

NORTH SIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2021

Present: Board Members: Kathy Anderson, William Ball, Ryan Bumb, Mike Carpenter, Stacy Erker, Fred Falker, Byron Francis, Brian Gross, Tracee Holmes, Michael Quinlan, Alison Nash, Liza Weiss, Ken Rinderknecht.
School Administrative Staff: John Grote, Martine McGull, Sara Paracha, William Randall.
NSCS Teaching Staff: Abby Bennett, Shirley Walker.
Others: Ross Woolsey, Tad Hartmann, UMSL.

4:32 pm - Meeting officially called to order by Kathy Anderson via Zoom.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the September 14, 2021 Board Meeting were reviewed and approved by unanimous vote of the Board, with no corrections.

Public Comment Period: No one was present to offer public comment.

Executive Search Committee: Ross Woolsey reported that neither of the two candidates interviewed as the possible next Executive Director turned out to be available or viable candidates. Applications/Resumes are still being received and reviewed. The Committee is looking for more viable candidates with local connections, and Board members are asked to recommend anyone they know of that the Committee can proactively look into.

Ross offered that the Board should consider what type of individual and educational experience/background we are looking for. The ideal would seem to be an experienced academic with strong administrative skills, an understanding of fundraising, and abilities in

handling personnel matters. Ross has consulted with Robyn Wahby, Executive Director of the Missouri Charter Public School Commission. Ms Wahby suggested possibly considering a non-academic administrator. The Committee considered, and the Board discussed, the possibility of then creating a position of Chief Academic Officer that the Principals would then report to - or it could possibly be one of the Principals. This could add the expense of another administrative layer. Ross consulted Tom Hoerr, who was not enthusiastic about the idea of a non-academic administrator.

Ross advised that hiring a Search Firm might be a next step. Ms Wahby advised Ross that a national search might be very difficult now without a very significant increase in salary offering. Ross and the Committee discussed identifying possible local search consultants, believe it might be hard to identify a viable search firm.

About 200 resumes/applications for the

Executive Director position have been received to date; 47 have been responded to.

Executive Director/Administration Report:

John Grote reported enrollment has dropped by 7 students but is still at a good level.

Attendance has been good, striving to have at least 90% of students attending 90% of the time. There have been no significant Covid issues so far. John advised a new person has just accepted the position to replace the Elementary School Social Worker who resigned in July. She has not yet begun, but John feels she will be a better fit at North Side.

John reported a new Charter Schools Sports League has been formed, not in time for Fall sports. About 20 boys have expressed interest in being on the basketball team; Lance Sprenkel is to be the coach. 9 girls have expressed interest in playing basketball, with some teacher interest in possibly coaching. John remarked there has been some difficulty in the past getting enough girls to consistently participate.

Martine McGull discussed the investigation concerning the seemingly very high NWEA assessment scores for 4th graders reported last month. She provided revised, somewhat lower scores. While Ms McGull acknowledged there is much ground to be made up from the past year's Virtual learning due to Covid, she reported that 81 Elementary level students made the honor roll. Monday morning meetings have begun, on alternate weeks - 1st and 2nd graders one week, 3rd and 4th graders the following week. Also, a "Knight in Shining Award" is being instituted, with one student to be recognized each week. Further, Ms McGull reported Phase 1 of Math Stories has begun, which entails basically solving word problems using math. She reviewed the elements of this approach.

John spoke briefly about the High School placement process at North Side, believes it is much improved over the inaugural approach of last year. Leah Harris, Tom Mackowiak and Doel Bailey are working well with parents.

Students are learning about and doing research projects on area high schools.

Finance Committee Report: Will Randall reviewed the Finance Report for North Side that was emailed to all Board members. As of end of August 2021, the Report shows a cash balance of \$2,299,938, with a loan balance of \$1,401,305. To date, revenues have exceeded expenses by \$131,746. The revenue per child number has not changed, and the slightly lower enrollment number does not involve a substantial enough change to merit a Budget revision at this point. The annual audit by Westbrook should begin in mid-November.

Check register and checks written for over \$10,000 in September were reviewed and approved by a unanimous Board vote.

Brian Gross reported the Finance Committee is meeting monthly and is thinking about developing projections beyond the current fiscal year. Committee discussions regarding salary changes have been tabled for now.

Development Committee Report: Sara Paracha reviewed parts of her written Development Report, provided to Board members, including grant requests submitted and pending or in progress. The grant from Gateway Children's Charity, reported last month as being \$30,000, has now been doubled to \$60,000 due to the success of their recent fundraiser. The Young Friends Fundraiser at Top Golf was very successful and well-attended, netting \$7,736 and 3 potential new members for the Young Friends Board.

Sara discussed various other aspects of development planning. The Annual Report Card mailing has been sent out, the end of year appeal mailing will be sent out in November, and a part-time Development and Marketing Associate has been hired. Various means of providing holiday support to North Side families (possible meals, toys, gifts, etc.) are being considered. It is hoped the 8th Grade event held in May, 2021 can be expanded for Spring, 2022 to possibly include college visits, a tour of

the State Capitol and a student event at Third Degree Glass.

The Magic of Childhood Gala Committee will be meeting on October 25. The tentative plan at this point is for an April 29, 2022 Gala at Third Degree Glass Factory. Major Sponsors are being sought. Sara has provided a list to all of Gala sponsors from the previous few years. Any Board member recommendations of any other potential sponsors would be greatly encouraged.

Governance Report: Byron Francis reported the timing for being able to recommend another potential new Board member has not worked out so far. Byron has reached out to North Side's newest Board members Lindsay Combs, Fred Falker and Michael Quinlan regarding scheduling a new Board member orientation, hopefully in the next couple of weeks. Kathy advised she has spoken with Susan Marino of UMSL about possibly having an orientation regarding laws and responsibilities applicable to Missouri Charter Schools.

Parent/Community Relations Report: Ms McGull advised she is compiling a list of North Side parents who are interested in being members of the North Side Parents Organization (NPO). She will share this with Alison Nash and the Parent/Community Relations Committee.

New Business: Kathy Anderson reported briefly on her positive experience attending the Missouri Charter Public Schools Leadership Conference last week in Columbia. She plans to write up her notes regarding any matters pertinent to North Side and disseminate them.

At 5:45 PM the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Rinderknecht, Secretary