

NORTH SIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
Board Meeting Minutes  
September 14, 2021

Present: Board Members: Kathy Anderson, Lamechia Bradford, Ryan Bumb, Mike Carpenter, Lindsay Combs, Stacy Erker, Fred Falker, Byron Francis, 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: Susan Marino, UMSL Charter Schools Director.

NSCS Parents: Parent of Derrick Flannel.

4:30 pm - Meeting officially called to order by

Kathy Anderson via Zoom.

Introductions: Introductions were made between current Board members and North Side's newest Board members Lindsay Combs and Fred Falker - both attending their first Board meeting.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the August 10, 2021 Board Meeting were reviewed and approved by unanimous vote of the Board, with two corrections - including adding Byron Francis as having been present for the August meeting.

Public Comment Period: No one was present to offer public comment.

Search Committee Report: Pat Shipley presented an update on the Executive Director (ED) search. At least 40 resumes have been reviewed among those that have come in since July. 3 candidates were interviewed by Zoom on August 27. There has been one in-person

interview since then, with a second scheduled this Thursday. Some discussion was held regarding salary ranges for the ED position for both the prior and current search. Mike Carpenter indicated the Finance Committee expects to create salary boundaries at their meeting next week. Once compensation is decided upon, the North Side Attorney will be consulted regarding contract wording. Any prospective contract for the ED will be shared with the Finance and Search Committees.

Executive Director/Administration Report: John Grote reviewed elements of his Executive Report, including a Covid 19 update. Things have been okay so far, with only a few students having to be out of school for brief periods and no staff issues to date. 92% of educational staff have been vaccinated. North Side will continue to monitor Covid levels in the City.

John reviewed grade level enrollment numbers, which are somewhat lower than expected. John commended both Principals, Martine McGull and Leah Harris, for their efforts in getting the

school year off to a good start.

Ms McGull reported there are currently 331 students at the Early Childhood Center (ECC) and Elementary campus combined - preK through 4th grade. 113 of these are new arrivals at North Side - an unusually high number. This turnover of student population and the significant teacher turnover the past two years add to the challenges of overcoming the negative impacts of the pandemic and resulting virtual learning. Ms McGull reviewed recent NWEA assessment scores by grade and relative to past assessment scores and MAP testing. Scores and proficiency levels are down, as they are nationwide. NWEA will be administered again in the Winter and in the Spring, 2022. Teachers will be working toward significant learning and skills improvement. Extra efforts to overcome declines from Covid include focusing on reading and writing for the first 20 days, small group interventions and the use of 3 quality practicum students. Efforts are also being made to fill more Teaching Assistant

(TA) positions.

Ms Harris reported no pressing Covid issues at the Middle School to date. She reported on a decline in NWEA assessment results at the Middle School also. Reading intervention classes are in place for students who are at least two grade levels behind. TA's are doing small group reading and math support interventions. The Middle School has seven new teachers this year, resulting in the need for robust teacher development. Some challenges with student behavioral habits and re-establishing North Side school culture have resulted from the long absence from the classroom experience. 34% of Middle School students were out of classrooms for a full year and a half.

John, Ms McGull and Ms Harris all agree much educational development was greatly inhibited due to lack of in class learning last year. All agreed that maintaining teaching staff is critical for long term academic improvement. Volunteer

tutors are also needed/encouraged.

Finance Committee Report: Brian Gross and Will Randall reviewed aspects of the Finance Report provided to all Board members, including figures for current cash balance - \$2,273,936, and current liabilities - \$1,539,782. Under the basic formula, North Side is receiving \$9,448 per student. The combined original loan/Capital Campaign coverage loan balance is \$1,405,790. All Capital Campaign contributions have been, and will continue to be, used to reduce loan principal. The modified/lowered monthly loan payment is at \$8,203.31.

Check register and checks written of over \$10,000 in August were reviewed and approved by a unanimous Board vote.

Development Report: Sara Paracha reviewed parts of her written Development Report, provided to Board members, including grant requests submitted and pending or in progress.

A grant of \$30,000 to North Side from Gateway Children's Charity has been approved - \$10,000 more than the amount requested! The Young Friends Fundraiser at Top Golf will be held tomorrow evening. Sara reviewed the various sponsors. Over \$14,000 in revenue has already been received, and a full 100 attendees are expected. John and Sara were very complimentary regarding Young Friends' (YF) efforts. YF are hoping to attract additional members through this event.

Sara discussed various other aspects of development planning, including the Annual Report Card mailing coming soon and plans to provide plaques to Capital Campaign donors. Planning for a Spring, 2022 in-person Magic of Childhood Gala is beginning. Various venue possibilities are being explored, including Third Degree Glass Factory and others. A Gala committee is being formed, hopefully to begin meeting in October. Gala Co-Chairs, Gala Sponsors and Committee members are being sought and welcomed.

The Board offered congratulations to Sara on her upcoming October wedding.

Governance Report: Byron Francis reported another potential new Board member is to be interviewed - someone who was referred and recommended by Mike Carpenter. Byron will be reaching out to North Side's newest Board members regarding scheduling a new Board member orientation in the near future.

Strategic Planning Report: Ryan Bumb presented an overview of the Strategic Plan FY 2021-2024 that has been emailed to all Board members. Ryan reviewed key themes regarding stabilization, school mission, school cultural fabric and values. The Strategic Plan outlines goals set in 4 major areas of focus:

- Academics
- People/Staff
- Operations and Facilities
- Finance and Development

Discussion was held regarding the overall plan, the demographic outlook for the student population in the City of St Louis and other aspects of the Strategic Plan. Board members commended Ryan, the Strategic Planning committee and the various sub-committees for their hard work and the high quality outcome.

Motion was made and seconded to approve and adopt the Strategic Plan FY 2021-2024. The Strategic Plan was approved and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board.

Facilities Report: Ryan Bumb reported the major focus moving forward will be on items and goals outlined in the Strategic Plan. Ryan commented on the low number of Facilities Committee members and invited any Board members who would like to join the committee.

Compliance Plan for Special Education: Discussion was held regarding the need to again adopt a local compliance plan for special education. This is a State of Missouri DESE

requirement. North Side has adopted the Missouri Plan as written by DESE in the past. It was moved and seconded to adopt the Missouri DESE Compliance Plan for Special Education. The Compliance Plan was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board.

New Business: Kathy Anderson reported that North Side has been selected by Filament LLC to participate in a collaborative workshop/meeting for non-profit organizations on November 4, 2021.

At 6:05 PM the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Rinderknecht, Secretary

