

NORTH SIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
Board Meeting Minutes  
September 8, 2020

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

School Administrative Staff: John Grote, Sara Paracha, William Randall.

Others: Bill Mendelsohn, UMSL; Kavel Smith, Financial Consultant.

4:30 pm - Meeting officially called to order by Kathy Anderson via Zoom, with introductions all around.

Mission Moment was presented by John Grote, who read the North Side Community School Mission Statement. John remarked it may be good to determine if the mission needs any changing as part of addressing a new Strategic Plan.

No one was present for Public Comment Period. It was emphasized that Board Meetings and Agendas are to be posted/published on the North Side website for the public to be able to join.

The minutes of the August 11, 2020 Board meeting were approved by unanimous vote of Board, with no corrections.

Pandemic Effects: Bill Mendelsohn, Executive Director of UMSL Charter Schools Office, gave a presentation regarding charter school accountability and the real and potential effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on charter schools. Monitoring and assessment of student achievement in meeting student performance

goals will be challenging this year. Accurately gauging student performance will be difficult this year - both for schools' internal assessments and for UMSL's ability to evaluate its' charter schools. Lack of MAP testing results from last year will not allow for 3 consecutive year comparisons, and it is unclear how MAP testing will be completed for the current year.

Bill also questioned whether performance expectations can reasonably be compared for classroom learning vs. remote learning. It was stressed that North Side's internal (NWEA) assessment will be even more critical this school year. Bill suggested North Side should submit a request for an amendment to the Charter regarding performance goals. Motion was made to send a letter to UMSL requesting the Charter be amended with respect to the manner of teaching which reflects needed changes due to remote learning and COVID-19 considerations. The motion was seconded and approved by unanimous vote of Board members.

Bill reported that currently, of the 7 schools UMSL sponsors, 5 are having 100% remote

learning and 1 school is having only 25% of students attending daily.

Finance Report: Brian Gross provided his report with an abbreviated written format, as had been requested - including a monthly cash flow summary. Brian explained the consolidation of North Side's original loan with the new construction loan.

\$897,725 still owed from the original loan was paid off with the new loan/note, which was approved for North Side for up to \$2,000,000.

Discussion was held regarding using any contributions raised for the Capital Campaign to be immediately applied to repayment of the new loan principal. The Finance Committee and Administration will develop a plan to recommend to the Board regarding a payoff schedule for the loan.

Procedures for forgiveness of North Side's PPP loan are being pursued.

Will Randall reviewed the check register for August, 2020 for payments over \$10,000. The check register was approved by unanimous vote of the Board.

Administrative Report: John Grote discussed main North Side goals for the year, including:

- Develop and maintain a healthy and positive school culture
- Induct and develop North Side's new teachers
- Develop and implement a successful Distance Learning Program
- Continue to develop the Middle School program

John indicated the first couple of weeks have involved getting families and children engaged, getting a feel for the new teachers, and getting all engaged and learning how to deal with remote learning equipment. Adjustments have been made and things are improving. There are concerns that our youngest students are most impacted by the use of technology for remote learning. Also, there has been a shortage of chrome books due to delivery delays. New chrome books have been shipped and are hopefully coming this week.

Consideration is being given to bringing KG students back as soon as September 21, depending upon Covid considerations. The plan

would involve an old-fashioned KG approach, with half of each classroom's students coming for the morning, and half coming for the afternoon.

John reported enrollment is at 506 students. The Middle School is about 20 students short of full enrollment. The slightly lower than estimated enrollment figures may require some budget revisions. Discussion was held regarding how DESE records school attendance figures during remote learning. It was stressed that all teachers need to be recording attendance figures.

Facilities Report: Ryan Bumb has distributed a written report concerning the new construction project, project costs and loan details. Ryan reported the punch list has been completed for the new classroom building. Some furniture has been moved in and North Side should receive a full occupancy permit this week. New cafeteria walk through should be done next week.

Parent/Community Engagement: Alison Nash reported the Parent/Community Engagement

Committee plans to meet in early October. Discussion was held regarding having a line item in the budget to support North Side Parent Organization activities. A set amount of \$5,000 was discussed as being appropriate. Ways in which to increase awareness of North Side were discussed, including through marketing, Director of Development efforts, social media, etc. The possibility of having an on campus voter registration/information day has also been discussed.

Development Report: Tracee Holmes reported on the amount raised so far for the non-Gala mailing campaign - currently at more than \$22,000. A Capital Campaign Committee meeting is scheduled for this Friday, September 11, to discuss planning for future fundraising efforts. The Development Committee is considering how to engage our partner/support organizations, such as Little Bit, Girls on the Run, Ready Readers. Hosting a job fair at North Side is also a possibility. Tracee encouraged Board members to participate with planned activities at the school.

The Committee is considering involving school Principals, the social worker and possibly a teacher representative as part of the Development Committee.

Governance: Tom Hoerr reminded all that the Orientation for new North Side Board members is set for Tuesday, September 29 at 4:30. It will be held via Zoom.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Rinderknecht, Secretary

