

NORTH SIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2021

Present: Board Members: Kathy Anderson, William Ball, Ryan Bumb, Mike Carpenter, Lindsay Combs, Stacy Erker, Fred Falker, Byron Francis, Brian Gross, Tracee Holmes, Michael Quinlan, Alison Nash, Pat Shipley, Liza Weiss, Ken Rinderknecht.

School Staff: John Grote, Martine McGull, Leah Harris, Sara Paracha, William Randall, Tom Mackowiak, Kaitlyn Gresham.

Others: Susan Marino, UMSL; Serenity Walker, parent.

4:30 pm - Meeting officially called to order by Kathy Anderson via Zoom.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the October 12, 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.

High School Placement Update: Tom Mackowiak, High School Placement Coordinator at North Side, provided a summary and update of High School Committee activities. The goal of the program is to help North Side's 8th grade students explore their best fit possibilities for a high school placement, with efforts to involve parents in the process. Tom and Jeff Thurman, 8th grade Social Studies teacher, conduct a 1 hour class every Thursday with all the 8th graders to expose them to a variety of possible high schools. Each student is expected to research an individual school and give a power point presentation to the class. Doel Bailey, Middle School Physical Education teacher, is very involved in meeting

with parents. North Side students and parents are being apprised that 7th grade test scores are very important in helping determine high school placement prospects.

Challenges moving forward include making the North Side culture translate into long term success for our students, developing best methods for following student success, and ensuring students are being connected with the best possible resources out there. The majority of our students would be attending Vashon or Sumner High as their regular public school based upon their residence addresses.

The Committee was very involved with helping students/families apply for SLPS Magnet School programs, emphasizing top tier programs. Some students attended Magnet High School night; there have been field trips to Cardinal Ritter and Kipp High; parents are being provided with Open House dates for other Public High Schools.

Executive Search Committee: Search efforts

are proceeding. Further discussion was curtailed until Executive Session.

Executive Director/Administration Report:

Martine McGull's Elementary School report included discussing kick off of the Show Me Literacy Project. She reported school-wide activities/competitions have been resumed, with medals provided to grade level finalists. Students are excited about this. Ms McGull also reported October fest was a big success, with much help from parents. Parent/Teacher conferences will be held from November 15 through 18. 80% of parents have already confirmed they will participate. Ms McGull also mentioned a Principal's Corner bulletin board has been set up to celebrate student academic and behavioral growth.

Leah Harris's Middle School report presented information about progress regarding the efforts of Reading Intervention teachers. Of the 56 students are involved in intervention efforts to improve reading skills, 41 have shown significant improvement. 4 students have been

moved out of needing intervention altogether. Most students will remain in the intervention program for the entire year but will be able to move up in levels as they progress. There will be a Mat Ball tournament at the Middle School next Friday, November 19.

John Grote discussed the potential numbers of sections for the various grade levels in both the Elementary and Middle School next year. Also under consideration is returning to 3 pre-K classes next year. Retaining students at the Middle School is an important issue. Another consideration for next year is whether to locate the 5th grade classes at the Euclid campus or have them remain at the Middle School.

At the end of the first trimester, John believes things are returning more to normal. A lot of the teaching staff are newer and inexperienced but are improving. Students are seen as settling down and catching up. Food service has 2 new cooks and all is going well. John reported on a couple of bus accidents - neither the fault of our driver. The bus driver corps fortunately remains

stable. The COVID situation remains relatively calm, with few cases or quarantines.

Finance Committee Report: Will Randall reviewed the September Finance Report for North Side that was emailed to all Board members. The Report shows a cash balance of \$1,902,873, with a loan balance of \$1,401,305. As of end of September, YTD expenses have exceeded revenues by \$265,263. CARES money will begin to show up in the October and November reports. With enrollment numbers down slightly, ADA (average daily attendance) is being adjusted and the State has been contacted to make an adjustment in our payment. The annual audit by Westbrook to begin in mid-November will be virtual.

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

Brian Gross reported the Finance Committee is reviewing a possible paternity leave policy. Currently North Side has a maternity leave

policy. The maternity leave now allowed is at 20 days, with the ability to use accumulated sick leave also.

Brian reported the 6 year lease with Third Baptist Church for the Middle School is now in it's 4th year, with the payment going up a little each year. Additional space is being used there this year. North Side does have an option to renew at Third Baptist. A future consideration may be adding another building at the Euclid campus for Middle School.

Development Committee Report: Sara Paracha reviewed elements of her written November 3 Development Report, provided to Board members, including grant requests submitted, pending or in progress. Recent grants awarded include:

\$10,000 from Third Baptist; \$24,940 from Emergency Connectivity Fund (to be used as partial reimbursement for chrome books and hotspots); and \$5,000 from Regional Business Council (for security camera upgrade). Sara reported revenue received to date of \$130,424 - excluding Capital Campaign funds/pledges.

Sara introduced Kaitlyn Gresham, part-time employee working on development and marketing. Kaitlyn began 3 weeks ago, has a non-profit background in marketing and communications. Giving Tuesday will be emphasized on the web site and social media, and the End of Year appeal letter is being developed, which will emphasize special education challenges and needs.

The Magic of Childhood Gala date and location have been set - Friday, April 29, 2022 at Third Degree Glass Factory. A "Save the Date" mailing will be sent. The Gala Committee had a first meeting on October 25, will meet again December 1. Board members are encouraged to sign up for or suggest possible people/ organizations to pursue for Gala sponsorships; also encouraged to be table sponsors for the event. Board members are also asked to consider contributions by December 3 of items (games, toys, gift cards, books, etc.) to be used as holiday gifts for students.

Facilities Report: Ryan Bumb reported the Committee's focus will be on getting a 5 year plan up and going. This could involve the need to plan the possible move of the 5th graders back to the Elementary Campus.

Governance Report: Byron Francis reported the Governance Committee's unanimous recommendation to consider Carlton Brooks as a new Board member. Carlton has served on the North Side Finance Committee for about 3 years and had served North Side as a consultant some years ago. He has been the Director of Finance for the Ferguson-Florissant School district since 2017. Following discussion, motion was made, seconded and approved by unanimous vote of all Board members to welcome Carlton Brooks as the newest member of the North Side Board.

Byron reported on Mike Quinlan's heading a new committee/task force regarding the hiring and retention of teachers at North Side. Other volunteers are requested to join that committee.

Parent/Community Relations Report: Ms McGull advised she has identified North Side parents who wish to become members of the North Side Parents Organization (NPO). She plans to schedule a time for a meeting/ gathering, hopefully in person. John indicated an in-person meeting would be okay, with masks and proper social distancing measures. Alison Nash reported the Links Incorporated Positivity Bench has arrived and has been put in place on Elementary School campus.

At 6:10 PM the regular meeting was adjourned to go into Executive Session to discuss Executive Director search issues.

At 6:30 PM the Executive Session was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Rinderknecht, Secretary

