

NORTH SIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
Board Meeting Minutes  
May 12, 2020

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

School Administrative Staff: Chester Asher, Stella Erondy, Deb Cottin, Will Randall.

Others: Bill Mendelsohn.

4:49 pm - Meeting officially called to order by Jim Brigham via Zoom.

The minutes for the regular monthly Board meeting of April 14, 2020 were reviewed and approved with no corrections.

No one was present for public comment period.

Construction: Kathy Anderson reported construction on the new building and cafeteria expansion are proceeding and going well. The Construction Committee will meet again this Thursday, May 14. A company will be designing gardens and landscaping around the new construction.

Executive Committee: Jim Brigham reported on Executive Committee discussion regarding the possibility of North Side assuming administration of the recently closed Carondelet Leadership Academy, under North Side's charter, for the 2020-21 school year. It was determined North Side's assuming this responsibility is not feasible for the upcoming school year.

Another potential opportunity has arisen for the future. John Grote and Stella Erondy are proposing to open a new elementary school program in the future - not for the upcoming school year. The proposed new school would not be in competition with North Side for students. John and Stella would run the school, potentially sharing some resources and services with North Side. Bill Mendelsohn of UMSL is aware of the prospect but has received no proposal in writing.

Finance: North Side is projected to have a 3.1 million dollar surplus at the end of the current fiscal year. Elements of the projected/draft budget for the 2020-21 school year were discussed in some detail. Asher reported adjustments have been made from last week's draft budget, which was projecting a 20% loss in revenue from the state of Missouri. It now looks as if revenues may be the same as this year's, but updates from DESE may be forthcoming. Expenses for next year would include 8 new teachers - 4 brand new positions at the Middle School, plus 2 needed additional positions there, and 2 new positions at the Elementary School.

Other spending increases would include: instructional staff support; 2 new Assistant Principal positions; an additional bus driver position due to increased enrollment; and new classroom equipment for the new building. There was some discussion regarding the specifics of the new Assistant Principal and Instructional Coach/Coordinator positions. Approval of the check registers was tabled until the next Board meeting in June.

Governance: Tom Hoerr presented Governance Committee recommendations for election of 3 Board members: Byron Francis for a renewal term, and Brian Gross and Stacy Erker as new Board members for a 3-year term. All 3 were approved as Board members by a unanimous vote. It was announced that Chris Haffenreffer will be leaving the Board in June.

Tom also presented a recommendation for a new nepotism policy clause for North Side - to state that no person shall be employed by NSCS who is a relative of a school administrator. The new policy involves wording regarding what relationships are to be included under the term "relative". The new nepotism clause was approved by unanimous vote of the Board.

Tom further presented a recommendation that the Board's Annual Meeting be moved to the month of June. This was also approved by unanimous vote of the Board.

Administration: Chester Asher reported that up to 200 meals per day are being distributed to students by a combination of deliveries and pick ups at the elementary school. Contingency plans for social distancing in classrooms, when on campus classes can resume, are being explored. Various aspects of the alternatives to school suspensions, including moving to JUSTICE 2.0 for next year, were discussed. There had been a reduction in out of school suspensions this year prior to on campus learning having to be halted in March.

There was some discussion regarding the contract offer letters made to teachers for the 2020-21 school year. Asher reported expecting an 84% retention rate for teachers for the upcoming year, expecting 8 teachers to not return. There

was discussion of the prospect of an increase in the number of teachers leaving North Side prior to the beginning of the 2020-21 school year.

It was proposed that a committee be developed to identify where our scholars may be going next year upon leaving North Side. It was felt the Young Friends group may be a good resource for involvement in this endeavor.

Some discussion was held regarding setting a date for the Board retreat. It was suggested sometime in the early Fall may be better than an early August setting, and that developing a committee to help plan discussion topics for the retreat would be beneficial.

Parent/Community Development: Lamechia Bradford reported on parent and student efforts to adapt to on line learning.

Teachers may be lessening work loads for students to make this process easier. It is a learning process for all. Asher indicated there is about 70% student participation in remote learning each week, with about 20 or so students not seen or participating yet. Some may have moved. Virtually all students now have technology and wifi access.

Summer school in June will happen remotely. It cannot be mandatory for all students but Asher and teachers are stressing the importance. Summer school participation may be essential for some students in order ensure promotion to the next grade.

Regular meeting was adjourned at 6:20 PM to go into Executive session. Executive session began at 6:22 PM for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter.

Executive session was adjourned at 7:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Ken Rinderknecht*

Ken Rinderknecht, Secretary