

NORTH SIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2022

Present: Board Members: Kathy Anderson, Carlton Brooks, Mike Carpenter, Stacy Erker, Fred Falker, Crystal Fowler, 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.

Others: Tad Hartmann, UMSL; Danielle Langeneckert, Young Friends; Abby Bennett, teacher; Kern(?).

4:35 pm - Meeting officially called to order by Kathy Anderson via Zoom.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the November 9, 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: Pat Shipley reported search efforts are continuing. Two strong candidates that were identified have both declined to proceed with further consideration. Engaging an outside firm to assist with the search is certainly a possibility at this point. Ross Woolsey has identified some firms for consideration. Pat indicated anyone else who would like to join the Search Committee would be welcome.

Executive Director/Administration Report: John Grote advised that, unlike his last report, COVID resurgence has hit North Side harder than before - especially over the last 10 days. Staffing difficulties caused the Middle School to

go to virtual learning for 4 days last week. Middle School is now back to in-person learning. North Side will continue to follow City Health Department guidelines/advise re: COVID considerations. John commented the quarantine time being dropped from 10 days to 5 eased staffing difficulties, and that so far no COVID spread has occurred at school - cases have all come from outside the school. North Side has medical masks for students and we have antigen tests available for staff.

Martine McGull reported on NWEA testing at Elementary School as showing mixed results. Test results have shown growth but there is still much improvement to be made. She reviewed overall results by grade level. Ms McGull reported that 211 students were recognized in the “Principals Corner” for having shown academic or behavioral growth and improvement. 56 students made the honor roll and 6 have had prefect attendance. There is a spelling bee scheduled for January 28, and numerous activities are being scheduled for Black History month in February. Ms McGull

also reported she has a list of at least 54 parents who have expressed interest in being involved in the North Side Parents Organization (NPO).

Leah Harris reported on NWEA test results for the Middle School. There was 72% improvement shown in math scores - significant growth but math scores still lower than language scores. House competitions were started/resumed in December, and 49 Middle School students celebrated being on the honor roll. 1/3 of 8th graders have already received acceptance to high schools; some students are interviewing at St Louis U High, and one student has applied for the Wyman Center Program. John believes the High School Placement Committee has been doing a terrific job.

John reported on recent teacher changes. A 2nd grade teacher was involved in a car accident prior to Thanksgiving; a teacher's aide has taken her place in the classroom. A 3rd grade teacher has moved due to her spouse's

job transfer. The number of 3rd grade sections has subsequently been reduced from 5 to 4, with being able to still maintain class sizes at 15 or fewer students. A 5th grade teacher left due to philosophical disagreements, with a newly-hired teacher to begin this Thursday.

Finance Committee Report: Will Randall reviewed elements of the November, 2021 Finance Report for North Side that was emailed to Board members, including year-to-date revenue, expense and loan balance figures. Monthly revenue numbers have been affected by lower than budget-projected attendance numbers. CARES money will make up some of that budget deficit, and it was noted that some budgeted expenditures will be lower than were projected. Some students leaving/relocating due to COVID is seen as having an impact on attendance numbers.

Check registers and checks written for over \$10,000 in November and December were reviewed, with brief discussion of some items. November and December check registers were

approved by a unanimous Board vote.

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 Schnucks, for kitchen supplies; \$25,000 from Bellwether, for books and smart boards; \$500 from Old Newsboys, for supplies; and \$500 from The Will Flores Fund, for art supplies.

Sara reviewed other report updates, including a significant increase over last year in the amount raised (over \$50,000) from the End-of-Year Appeal. 130 individual thank you notes to individuals/companies for donations in 2021 have been mailed. Over \$324,000 has been received and /or pledged this year toward the \$540,000 Development goal.

The Magic of Childhood April 29 Gala planning continues. To date \$35,000 in sponsorships has been raised. Board members are encouraged

to submit/suggest any other company, organization or individual to pursue for a potential Gala sponsorship. Development Committee has discussed the possibility of having to postpone the Gala if COVID considerations dictate - hopefully this will not be necessary.

Young Friends Report: Danielle Langeneckert was present to provide a Young Friends Group update. Young Friends are hoping to schedule a late winter/early spring event. Various ideas are being considered - date and venue not yet determined. Danielle reported Young Friends has added numerous new members resulting from and since their Top Golf event. Young Friends are also exploring ideas for other possible events and activities for the spring, involving hopefully getting to the school in person more often. The Board thanked Danielle and Young Friends for helping to strengthen and promote North Side.

Governance Report: Byron Francis indicated nothing new to report from the Governance

Committee. It was noted that today is Carlton Brooks' first Board meeting as a new member. Kathy Anderson reported that Susan Marino, UMSL Charter Schools Executive Director, has put together a training regarding best practices for high performing charter school boards. The date is not yet scheduled. Board members are encouraged to attend.

At 5:38 PM the regular meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Rinderknecht, Secretary