

NORTH SIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2021

Present: Board Members: Kathy Anderson, Lamechia Bradford, Ryan Bumb, Mike Carpenter, Stacy Erker, Crystal Fowler, Brian Gross, Tracee Holmes, Alison Nash, Pat Shipley, Ken Rinderknecht.

School Administrative Staff: John Grote, Stella Erondu, Leah Harris, Stephon Greenlee, Sara Paracha, William Randall.

Teachers: Megan Rose

4:31 pm - Meeting officially called to order by Kathy Anderson via Zoom.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the April 13, 2021 Board Meeting were reviewed and

approved by unanimous vote of the Board, with no corrections or comments.

Public Comment Period: No one was present for public comment.

Finance Committee Report: Brian Gross and Will Randall provided and reviewed a written budget draft information report. This included estimated revenue and expenses for the 2021-22 fiscal year. The estimates project a \$260,000 operating deficit and project finishing \$65,000 in the black for the upcoming year. A more specific budget breakdown will be provided at the June Board meeting.

It was noted the state of Missouri did approve additional money for capital improvements this year; the specifics of this are not yet known - how much or how this will be received.

Check register for April, 2021 was reviewed and approved by unanimous Board vote.

Executive Director/Administration Report:

Stella Erundu reported that MAP testing has been basically completed, with maybe one or two still not in, to be completed or submitted by tomorrow. NWEA testing will be done May 17 - 21. Stella is preparing for teacher evaluations. All students are invited to attend summer school, with emphasis for those with bad attendance record (75% or below) to be attending. It is hoped summer school will help offset some of the educational deficits due to Covid this year.

Both Stella and Leah Harris thanked the Board for efforts during Teacher Appreciation week. Leah reported the Middle School did MAP testing last week, with 9 students needing to do makeup testing this week. NWEA testing has begun - NWEA tomorrow for virtual students. Average scores are falling below average - not unexpected due to Covid and virtual learning considerations this year. Middle School is working on retention lists and whom to strongly encourage to come to summer school.

Leah and Stella are working on graduation

ceremony plans, which will take place on May 27 (Kindergarten) and May 28th (first 8th grade graduation). Board members are encouraged to attend, will be seated on the second floor for 8th grade graduation.

John Grote reported on new teacher hiring for next year. There are still 6 positions to fill for Middle School, with the Elementary teaching staff nearly complete. John also reported recent quarantining for 5th and 8th grade due to some positive Covid tests or exposure related to 2 students and a bus driver, all apparently acquired outside of North Side.

Summer school will be conducted as normal this year, with 6 and a half to 7 hour days - in classroom only, no virtual learning. Students will be strongly encouraged but can't be compelled to attend.

John discussed the perceived need for a lot of remediation next year to make up for Covid deficits, in math but particularly in language skills. It is also hoped volunteers will be able to

return to campus next year in significant numbers.

John talked about enrollment numbers for the upcoming year being hard to predict - always a wild card in budget planning.

Kathy Anderson talked about the high school committee's working hard on students' high school preparation and placement, helping with recommendations where our students could/should attend after graduation from North Side.

Development Report: Sara Paracha discussed various parts of her written Development Report provided to Board members, including grant requests submitted, pending or in progress, and marketing efforts to boost recruitment and enrollment. Sara reported the Kemper Foundation's \$150,000 pledge for the Capital Campaign was approved by Kemper and the entire amount has been received. North Side did not get enough votes for the Ladue News Charity Awards, but there could still be a feature in the magazine.

Sara reminded all of the Virtual Gala this

Thursday, May 13 at 6:30 PM, encouraging all to “attend” and watch the 45 minute program. Sara provided up to date info regarding sponsorships, ticket, art and wine pull sales, and general donations. At least 156 are expected to attend.

Development Committee had a brainstorming meeting on April 29 regarding the Strategic Plan. There will be a Finance/Development focus group meeting next week.

The 7th Grade High School Preparedness / 8th Grade College and Career Intro event will be held on May 21st at the St Louis Marriott Airport Hotel.

Governance Committee: Kathy reported that Byron Francis would like the committee to meet, hopefully in person, before presenting to the Board any potential candidates to become new Board members.

Parent and Community Relations Committee Report: Lamechia Bradford reported she will

be stepping away from her role as head of the NPO (North Side Parent Organization), primarily due to her having child #5 on the way. Congratulations and thank yous were offered to Lamechia.

High School Placement Committee: Kathy reported on the committee's working to develop processes to aid our 8th graders in moving on to high schools. Kathy also alluded to the May 21 event at Marriott Airport and the plans initiated this Spring to help prepare 7th graders for moving forward with their educations.

Search Committee: Kathy reported that Pat Shipley and Ross Woolsey will Co-Chair the Search Committee for a new Executive Director. Many thanks to both. A conversation is to be held with Bill Mendelsohn regarding the search.

At 5:35 the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Rinderknecht, Secretary