

NORTH SIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
Board Meeting Minutes  
October 13, 2020

Present: Board Members: Kathy Anderson, Brian Gross, Ebony Duncan-Shippy, Byron Francis, Lamechia Bradford, Tracee Holmes, Mike Carpenter, Crystal Fowler, Tom Hoerr, Alison Nash, Ryan Bumb, Stacy Erker, Pat Shipley, William Ball, Liza Weiss, Ken Rinderknecht.

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

Teacher: Megan Rose

Others: Bill Mendelsohn, UMSL, Ross Woolsey.

4:30 pm - Meeting officially called to order by

Kathy Anderson via Zoom.

The minutes of the September 8, 2020 Board meeting were approved by unanimous vote of the Board, with no corrections.

Administration Report: John Grote began by reviewing the cardinal principals of the first 5 years of North Side presented in the Mission Moment of last month:

- High expectations for students, staff and families;
- Close and caring relationships in the classroom;
- A sense of discipline and order;
- Effective and successful classrooms and teachers;
- A strong school culture and community (which serves to feed the other principals).

John believes the Board needs to begin determining over the next few months what is North Side's path forward.

John related the tentative plan to bring students back to classrooms. The administration hope is

to bring grades 1 through 4 back beginning on October 26 - probably with each student at school for a half day each day, or possibly 2 whole days on, 2 whole days off. The hope is for Middle School students to return on November 9, the beginning of the second term, with the format maybe differing from that of the Elementary grades. Most teachers are reportedly okay with returning to the classroom. A few are feeling uneasy about it, and those teachers may be handling the students whose families choose to have their child(ren) continue a virtual learning option.

NWEA testing, the internal measure of student progress, was discussed. Difficulties in administering the tests virtually, and assessing the results therefrom, were noted. NWEA testing is done 3 times a year - in Fall, Winter and Spring. It is not clear whether NWEA test results will be used by UMSL to evaluate North Side, nor is it clear from DESE whether there will be MAP testing this school year. Leah Harris stated that NWEA test results can be very variable. Stella Erondu, John and Leah all stressed a variety of factors that may contribute

to lower scores at this point, including almost 1/2 a year's time with virtual learning (dating back to last March) and the loss of the benefits of in-person teacher/student interaction and school culture development during the Covid crisis. Various ways of leveraging interventions to address student deficits, while at the same time maintaining a safe environment, are being considered. Ebony Duncan-Shippy suggested there may be free virtual tutoring available from Washington U students.

John advised of the need to approve certain School policies. The Local Plan for Compliance With State Regulations mirrors the standard state plan North Side has adopted in the past. It was moved, seconded and approved by unanimous vote of Board members to approve The Local Plan for Compliance With State Regulations.

It was also moved, seconded and approved by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the Student Use/Computer Use Policy. North Side uses GoGuardian software for managing the devices students use, and all students have signed an agreement regarding appropriate

use.

John advised that Jessica Allen, primary Social Worker, has been chosen to be North Side's Homeless Liaison. The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act requires schools to have a local homeless education liaison. It was moved, seconded and approved by unanimous vote of the Board to approve Jessica Allen as Homeless Liaison.

Educational Leadership Committee: Ebony Duncan-Shippy has provided to Board members a written description of the purpose and operational measures of the committee. The Education Leadership Committee is to support and evaluate the Executive Director with respect to meeting North Side's educational goals. The ED will be evaluated at least twice each school year. Ebony discussed some of the areas of ED's performance the committee will be tracking.

Ebony and the committee will develop new ED search parameters. An ED Search Committee will need to be established, with Ebony to lead the Search Committee.

Facilities Report: Ryan Bumb advised the punch list has advanced for the new construction. There are some outstanding items to be addressed regarding the cafeteria, but the new classroom building can be used now. The Committee is working with 3rd Baptist to get improvements at the Middle School in place for the 2021-22 school year. Moving forward, Ryan plans to rework the Committee, which now consists of Ryan, Peter Benoist, and Stanford Richardson. Others are welcome to join.

Governance Report: Tom Hoerr advised the Committee is advancing Stanford Richardson, Project Engineer at Interface Construction, for consideration as a new Board member. Discussion was held; motion was made and seconded, and Stanford Richardson was approved by unanimous vote as a new North Side Board member.

Development Report: Sara Paracha has provided to Board members a written Development Department Plan for North Side

for the 2020-21 school year. She discussed elements of this, as well as the monthly Development Report. Sara provided a breakdown of donation amounts, donor types, and annual Gala donation history for the past two years, as well as donation and Gala target projections for the 2020-21 year. Target goals for the year are \$500,000 overall, with a goal of \$175,000 from the Gala. The Development Committee will be exploring possibilities for alternative options to an indoor Gala, now set for April 2021 - if Covid concerns would again necessitate a Gala postponement. Sara also discussed some school marketing and communications ideas.

The Capital Campaign has a goal to raise an additional \$240,000 dollars by the end of the calendar year - in order to solidify North Side's position to be able to receive a \$150,000 Capital Campaign contribution from Kemper/Commerce. Board members are encouraged to explore and/or advise of any possible contribution prospects to help with these efforts. The Young Friends Board is considering a possible Fall fundraiser event at Top Golf, in lieu

of their annual Rollin' with North Side bowling event.

Finance Report: John Grote presented an overview of a revised Draft Budget for the 2020-21 school year. It contains a significantly lower estimate of total revenue than was presented in the Budget approved in June, primarily because of not counting the SBA/PPP loan as revenue and lowering the estimate of state monies to be received this year. John and Brian Gross expressed that the PPP money should be not counted as revenue in a budget until the loan is forgiven, but that it would be counted as revenue in an audit. Decisions will need to be made as to how best utilize the PPP money. John also discussed some changes or additions regarding various expenditure items. Mike Carpenter stated it is possible there may be more stimulus money forthcoming from the Federal government, but we cannot count on this. In the long view, John believes it is a realistic that North Side should be able to break even on an annual basis.

Will Randall discussed elements of the August

2020 Financials. The check register for August was reviewed, noting checks of more than \$10,000. Motion was made and seconded, and the August check register was approved by unanimous vote of the Board.

Parent/Community Engagement: Lamechia Bradford reported on matters concerning the North Side Parents Organization. The NPO officers have a meeting this Thursday, October 15. NPO will be considering potential events for this year, including a possible drive-in movie night and possible plans for Halloween. A survey has been sent out to families to get feedback on how things are going, and parents are encouraged to make suggestions and ask for help.

New Business: John reported a committee has been formed to help in determining where North Side's 8th grade graduates can go to high school next year. The committee will help in identifying appropriate schools and assist parents in considering where their child should go and how to apply for appropriate programs.

Discussion was also held regarding the need to develop a new Strategic Plan for North Side and who could best assist in facilitating this.

Public Comment Period: Ross Woolsey, former North Side Board member and current member of the Development Committee, was present for public comment. Ross stated his feelings about the need for North Side to fully develop a Strategic Plan prior to beginning the search for a new Executive Director. Ross discussed some of the details surrounding the search efforts made in replacing John Grote the last time, emphasizing his belief the goals of the search committee and those of the search firm were not necessarily in sync. Some discussion was held regarding what should be our goals in attracting and best serving students and the neighborhood. The need to have an ED evaluation plan in place was also emphasized.

At 6:12 PM the Board went into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues.

At 6:28 PM the Board meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Rinderknecht, Secretary