

NORTH SIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOL
Board Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2020

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

School Administrative Staff: John Grote, Stella Erondu, Leah Harris, Lance Sprenkel, William Randall.

Others: Tad Hartmann, UMSL

4:34 pm - Meeting officially called to order by Kathy Anderson via Zoom.

The minutes for Special Board Meeting of June 29, 2020, and the Board Meeting of July 14, 2020 were reviewed and approved, with no corrections.

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

Financial Report: Brian Gross indicated the Finance Committee last week reviewed the unaudited Finance Report for the 2019-2020 school year. Brian discussed various matters in the report. There were some areas of revenue increases for the year, including in Federal Title funding, Prop C funding, and due to increased attendance. Brian also reviewed some of the expenditure increases. The unaudited report indicates North Side ended the fiscal year in the black for the year. Brian expressed that North Side really is in good financial health.

He noted that the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP/SBA) loan must be listed as a debt until it is forgiven. The Finance Committee is starting the process of completing application for PPP loan forgiveness. Westbrook Company will help guide North Side through the process.

Some discussion was held regarding financing for the new building and cafeteria expansion. Brian noted North Side's original note and the construction loan have now been consolidated or merged. Brian feels there is need to have a meeting in order to discuss how to proceed going forward with the Capital Campaign and paying the construction costs.

Check registers for June and July, 2020, were reviewed and approved by vote of the Board.

Administration Report: John Grote reported completing the teacher roster with the hiring of the final needed teacher last week. Many teachers will be new to North Side this year. Middle School/Leah Harris will have 3 new teachers (the 8th grade teachers). Elementary School/Stella Erondu will have 14 new teachers. Some are in their first year of teaching. Per John, we lost a lot of experienced teachers, but all the new teachers seem good and are motivated.

John reported enrollment numbers look good - 517 students enrolled at this point, even without pre-K this year due to teacher allocation needs. It may be tougher to meet small class size goals once in class learning resumes this year. Lance Sprenkel did a lot of research regarding Covid-19 concerns, including meetings with DESE, BJC, St Louis Health Department, and other Charter School leaders. Lance and John reported on North Side's comprehensive Infection Control/Covid -19 plan. Among the important considerations: Covid testing for teachers, health checks for each child by parents, and maintaining appropriate social distancing when in class learning resumes - probably with a hybrid model at the beginning of in class resumption. At least 3 masks for each student and teacher will be provided. The possibility of clear masks and shields was also discussed.

Stella Erondu and Leah Harris indicated the specifics of Distance Learning may vary for Elementary and Middle Schools. The premise is that all can learn, whether in classroom or remote learning. Platforms for remote learning will include Google Classroom, Zoom, and A-Z Learning. A concern now is getting computers and Chromebooks distributed. 50 new Chromebooks were ordered in May but have not yet come in. John reported most but not all devices distributed in Spring have been returned; he expects most will be. Those returned have for the most part been in good condition.

Leah reported students/parents/families will receive written instructions for remote learning, which should be very helpful for them.

John commended all staff for their efforts preparing for the school year. A Distance Learning Addendum for North Side has been developed which contains very clear and well delineated expectations for students, families and teachers. The Addendum is to be available in the Family Handbook.

North Side will reevaluate in 6 or 7 weeks whether to continue remote learning or have students return to the classrooms.

A lot will depend upon what happens with the virus and looking at the experiences of other schools.

John reported Ms Martine McGull was one of the finalists for St Louis Elementary Teacher of the Year honors from the Missouri Charter Public School Association.

Parent/Community Engagement Report: Lamechia Bradford indicated the North Side Parent Organization should be used to help anyway it can to encourage and utilize parent engagement in school activities and to provide information to families. The Parent and Community Engagement committee is to be meeting prior to the September Board meeting to begin planning activities for the upcoming year.

Facilities/Construction Update: Per Ryan Bumb, the new building and expanded cafeteria construction will be completed a little behind schedule. This is not problematic given North Side's beginning the year with remote learning. Construction will be more than completed if classroom learning resumes in six weeks. The FacilitiesCommittee is zeroing in on determining the total/final project costs.

Development Report: Tracee Holmes reported on the hiring of a new Director of Development for North Side. Her name is Sara (pronounced Sah-Rah) Paracha. She has been the Director of Development for Mathews Dickey. Sara's first day at North Side will be September 3, but she has already met with various people at North Side.

Social media, particularly Facebook and Instagram, are up and running to provide information related to North Side matters.

Ross Woolsey has been in communication with Captiva Marketing to help get North Side's website fully functioning again. Captiva had originally designed North Side's website. With all of the personnel changes from last year, the need to get an updated teacher and staff listing on the website as soon as possible was noted.

Governance Report: Tom Hoerr addressed the fact that Jim Brigham has stepped down as Board President and as a Board member. The Board voted to approve a Board Resolution to honor Jim for his years of service in advancing the interests of North Side Community School, including serving as Board President for the previous 5 years. It was also suggested that Jim be given a North Side Diploma.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Rinderknecht

Ken Rinderknecht, Secretary