure gifts. The major focus to date has been on pursuing Centene, World Wide Technologies (David Steward), Emerson and Enterprise, among others. Both Beth and Ken also met with Pat Rich and Michael Farley of EMD Consulting to discuss strategic planning on how best to proceed.

7. Facilities : Kathy Anderson provided a building construction update. Everything is on track

with the plans and working with ICC (Interface). Discussion was held regarding when to have a groundbreaking ceremony, how to involve the community in this and receive good media coverage for the school. No firm date has been set.

8. Parent and Community Engagement: Alison Nash reported on matters discussed at the Parent and Community Relations Committee conference call meeting held on November 7. The next Northside Parent Organization (NPO) meeting is scheduled for November 14, and the Spelling Bee is scheduled for December 4. NPO is asking stores in the area for donations to support prizes and trophies. NPO and the committee are looking for more ways to bring community resources and information to North Side families. There is a Girls on the Run event on November 16, at which North Side students will be participating and North Side teacher Megan Tosh will be a speaker. Board members were encouraged to attend.

9. Governance: Tom Hoerr discussed the need for a new Board Vice-President in view of Michael Zuccarello's resignation. Kathy Anderson has agreed to serve as interim Vice-President and head of the Executive Committee until the end of the 2019-2020 school year. It was moved and seconded and approved by unanimous vote that Kathy serve as interim Vice-President of the Board. Tom indicated the issue of the composition of the Executive Committee has been discussed, including a review of the by-laws on this matter.

Asher asked for some time at the end of the meeting to discuss some further administrative matters, including some changes from past practices in how decision making responsibilities are handled. Asher also reported that the Home Works! program is pulling out of its participation with the Middle School, but remaining with the Elementary School.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Rinderknecht, Secretary