

NORTH SIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2022

Present: Board Members: Kathy Anderson, Carlton Brooks, Ryan Bumb, Mike Carpenter, Fred Falker, Brian Gross, Michael Quinlan, Alison Nash, Pat Shipley, Ken Rinderknecht. School Staff: John Grote, Martine McGull, Leah Harris, Sara Paracha, William Randall, Tom Mackowiak
Others: Tad Hartmann, UMSL; Danielle Langeneckert, Young Friends Board.

12:00 pm - Meeting officially called to order by Kathy Anderson via Zoom.

Presentation by Middle School: Leah Harris

introduced 3 Middle School students - Jalisa, Kaden and Donald. The students talked about their experiences at North Side and their being challenged positively by their teachers. They talked about the benefits of the high school preparation class at North Side in terms of introducing them to various high school possibilities and helping with the application process.

Jalisa has considered a number of schools, believes she will probably go to Incarnate Word Academy.

Kaden says he will be going to CBC High, and Donald plans to attend either Cardinal Ritter or St Mary's High. All were thanked for their presentations.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the January 11, 2022 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 Program Update: Tom Mackowiak, High School Placement Coordinator, presented an overview of the high school preparedness program and the high school preparation class. The program has been having much success in helping students and their families explore quality high school settings. At least 24 North Side 8th grade students have applied to, and/or been accepted at, a private, charter or magnet high school. Tom indicated schools accepting North Side students include: Cardinal Ritter, St Louis U High, CBC, Miller Career Academy and St Mary's, among others. Questions remain regarding financial aid and scholarship assistance for some of our families.

Tom reviewed aspects of a written "think piece" that has been provided the Board, with an overall goal to prepare and empower North Side students with life skills and resource connections for high school and beyond. Tom outlined various objectives and tasks proposed to help maintain in North Side culture a continuing education mindset, continue efforts

to help North Side 8th graders find their best fit for high school, track and assist students after they have left North Side, etc. Tom suggested that plans for such need to be further considered and developed. The Board recognizes that Tom and the high school placement committee have been doing a terrific job in aiding 8th graders and their families prepare for and choose appropriate high schools.

Executive Director/Administration Report: John Grote advised of good news regarding COVID. Numbers are improving and staffing difficulties are much lessened, hot meals from the cafeteria will be resuming, extra activities are to be resuming in March - including art, theater and dance. The Bailey Foundation is helping with these. Basketball games are happening, soccer is to resume in Spring, as well as Girls on the Run. The hope is to return to a regular extended day program in the Fall, 2022 - unable to mix cohorts at this time. House competitions hopefully will be able to continue.

John related some staff changes, and that recent replacements have been upgrades.

Martine McGull provided her Elementary School report. Teachers are doing very well with lesson planning, teachers are feeling appreciated and most are indicating a desire to return to North Side next year. Honor Roll students have been recognized, a spelling bee was held, and there are planned Black History days/programs in February, including a student performance on February 25, Students are being prepared to go into MAP testing this Spring. Ms McGull also shared nice photos of some of the classroom door decorations from Spirit Day.

Leah Harris reported that virtually 100% of teachers at the Middle School are saying they hope to return next year. A spelling bee was held in January, recognizing 6 winners. A Black History program will be held during the school day on February 18. Board members are invited to attend. Ms Harris reported the new 5th grade ELA program has been really strong, and the new 5th grade teacher assistant has been

good. NWEA data has brought about some efforts to improve student performance.

Finance Committee Report: Will Randall reviewed elements of the November, 2021 Finance Report/Balance Sheet for North Side that was emailed to Board members, including year-to-date revenue, expense and loan balance figures. Also provided was a breakdown of cash flow numbers through December, 2021. Both revenues and expenses have been lower than anticipated. Additional revenues will be coming in from ESSER and Federal Title funding.

Brian Gross reported that the yearly audit has been completed and is to be presented to the Finance Committee this week. The Finance Committee is looking at starting budget considerations for next year. The goal is to have a draft budget by the time of the May Board meeting. The budget must be approved by the end of June.

The check register and checks written for over

\$10,000 in January, 2022 were reviewed, with brief discussion of some items. The January check register was approved by a unanimous Board vote.

Development Committee Report: Sara Paracha reviewed elements of her written Development Report provided to Board members, including grant requests submitted, pending or in progress. Sara noted the DESE teacher retention grant that has been awarded in the amount of \$60,400.

Sara reviewed development updates, noting that a Leadership Circle gift has been sent to 59 donors (8 more than last year) who contributed \$1,000 or more to North Side in 2021. She also provided up to date information regarding the Magic of Childhood Gala set for April 29 at Third Degree Glass Factory. Those attending will be expected to provide proof of COVID vaccination or a recent negative COVID test result. Board members were asked to recommend any prospective sponsors and to consider being a table sponsor. Dates for some upcoming North

Side events were reviewed, including KG and 8th grade graduations - set for May 26 and 27 respectively. May 31 is the last day of school. Sara reported there will be a rotating group of Young Friends members regularly attending Board meetings.

At 1:03 PM the regular meeting was adjourned and motion was made, seconded and approved to go into Executive Session to discuss the transition to a new Executive Director (ED). It is anticipated that Doug Thaman will begin at North Side in early April, with John Grote's last day to be June 2 - to allow a smooth transition. A framework for formal ED reviews will be put in place.

Executive Session adjourned at 1:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Rinderknecht, Secretary

