

NORTH SIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2021

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

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

Teachers: Hennessey Chism, Lucy Christianson, Megan Rose, Gabriella Thompson

Others: Tad Hartmann, UMSL; North Side parents: Shree Hemphill, Jasmine Straughter, Yolanda Whittier, Erika Blaylark, Amanda S.

4:30 pm - Meeting officially called to order by Kathy Anderson via Zoom.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the January 12, 2021 Board Meeting were reviewed and approved by unanimous vote of the Board, with no corrections or comments.

Public Comment Period: Parent Amanda S was present. She expressed some anxiety regarding the increased number of students returning to in class learning, in view of reports of a potential rise in Covid variant strains. John Grote gave assurances that the remote learning option will remain in place for students and families who continue to prefer this, and that administration is checking daily on current Covid information and recommendations, as well as what other school programs are experiencing.

Executive Director/Administration Report: John Grote spoke briefly about North Side's core principals of maintaining a strong emphasis on a positive classroom culture and building a

strong school culture while utilizing a solid, traditional approach to classroom education. The plan is to go from 4 day to 5 day a week in class learning beginning in March, with virtual/remote learning still available to all who feel more comfortable with that.

NWEA testing results are not fully in. The second set/winter tests are all done in person, with virtual students being brought in by their parents. Leah Harris believes there has been much growth with students returning to in school learning. Leah believes all schools will have encountered learning deficits due to Covid and remote learning issues.

Stella Erondu reported letters will be going out soon to parents about MAP (Missouri Assessment Program) testing. MAP testing will be in April and May, and all students will be expected to be in person for the MAP testing. DESE (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) does not want to use MAP as an accountability tool this year, only as a measurement tool.

Administration will be making staffing determinations for next year; hopefully most teachers will be returning. John reported that both Leah and Stephon Greenlee, Middle School Assistant Principal, will be returning for the 2021-22 school year. The plan is to bring back extended day program and the pre-K program next year - probably with 2 pre-K classes.

John reported on the search for Stella Erundu's replacement. The 4th of 4 candidate interviews was completed virtually today. This will be narrowed to 2 candidates for in person interviews. John also reported the high school placement committee is addressing how to get 8th graders ready for high school, for choosing where to go and for tracking our students progress once they graduate from North Side. The committee will be setting up a time line to begin in 7th grade to prepare North Side students for high school placement.

Finance Committee Report: Brian Gross reported revenue coming in to date has been

higher than was expected, and some expenditures have been lower than originally expected. Will Randall reported that State revenue has stayed stable.

Brian reported briefly on the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER II) Fund, part of the Federal coronavirus response. Funds will be available for North Side. It was also reported that Missouri House Bill 137 has come out of budget committee, which could provide improved funding for charter schools.

The January 2021 check register was reviewed and approved, including a check to Seeger Toyota for the purchase of a van for food deliveries.

Development Report: Sara Paracha discussed various parts of her written Development Report provided to Board members, including grant requests that submitted, pending or in progress. Sara also reported we now have a virtual practicum student from Washington U who will help with marketing and development matters.

The Young Friends Group fundraiser at Top Golf is set for Thursday, February 18th and can now have as many as 50 total guests. Board member attendance was encouraged.

Sara reported the dashboard originally developed by Ross Woolsey has been updated. Also, the current balance needed to meet the Kemper/Commerce grant is \$43,350. The deadline for reaching the \$750,000 raised/pledged is March 1, 2021.

Sara also provided update information and details regarding planning for the May 13 Virtual Gala. Sponsorship packets will be ready for mailing this month. A video company, Mike Martin Media, and an Emcee, Gene Jacobson, have been chosen. The Gala committee will be meeting again on February 24, and any interested Board members are welcome to join the committee. The goal for the Gala is to net \$175,000.

Facilities Report: Ryan Bumb reported progress has been made for new classrooms on the 4th

floor at the Middle School.

Ryan urged anyone interested in joining the Facilities Committee to email him their willingness to join. Ryan also reported that Interface Construction has given North Side a \$5,000 contribution for the Capital Campaign.

Strategic Planning Report: Kathy Anderson and Ryan Bumb discussed elements of the proposed strategic planning process. At an initial Strategic Planning meeting of the Board, discussion will be facilitated by Amy Sharff, President of Leadership Council, LLC. As of now March 9 has received the most votes as the best date for the meeting. The initial plan is to have Board committee-led focus group meetings in April and May, to have a draft document prepared by the end of June and the new Strategic Plan in place by July.

Educational Leadership Committee Report: Ebony Duncan Shippy advised a primary task of developing the Executive Director evaluation process is moving forward. The Committee will be collecting and analyzing feedback from

various sources, including Board committee heads. School staff and family surveys will be sent out, and hoping for feedback from committee heads by the end of March.

Governance Committee Report: Tom Hoerr discussed the need for the Board to commit to ongoing quality governing board training, including: training of new Board members, assessing board training area needs as part of full board analysis, participating in local, regional and national school board training opportunities.

Tom reported that Stan Richardson has resigned from North Side's Board. Stan plans to be on the Board of another charter school, wanted to be able to serve on both boards but was advised this would be a conflict of interest. Tom plans to revise the Board's conflict document. North Side now has 3 Board openings to be filled.

Old Business: It was moved seconded and approved by unanimous vote of the Board to

adopt the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children Model Policy that has been distributed to all Board members.

At 6:00 PM the Board Meeting was adjourned.s

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Rinderknecht, Secretary