

NORTH SIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2021

Present: Board Members: Kathy Anderson, Ryan Bumb, Mike Carpenter, Stacy Erker, Brian Gross, Tracee Holmes, Michael Quinlan, Pat Shipley, Liza Weiss, Ken Rinderknecht.

School Administrative Staff: John Grote, Leah Harris, Martine McGull, Sara Paracha, William Randall.

Others: Tad Hartmann, UMSL; Susan Marino, New UMSL Charter Schools Director; Ross Woolsey.

NSCS Parents: Lamechia Bradford, Jessica Bonner.

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

Introductions: Introductions were made between all Board members and Michael Quinlan, our newest Board member, and Susan Marino, newly appointed UMSL Charter Schools Director, replacing the now retired Bill Mendelsohn.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the June 8, 2021 Board Meeting were reviewed and approved by unanimous vote of the Board, with no corrections or comments.

Public Comment Period: Jessica Bonner, parent of a North Side student, was present. Ms Bonner asked about the plan for no virtual learning option to begin the year. She expressed some concern about the new Covid strain and indicated she felt her daughter did well with virtual learning last year. John Grote addressed her concerns, stating North Side is following current guidelines of the St Louis Health Dept and outlining the Covid precautions for classrooms, including full masking, maintaining proper distances in classrooms,

taking lunch as a class-only cohort, etc. Ms Bonner thanked John for the information, and Ms Bonner was thanked for her questions and participation.

Executive Director/Administration Report: John Grote reviewed some of the key elements of his written report which was provided to all Board members. He reviewed some goals for the year, including:

- create/recreate school culture
- develop effective teachers and classrooms that do basics well
- MAP test achievement goals
- retain at least 85% of teaching staff

John discussed some guidelines for effective classrooms, including:

- developing caring and respectful relationships
- careful assessment of students' learning
- assuring student engagement in the learning process
- competent planning and delivery of lessons

John discussed some of the difficulties involved with teacher and TA hirings. Currently all teacher positions have been filled. Hiring more TAs, with the additional federal relief funds provided, is an ongoing process. John elaborated on the current Covid-19 plans previously discussed with Ms Bonner - no virtual learning, full masking, normal classroom learning with appropriate distancing, in conformance with Health Department precautions. Staff vaccinations are being strongly encouraged but not required; will keep a record of who is vaccinated. Technology preparation includes the purchase of 110 new chromebooks.

Remodeling on the 4th floor of the Middle School is completed, and the new Elementary School building and new cafeteria are to be fully utilized. Some rough enrollment figures by grade level were provided; the numbers seem good but will not know for sure how enrollment is going until school begins. 15 students per classroom is to be maintained. No firm decision

has been made yet whether or when tutors/ volunteers will be able to return.

Finance Committee Report: Brian Gross and Will Randall reviewed aspects of the Finance Report, including figures for cash balance - \$2,168,136 - and current liabilities as of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021. Under the basic state formula, North Side received \$9,448 per student compared to the budgeted \$8,348 for the fiscal year. The end of year balance for our combined original loan and Capital Campaign coverage loan is \$1,424,935. All Capital Campaign contributions have been, and will continue to be, used to reduce loan principal. An \$800,000 principal payment on the loan has been made this month.

Hopefully a revised budget for this year will be able to be presented at the September Board meeting. There will be some funding to help cover costs of the new chrome books.

Check registers for June, 2021, and July, 2021 were reviewed and were approved by a

unanimous Board vote.

Governance Report: Kathy Anderson reported the Governance committee's recommendation for approval of two prospective new Board members, Lindsay Leible Combs and Fred Falker. Bios and resumes for both have been provided to all Board members. Ken Rinderknecht briefly reviewed their respective background information and experience.

The Board voted unanimously to welcome both Lindsay and Fred as new North Side Board members.

Search Committee Report: Pat Shipley and Ross Woolsey provided an update regarding the search for the next Executive Director, with the position beginning in June 2022. The Search Committee includes: Pat Shipley, Ross Woolsey, John Grote, Alison Nash, Ryan Bumb, and Kathy Anderson. Ross and Pat continue to read and review resumes, and Sara Paracha was thanked for her efforts in posting 50 or so different resumes to date. There are 4 or 5 very

viable candidates. Ross has spoken with them, with Pat or John to follow up with them re: education matters. The current plan is to have a full interview with probably 3 final candidates. It is felt if there are not at least 2 really good candidates by October 1, North Side may need to go with a search firm to assist with the search.

Discussion was held regarding the need to come arrive soon at a hard compensation number or a compensation range to be able to present to candidates. Investigation to look into comparable salaries at other charter schools is being done.

Strategic Planning Report: Ryan Bumb reported that a Strategic Plan draft is being prepared, awaiting complete comments from a couple of groups. The goal is to get a full draft to the Board for review by the end of August, and to be able to vote on a final plan at the September Board meeting.

Development Report: Sara Paracha discussed

various parts of her written Development Report, which was provided to Board members, including grant requests submitted, pending or in progress, and marketing efforts to boost recruitment and enrollment. Upcoming North Side events in the next few weeks were outlined:

- August 14 Back to School/Community Resource Fair, from 10AM - 2PM, will include some community organizations and availability of Covid vaccinations.

Volunteers are requested/still needed.

- August 18 Staff Retreat at Alpha Brewing, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. Board members are invited to attend.

- August 20/21 Kendra Scott Giveback Event - NSCS will receive 20% of purchase proceeds if you mention North Side. Store is located on Maryland Plaza in Central West End, next to Lululemon.

- September 15 Young Friends Fundraiser at Top Golf, from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. Sponsorships and 6-person bays are still available.

Sara also provided a Development Revenue recap of fiscal year 2020-21, including a Virtual Gala recap. North Side fell just short of the \$500,000 yearly revenue goal, largely due to being unable to hold an in-person Gala event. Sara also discussed aspects of the Development Plan for 2021-22, which has been provided to Board members. The revenue goal for the 2021-22 year is \$540,000. Sara outlined plans to achieve this goal, including increasing the number of individual donors, marketing efforts, foundation and corporation meetings, and hopefully being able to have a well-attended live Gala.

Parent and Community Relations Committee

Report: Lamechia Bradford reported no update regarding NPO (North Side Parent Organization). A letter will be sent out to parents at the beginning of the school year.

Facilities Report: Ryan Bumb reported on the need to update playground equipment at the ECC and the Elementary School campus. Sara is looking for grant possibilities and Lance

Sprenkel will look at options. Improving circulation at the bus entrance and parking for busses and drivers is in the plan. Larger maintenance items and long term planning will be part of the Strategic Plan.

At 6:15 PM the regular meeting was adjourned to go into Executive Session to discuss legal matters.

At 6:25 the Executive Session was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Rinderknecht, Secretary

