

NORTH SIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2020

Present: Board Members: Jim Brigham, Beth Louis, Kathy Anderson, Michael Carpenter, Crystal Fowler, Ross Woolsey, Tracee Holmes, Ebony Duncan-Shippy, Tom Hoerr, Byron Francis, Alison Nash, Ryan Bumb, Lamechia Bradford, Ken Rinderknecht.

School Administrative Staff: Chester Asher, Stella Erondu, Janine Gorrell, Celeste Metcalf, Deb Cottin.

Others: Bill Mendelsohn, Nasir Oliver (5th grade student)

4:53pm - Meeting officially called to order by Jim Brigham via video conference on Google Hangouts.

No one was present for public comment period.

Nasir Oliver, 5th grade student at North Side, provided a review of the work he is doing now through Google Classroom, receiving and completing assignments for his various teachers. Nasir was thanked and applauded for his presentation.

The minutes for the regular monthly Board meeting of March 10, 2020 and for the Special Board meeting of March 18, 2020 were reviewed and approved with no corrections.

1. Administrative Report: Chester Asher presented information regarding North Side's Covid-19 response. Over 100 meals a day are being provided to our students. Online learning began on March 30. 395 laptops and tablets have been provided to students. It is taking some time for students and staff to get familiar with the technology involved, but progress is being made, allowing for more focus on academics beginning next week. Hot spot distributions began yesterday. Online summer school is planned through the end of June.

Considerations regarding planning for next year's North Side budget were discussed. DESE has recommended using numbers from two years ago in estimating state per student revenue - anticipating state tax revenues will be considerably down this year. It will be safer to be conservative in budget setting.

The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan North Side applied for, through Midwest Bank, has been approved in the amount of \$912,000. A separate account is to be set up for this money. The loan is to be forgivable as long as it is used to cover payroll (at least 75% must be used for payroll) and other specified costs during the Covid-19 crisis. The PPP loan should help in allowing North Side to maintain small classroom sizes next year.

Discussion was held regarding T2 Survey results, staff responses re: morale, and developing methods for being able to track progress of North Side students after they leave North Side.

Issues were discussed regarding the costs and implementation of online learning, including the purchase and distribution of laptops and Wifi hot spots. North Side received a donation of 100 laptops and purchased 100 more. It is estimated 50 to 80 laptops will soon be aging out and North Side will be adding as many as 130 students for the upcoming school year. Asher estimated maximum cost for laptops and hot spots to be \$58,000. North Side has received a \$25,000 donation for technology from the family of Grant Williams, a friend of Kathy Anderson; a \$5,000 grant from Opportunity Trust; and submitted a \$15,000 grant request to UMSL.

Asher has sent out a Doodle poll regarding possible August, 2020 dates for the postponed Board retreat.

2. Governance Report: Ebony Duncan Shippy reported a focus group was held with teachers on March 11. She will be sending a summary document to Board members regarding this. Tom Hoerr reported there will be three governance matters to be voted on by the Board in May and June:

1. The Governance Committee is recommending the Board approve having the Board's Annual Meeting in the month of June.

2. An anti-nepotism clause is also to be presented for Board approval.

3. The Governance Committee is also to be submitting the following slate of Board Officers for the upcoming year:

Board President: Kathy Anderson
Vice President: Beth Louis
Treasurer: Mike Carpenter
Secretary: Ken Rinderknecht

Tom is asking that recommendations for possible future Board members be submitted, with those recommended to be met with via Zoom in the near future.

3. Parent/Community Engagement Report: Alison Nash reported feedback from parents indicates they are feeling a little

overwhelmed now but optimistic about online learning. Families are engaged but still figuring out everything. North Side has had one staff member (bus driver) test positive for coronavirus. One student has lost two grandparents to Covid-19. Reports were made to City Health Department, which is following up. Another student and parents have also contracted coronavirus - reportedly contracted after on campus school attendance ended.

4. Financial Report: Celeste Metcalfe reported expenditures for the current fiscal year are projected to be, as expected, around \$4 million. Per Mike Carpenter, income amounts usually come in a little higher at the end of the fiscal year. It is currently anticipated North Side will end up in the black for fiscal year ending June, 2020. North Side may be looking at a deficit for fiscal year ending June, 2021.

5. Capital Campaign Report: Capital Campaign fundraising efforts are basically on hold right now during the Covid-19 crisis period. EMD consultants Pat Rich and Michael Farley are advising the current climate is not conducive to fundraising efforts. Efforts to solidify and strengthen relationships with North Side's donor base are important right now.

6. Development Report: The need to try to defray some of the fundraising losses from the Gala's postponement is being stressed right now. Included in this will be the mass mailing effort going out sometime in May. Board members and Young Friends members are thanked for contributing names for this effort. The need to build the Board and its diversity by adding new members is also stressed. Grant pursuals, including from Bayer, Pershing Foundation, Calder, RBC and Spire are also being made. Board members are urged to contact Deb Cottin if anyone has any contacts who may be able to help in pursuing grants.

7. Facilities Report: Kathy Anderson reported the building construction on Euclid is continuing on or ahead of schedule, with roof trusses and cafeteria walls up. The Committee will be meeting again this Thursday.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Ken Rinderknecht, Secretary