

NORTH SIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
Board Meeting Minutes  
May 10, 2022

Present: Board Members: Kathy Anderson, Carlton Brooks, Ryan Bumb, Mike Carpenter, Stacy Erker, Fred Falker, Crystal Fowler, Byron Francis, Brian Gross, Tracee Holmes, Michael Quinlan, Liza Weiss, Ross Woolsey, Ken Rinderknecht.

School Staff: John Grote, Doug Thaman, Leah Harris, Sara Paracha, William Randall.

Others: Susan Marino, UMSL.

4:32 PM - Meeting was officially called to order by Kathy Anderson at the Elementary School Campus.

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

Finance Committee Report: Brian Gross advised that a draft of a proposed Budget for the 2022-23 school year has been put together. There will likely be changes made to it, and there should be a firm proposal to present at the June Board meeting. A Budget will need to be passed by the Board by the end of June.

Will Randall reviewed some aspects of the budget draft. Revenue numbers are based on an ADA (average daily attendance) of 423 students - a conservative estimate - and a projected \$9,330 per student in state funding. There have been no final funding numbers coming from DESE. Expenses levels are anticipated to be similar to this year's. There will be an across-the-board salary increase of 5% for all returning staff. ESSER funding of 2.4 million will be able to drawn on and is to be

used by October 2024. ESSER funds are allocated primarily for salaries. Some money could be used for recurring items such as Promethean Boards. Doug related that deferred funding from the state could be forthcoming if the school funding equity bill passes through and is signed by the Governor.

Will reviewed elements of the March Financial Report. The outstanding loan amount is at 1.3 million. The check register and checks written for over \$10,000 for the month of April were reviewed. The April 2022 check register was approved by unanimous Board vote.

Executive Director/Administration Report: John Grote reported Doug Thaman has assumed all duties for the upcoming 2022-23 school year, and that the transition to Doug's leadership has gone very smoothly. John announced that Leah Harris will be leaving her position as Middle School Principal at the end of this year to assume a position with Accenture in Chicago. John commended Leah for doing a remarkable job in her 2 years at North Side, especially

during the very difficult COVID pandemic period. The Board thanked Leah for all her efforts and her outstanding commitment to North Side and wished her well. Leah thanked the Board for all the support.

John reported that Lance Sprenkel will also be leaving North Side after serving the past 2 years as Operations Manager, and the prior 2 years as Assistant Elementary School Principal, doing an outstanding job in both capacities.

Doug Thaman reported he has enjoyed being able to meet with most of the North Side staff to date. He also reported there are some excellent candidates for the Middle School Principal position. Further, interviews are being conducted for 3 teacher positions for next year. Security issues are being considered also for the upcoming year - whether it would be more effective to hire our own or whether to contract for security services. North Side will have 2 Social Workers, one at Middle School and one at Elementary School. Work has begun on preparing the 2022-23 school year calendar.

Summer School will be held from June 6 through June 30. 207 students have enrolled for summer school so far.

Leah reported this is the last week for MAP testing. NWEA testing is set for the week of May 16 at the Elementary School and the week of May 23 at Middle School. Both graduation ceremonies will take place at the Middle School - 8th graders on Friday, May 27 at 4:00, and KG on Wednesday, June 1 at 1:30. On a very sad note, Leah advised of the 11 year old North Side female student who just passed away yesterday, as the result of a May 6 car accident.

In closing remarks, John reported he feels very optimistic about the future of North Side, and cautioned of the need to be realistic about the time it may take to reach full recovery from detrimental issues resulting from the COVID pandemic. MAP scores will likely be lower for a while, as undoubtedly will be the case at all schools. Getting fully back to the culture developed over the years may take some time, but John expressed great confidence in Doug

Thaman and the Board. John was thanked by the Board for his true commitment to North Side and his outstanding leadership through the years.

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 reported we are on track to meet or exceed the \$540,000 fundraising goal for the current fiscal year. The goal for the next fiscal year will be set at \$560,000.

Sara provided data and information regarding the April 29 Magic of Childhood Gala at Third Degree Glass Factory. About 250 attended the event, with total revenue raised of over \$216,000, with about \$13,000 still to be collected. The goals for both Gala Sponsorship and Fund-a-Need contributions were exceeded. Board members were asked to provide feedback to her or the Development Committee re: thoughts about the Gala. Sara commended Gala Committee members for their work and

commitment toward making this a successful event.

Various aspects of the May 20th program for 7th and 8th graders, to be held also at Third Degree Glass were presented - as were on-going efforts toward teacher and student recruitment. Some discussion was held regarding exploring options for high school scholarships or providing financial/educational support for North Side 8th grade graduates.

Young Friends Report: Sara Paracha provided an update. They will have their regular meeting tomorrow. Some Young Friends will be volunteering for Field Day, and they are working on a book drive. The age range for Young Friends remains 25 to 39. Tucker Grote is the head this year; there are a couple of good prospects to lead next year. They have lots of engaged, energetic people.

Facilities Committee Report: Ryan Bumb reported he will be meeting with Mike McClellan and with Doug Thaman. The plan is to provide a

Facilities update every 3 months. Ryan requests that each Strategic Planning committee provide an update regarding progress toward its stated plans and goals.

Teacher Retention/Appreciation Committee

Report: Mike Quinlan advised of the successful teacher and staff appreciation lunch on May 4. Pizza, salad and cookies were provided to staff at the Elementary, Middle School and ECC campuses. Mike thanked those who helped with this - Pat Shipley and her husband at the Middle School, and Ken Rinderknecht with Mike at ECC and Elementary. All staff seemed very appreciative.

Teachers night at Busch Stadium is set for June 14. 20 teachers will be picked by raffle, from the 30 or so who have applied, to receive tickets and free concessions at the ballpark that night.

Old Business: Kathy Anderson advised of the need to formally approve the annual North Side Community School audit. The Board voted unanimously to affirm and approve the annual

audit completed by Westbrook & Co, PC.

Susan Marino, Executive Director UMSL Charter Schools, advised UMSL will probably be redoing the North Side Performance Contract next year, reflecting new targets and new conditions resulting primarily from the effects of the COVID pandemic.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Rinderknecht, Secretary