

NORTH SIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOL
Special Board Call-in Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2020

Present: Board Members: Jim Brigham, Beth Louis, Kathy Anderson, Michael Carpenter, Crystal Fowler, Ross Woolsey, Tracee Holmes, Ryan Bumb, Ebony Duncan-Shippy, Tom Hoerr, Byron Francis, Ken Rinderknecht.
School Administrative Staff: Chester Asher, Stella Erundu, Janine Gorrell, Deb Cottin.
Others: Bill Mendelsohn

5:00pm - The Special Meeting (on GoToMeeting) was officially called to order by Jim Brigham.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the temporary school closure, postponement of the April 3 Magic of Childhood Gala due to Coronavirus/Covid-19 concerns, and the impact of these on the North Side Community School community.

Chester Asher, calling in from Sweden, reported he has been involved in numerous conference calls yesterday and today, including with Mayor Krewson's office, Departments of Health, and other Charter School heads, to discuss coronavirus impacts and concerns.

Various aspects of preparations for remote and home-bound learning were explored and discussed. Most younger students have chrome books, many will need laptops. Asher is getting quotes for what it will cost for all our students to be able to have WiFi access. Google classroom would be used by the teachers. It was stressed that all teachers will need to be available to students and their families by phone and email.

Some funding concerns were discussed. It is understood that state funding for schools should not be affected, even if on-site education does not resume this school year. Asher reported all staff will continue to be paid, including part-time staff such as bus drivers and kitchen staff. There would be other duties they could assist with.

Food preparation coordination was discussed. About 400 lunch and grab-and-go packets were prepared for students today by staff, including Janine and a group of teachers. A plan to utilize North Side busses to distribute food at some of our pick-up points was being developed. Asher reported that Mentors in Motion, partnered with Bailey Foundation, will be delivering food to our students beginning tomorrow. Mentors will use their own vans for this.

Asher reported that lots of mandatory trainings have been cancelled due to coronavirus concerns. North Side teachers are to participate in MAP testing training. Sessions with teachers are to be with groups of 15 teachers in each. Concern was expressed about such group gatherings, and it was pointed out that only a couple of hours ago Mayor Krewson issued an order barring gatherings of more than 10 people together. It was suggested maybe training could be done on line. It was also suggested there is a very good chance MAP testing will be cancelled altogether this year.

Construction for the new building continues, with the prospect of proceeding ahead of schedule with the absence of students on campus. Some construction at the Middle School will be done this week week through April 3.

Concerns were discussed about the projected loss of as much as \$145,000 to \$150,000 in fundraising due to the Gala postponement. Alternatives are being discussed and developed to make up some of this deficit.

Rescheduling the planned but postponed March 28 Board Retreat was discussed. Possible August dates for this are to be considered. In the interim conversations can be held regarding possible discussion topics for the retreat.

Call-in Meeting was adjourned at 6:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Rinderknecht, Secretary

