

NORTH SIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2020

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

School Administrative Staff: John Grote

Others: Bill Mendelsohn

4:35 pm - Meeting officially called to order by Kathy Anderson via Zoom.

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

UMSL's School Year 2019-2020 Review: Bill Mendelsohn was present to discuss and answer any questions regarding the UMSL Annual Review Report of North Side Community School. There is no need for the Board to approve the report, only to review it. Bill outlined various aspects of the report. He emphasized it should be viewed as just one source of information regarding what may need to be prioritized and what may constitute recommendations to follow for the future. Bill stated it does contain some information about statutory requirements, including the mandate to have a printed virtual education policy - our MOCAP Virtual Policy.

Bill pointed out that some of the information may not currently apply because of North Side's significant number of administrative personnel changes. He emphasized that establishing the parameters of the relationship between the Board and Executive Director is always an important consideration regardless of who is the ED. He also emphasized the requirement that all Board members must have fingerprinting and appropriate background checks done. IdentoGo is the company Board members are to use for this.

Bill also pointed out the statutory requirement that Board members must have a screening for the Family Care Safety Registry, which can be done online through the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services website. Bill was thanked for the thorough, well written report.

Old Business: The requirement to have, and post on the North Side web site, a Missouri Course Access and Virtual School Program (MOCAP) policy, was discussed. The policy must contain procedures and an appeal process, and requires parent notification. It is to be contained in the Parent Handbook. The policy may need future improvements and updates.

Motion to approve North Side's written MOCAP policy was made, seconded and approved by unanimous vote of the Board.

Financial Report: Mike Carpenter's suggestion to pass on having a Financial Report/Statement was followed. Normally there would be no report or Board meeting in July.

Administration Report: John Grote discussed various aspects of planning for the upcoming year. A pressing need has been the hiring of many teachers. 9 new teachers have been hired for Elementary School, one more is needed to be hired. Teachers are in place for Middle School. The quality of teacher hires seems good, some lack experience but should be fine. Some have come from other public schools, 2 come from the Carondelet Charter School that closed, some are from out of St Louis. North Side will have 2 Assistant Principals and 2 Coaches this year. John feels it may take a while to re-stabilize staff because of all the changes. John presented an information sheet with current projected enrollment numbers by grade, including 32 for pre-K. He believes enrollment numbers are good for this point in time. John has felt that class size would not be an issue for a full class/full day beginning to the school year. However, due to Covid-19 issues, considering a blended approach to in class teaching may be needed. Lance Sprenkel is looking at other schools' planning for proper distance learning. Administrative staff will meet tomorrow to come up with a learning plan which will likely end up with a blended approach, which may need revising in the near future. It seems unlikely North Side will be able to begin the year with the entire student population on site at the same time.

Transportation will likely require temperature checks and a limit to the number of students per bus, at this point requiring only 2 students per seat rather than the usual 3. It is currently felt the lunchroom will not be able to be used initially - kids will be served lunch in their classrooms. Distancing will be important for gym also. Drinking fountains will not be used. Masks are to be required for those age 9 and above. Centene has donated masks which are color-coded by age group. Each student and staff member must have 3 masks available per person.

An online only option should be available for parents/students still not comfortable with in class learning. Much could be altered or changed as Covid considerations change.

Facilities/Construction Update: Per Ryan Bumb, the new building and expanded cafeteria construction should be completed very close to the beginning of the school year.

Governance Report: The names and a brief bio of 3 prospective new Board members were presented by Tom Hoerr:

- William Ball, a 3rd grade teacher in the Webster Groves School District;
- Liza Weiss, a law school graduate who is the Executive Director of Missouri Appleseed;
- Pat Shipley, retired former Head of School at Rossman School and a former NSCS Board member.

Following discussion, it was moved, seconded and approved by unanimous vote to have all 3 join the North Side Board.

It was also moved, seconded and approved by unanimous vote to have Mike Carpenter be named Board Vice President and Brian Gross be named Board Treasurer.

Development Report: The search for a new Director of Development is ongoing. Work continues on the North Side website. Tracee Holmes reported on successful efforts to provide relevant North Side information on social media (particularly Facebook and Instagram) utilized by North Side families. Tracee's daughters are helping with posting information.

John Grote reported Rob Ciampoli is back working part-time/as needed on an hourly basis, helping with grant pursuits and other development matters.

Some contributions have come in for the non-Gala mailing campaign.

Parent/Community Development: Alison Nash and Lamechia Bradford reported the Parent Organization Executive Committee will be meeting in August to discuss activities planning. Lamechia reported she still has not received payment for North Side t-shirts.

As President of the Parent Organization, Lamechia will continue as a Board member.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Rinderknecht

Ken Rinderknecht, Secretary