

NORTH SIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
June 9, 2020

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

School Administrative Staff: Stella Erundu. John Grote

Others: William Randall.

4:46 pm - Meeting officially called to order by Jim Brigham via Zoom.

4:47pm - The Board voted to go into Executive Session to discuss appointment of an Executive Director Chester Asher signed the Separation Agreement yesterday, June 8, 2020. It was noted that the Separation Agreement is considered a public document.

Discussion was held regarding the appropriateness of having John Grote return as Executive Director. Consensus was this would provide some consistency and security for North Side families and staff while the search for a new Executive Director is begun. John has expressed his belief that his being Executive Director for the entire 2020-21 school year would provide stability for North Side.

A motion was made, seconded and approved by unanimous vote of the Board to appoint John Grote as Executive Director for North Side for the 2020-21 school year.

Another personnel matter involving a possible breach of confidentiality and Board member obligations was presented by Jim Brigham and discussed.

5:25pm - Board returned to regular meeting session.

The minutes for the regular monthly Board meeting of May 12, 2020, plus minutes for the May 20 Special Board meeting and the June 4 and 5 Executive Session Board meeting, were reviewed and approved - with one correction made to the May 12 minutes.

Public Comment Period was waived because no one was present for same.

Facilities/Construction Update: Kathy Anderson reported construction on the new building and cafeteria expansion are proceeding and on schedule to be completed for the beginning of the school year in August, 2020. There has been a two week delay in delivery of bricks, but they will be on site this week.

John Grote joined the meeting about 5:35pm and was welcomed as the Executive Director for the 2020-21 school year. John reviewed his State Report, including goals for establishing stability, continuity and positive school culture. He reviewed general goals, including building a strong administrative team and teaching staff, and the Board unifying around a common vision. In the next month immediate plans include the recruitment and enrollment of students and addressing staffing needs, including hiring 12 new elementary school teachers. John shared information regarding some other personnel matters.

Completion of and preparation for the operation of the new facility, plus addressing Covid-19 concerns in planning for school opening in the Fall are also important matters for the near future. John reported that Leah Harris, new Middle School Principal, will be moving to St. Louis next week.

Finance/Budget Report: Mike Carpenter reviewed check registers for the months of March and April, 2020, which were both approved by Board vote. Extensive discussion was held regarding the difficulty of preparing a projected budget for the 2020-21 school year. Bill Mendelsohn has reported that no schools are passing budgets right now because of the uncertainties regarding future state funding numbers. UMSL does not need to receive a budget from North Side until mid July, but DESE has a requirement that an approved budget be submitted by June 30. A budget passed by June 30 will likely need to be revised by August as further information is received from DESE regarding funding projections. It is felt the previously prepared budget will require extensive revisions. John Grote, Brian Gross, Mike Carpenter and Will Randall will be meeting regarding the budget. Any formal action was deferred today, and another full Board meeting to approve a budget will be required before the end of June.

Governance: A vote was taken and the following Board officers were elected for the next fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020: Kathy Anderson, President; Mike Carpenter, Treasurer; Ken Rinderknecht, Secretary. Vote was tabled until the July meeting to elect a Board Vice President.

Parent/Community Development: Alison Nash will be preparing a draft of a letter on behalf of the Board to be sent to North Side families, teacher and staff. The letter is to address the challenges being faced from the Coronavirus pandemic and the ongoing epidemic of racism, the possible effects upon the lives of our children and the need for all in the North Side community to support our students and each other.

Capital Campaign/Development: The Capital Campaign has continued to be on hold for now. Beth Louis and Ken Rinderknecht will be meeting this Friday with Pat Rich and Michael Farley of EMD to discuss possible strategies moving forward. The non-Gala mailing campaign is moving forward, with materials having been disseminated to those participating in sending out the contribution solicitation letters.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Rinderknecht

Ken Rinderknecht, Secretary