

NORTH SIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
Board Meeting Minutes  
April 12, 2022

Present: Board Members: Kathy Anderson, Carlton Brooks, Mike Carpenter, Fred Falker, Brian Gross, Tracee Holmes, Alison Nash, Michael Quinlan, Pat Shipley, Ken Rinderknecht.

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

Others: Susan Marino, UMSL.

4:40 PM - Meeting was officially called to order by Mike Carpenter at the Middle School.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the February 8, 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.

Executive Director/Administration Report: John Grote reported his last day as Executive Director will be June 2. New Executive Director Doug Thaman was present for the meeting and was welcomed by the Board. Doug officially began at North Side on April 4 for two-month transition period with John.

John reported only 1 recent COVID case at North Side, limited recent quarantines. Mask wearing became optional on April 4, with all other COVID precautions in place through the end of the school year. Full Extended Day/after school programming, lost during the pandemic, is to be resumed for the 2022-23 school year. This year's extra activities have included the newly formed Charter Public School Basketball League (Middle School), Elementary School teams at the YMCA and a Spring Soccer League. The Bailey Foundation has also helped with after-school art, dance and theater activities.

John reported contracts have been extended to teachers for next year, and it looks like 75-80% of teachers plan to return. This will help with the process of rebuilding consistent staff. John remarked on the difficulties in hiring/retention for education positions in current times. Some position openings are already listed, more resumes are coming in, with one 3rd grade teacher already replaced. Administrative staff will all be returning. 2

Teacher Assistant positions will be filled, are interviewing for the Elementary School Social Worker position that has been vacant since January. John reported the plan is to cut back from 14 to 11 homerooms for the upcoming school year.

Martine McGull reported things are looking up at the Elementary School, including with lesson planning and test taking skills/preparation for MAP testing, which will be on-line. She reported on various activities, including pep rallies for the basketball team and for MAP preparation, plus recognition of honor roll students. Ms McGull commented on the positives coming from the CLSD program for reading and writing skills development. June 1 will be Field Day and the Kindergarten Graduation.

Leah Harris also reported seeing improvement in math and English skills levels at the Middle School. Ms Harris expressed there will be a first time ever Saturday Academy - to last for 4 weeks to help students prep for the MAP test. Ms Harris advised of other activities, including 7th and 8th grade college and career day, and planning for a school dance. 8th Grade Graduation is set for May 27.

Finance Committee Report: Brian Gross reported the Finance Committee is working on the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget. A final version will be presented

at the June Board meeting, will need to be approved by the Board by the end of June.

Will Randall reviewed various elements of the February 2022 Balance Sheet and the Finance Reports of revenue and expenses. North Side is currently \$397,322 in the red for the year to date. It is expected this will be lowered to the \$200,000 level by the end of the year, and it is not anticipated there will be a deficit budget for the upcoming year. Substantial ESSER money, \$2.4 million, will be coming next year.

The check registers and checks written for over \$10,000 in February and March, 2022 were reviewed, with some discussion. The February and March check registers were 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 North Side will be eligible again for a Boeing grant during the upcoming year, and the plan is to restart some older grant requests. Sara noted the fundraising goal of \$540,000 for the current fiscal year should be met. The goal for the next fiscal year will be set at \$560,000.

She provided up to date information regarding the Magic of Childhood Gala set for April 29 at Third Degree Glass Factory. The goal of at least \$85,000 in Sponsorship contributions has been exceeded. 244 tickets have been accounted for, and tickets may still be purchased through tomorrow. A “Fast Facts” information sheet has been provided to Board members to help in familiarizing Gala attendees with details about North Side.

The Development Committee is also planning to have a much-delayed lunch time event during the third week of June to celebrate the completion of the new classroom building and cafeteria expansion. All who contributed to the Capital Campaign will be invited to attend.

The Board acknowledged and offered congratulations to Sara Paracha for being recognized nationally as one of only five Outstanding Young Professionals to be honored by the Association of Fundraising Professionals. She will be receiving her award at the AFP convention in Las Vegas during the first week of May.

Governance Report: Kathy Anderson reported the Governance Committee’s recommendation to consider Ross Woolsey as a prospective new Board member. Mr Woolsey is a former Board member and, along with John Grote and Stella Erondy, was

one of the Founders of North Side. After discussion, it was moved, seconded and approved by unanimous vote of the Board that Ross Woolsey again become a member of the North Side Community School Board.

#### Teacher Retention/Appreciation Committee Report:

Mike Quinlan presented some of the ideas and potential activities the committee has been discussing to help show Board appreciation of teachers and improve teacher and staff retention. Mike invited Board members to share any ideas regarding showing appreciation, how to improve recruitment and how to best meet teachers' needs. The committee will be meeting with Doug Thaman sometime prior to the new school year to help develop various ideas.

New Business: Kathy Anderson presented a recommendation that the Mission Statement of North Side be amended by adding the word "public", thereby identifying North Side as a "public charter school" serving urban neighborhoods. The Board unanimously agreed to adopt this Mission Statement change.

No date has yet been set for the 8th Grade celebration that is in the planning stages. Teacher Appreciation Week is May 2 through May 6. Various plans are being considered, including the Board's

providing lunch for teachers one day during that week.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Rinderknecht, Secretary