

NORTH SIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
Board Meeting Minutes  
January 12, 2021

Present: Board Members: Kathy Anderson, William Ball, Lamechia Bradford, Mike Carpenter, Ebony Duncan-Shippy, Stacy Erker, Brian Gross, Tracee Holmes, Alison Nash, Stanford Richardson, Ken Rinderknecht, Pat Shipley, Liza Weiss.

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

Teachers: Megan Rose, Abby Bennett

Others: Doug Thaman, E.D./Missouri Charter Public School Association; Shree Hemphill, NPO parent.

4:35 pm - Meeting officially called to order by

Kathy Anderson via Zoom.

Doug Thaman, Missouri Charter Public School Association (MCPSA) Executive Director, introduced himself and provided a brief overview and update of MCPSA and its commitment to aid charter schools in providing a quality education to our students. He discussed the elements of resolutions MCPSA is recommending that Charter Schools consider adopting. These resolutions regard: 1. Financial Oversight, and 2. Board Training. Per Mr. Thaman, some negative press has been generated, based on state audits, regarding financial oversight and attendance reporting issues of a few charter schools in Missouri (not North Side). Mr. Thaman believes it is incumbent upon public charter schools to continue to implement strategies to address ourselves to a high level of accountability regarding financial oversight and school attendance reporting.

Mr. Thaman reported on appeals MCPSA is making with the state legislature to ensure public charter schools receive proper and

appropriate funding. If successful, he believes annual funding levels for charter school students should increase by \$600 or more per student.

Public Comment Period: No one was present for comment.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the November 10, 2020 regular Board Meeting and the December 8, 2020 Special Board Meeting were reviewed and approved by unanimous vote of the Board, with no corrections or comments.

Administration Report: John Grote spoke briefly about some core principals of North Side - teacher-centered, structured and direct education emphasizing skills development. North Side's focus has been a traditional approach, including phonics-based language programs. John reported that all students, including now Middle School, are able to be back for on-campus learning as of January 11. About 66% of Elementary students and 43% of

Middle School students are back in classrooms, The remainder of students continue using remote learning, which John believes North Side has done well with so far. A hybrid model is to be used now, with students in classrooms on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and all students at home learning remotely on Wednesdays. John reported on the importance of the second set/winter NWEA testing to be done - for being able to assess student's progress. All students, including those learning remotely right now, will be required to be present in person for this testing. This will give a much clearer picture of where North Side students are than the first/Fall testing done remotely

John reported the resignation of Carolyn Brightman as Director of Curriculum and Instruction at the Elementary School. There are no plans to immediately hire a replacement for her. She will become a 5th grade teacher with Kirkwood Schools.

John advised that 100 new chrome books and 50 new tablets have arrived this week for use by Kindergarten students.

Stella Erundu reported attendance has been good with more students back in classrooms - many tardies first day back yesterday, but much less tardiness today. Stella commented on the need to further the idea of strong teacher expectations, with so many new teachers this year in Elementary. Stella believes North Side really does have good teachers who need feedback to keep improving. Stella also commented on the need to establish good phonetics awareness in younger students. Leah Harris stated it is really good to have students back in the classrooms as of yesterday. Teacher anxiety levels were much less today than yesterday. She believes North Side has really great teachers and they will need support for lesson planning. Our students will need and deserve teachers' commitment, especially with kids being somewhat behind due to remote learning challenges. John remarked on praise of Leah and Stephon Greenlee coming from a teacher email today. John added his positive comments for Leah and Stephon upon the return of Middle School students who've been away for so long.

Audit Discussion/Finance Report: Brian Gross provided an overview and highlights of the annual audit of North Side recently completed by Westbrook & Company, P.C. Board members have been emailed a copy of the audit, which provides information regarding total assets and liabilities, and total revenue and expenses for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020. Brian noted this is a clean audit in terms of compliance with financial reporting, meeting requirements of Missouri Laws and Regulations, and being in compliance with the requirements of the school's major federal programs.

A motion was made, seconded and approved by a unanimous vote of Board members present to approve the Independent Auditors Report completed by Westbrook.

Aspects of the November, 2020 finance report were reviewed. Year-to-date revenues are a bit higher than were expected because government funding was higher than was expected/budgeted. Some supply expenses will increase now that students will be back in

classrooms. The November, 2020, and December, 2020 check registers were reviewed and approved by unanimous vote of the Board. Brian announced that the Federal Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan of \$912,000, approved for North Side in the spring, has now been officially forgiven!

Development Report: Sara Paracha discussed various parts of her written Development Report provided to Board members. Sara included a comparison of fundraising figures for 2018-19, 2019-2020, and 2020-21 year-to-date. A couple of recent major donations include a \$10,000 commitment from Hunter Powell, a former Young Friends Group president.

Sara also reviewed grant requests submitted and pending to date, grants that have been awarded or declined, and grant requests that are in progress. Donor prospect meetings scheduled and being pursued were also reviewed. She reported that about 1/3 of those reached out to responded for the end of year appeal.

The Young Friends Group fundraiser at Top

Golf is now scheduled on Thursday, February 18th. Sponsorship opportunities and Board member attendance were encouraged.

Sara reviewed some current ideas regarding the annual Magic of Childhood Gala, which is now planned as a Virtual Gala due to Covid considerations. It will be held this year on a Thursday, either April 29 or May 13.

Sponsorship request letters/packets will be going out in February. All are encouraged to recommend possible Gala sponsorship prospects.

Capital Campaign Report: The immediate goal for the Capital Campaign continues to be to raise at least \$750,000 in actual and pledged contributions by March 1, 2021. That is the amount needed to be able to ensure North Side's receiving the \$150,000 Capital Campaign contribution from Kemper Foundation/Commerce. Progress has been made. From needing to raise an additional amount of \$240,000 as of November, 2020, the balance now needed to be raised is about \$95,000. All are encouraged to recommend

potential donors to explore.

Parent and Community Relations Report:

Lamechia Bradford reported the NPO meeting was not held yesterday. NPO will have a virtual meeting later this week.

Educational Leadership Committee Report:

Ebony Duncan Shippy advised that she, Crystal Fowler, Tom Hoerr and Kathy Anderson will be meeting tomorrow to discuss elements of planning for the Executive Director evaluation, including who will be included in the evaluation process and how often to do the ED evaluation. The goal is to have a framework in place for the current and future evaluations.

Strategic Planning Committee: Kathy Anderson reported that a team approach will be utilized for the Strategic Planning Committee and process. A facilitated Board discussion to explore strategic initiatives will be scheduled in the near future.

Facilities Report: Nothing new to report

regarding facilities matters.

Old Business: The Amendment to UMMSL's Performance Contract with North Side Community School was briefly reviewed. The Performance Contract has been revised due to Covid and remote learning considerations and their profound impact on the ability to assess and evaluate students' academic achievement. It was moved, seconded and approved by unanimous vote of the Board to adopt the Amendment to UMMSL's Performance Contract.

New Business: North Side's proposed Covid Vaccine Policy was discussed by John Grote. The proposed policy **strongly encourage** all North Side teachers, administrators and all staff members to get a Covid vaccination. The policy would not make this mandatory. Alison Nash advised educators will be in the next tier of eligibility (Phase 1B - Tier 3) for Covid vaccinations. Motion was made, seconded and approved by unanimous vote to adopt the Covid Vaccine Policy.

At 6:02 PM the regular Board Meeting was adjourned to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue.

At 6:10 PM the Executive Session was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Rinderknecht, Secretary