



Northside College Preparatory High School

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John Ceisel
Chair

Jon Feiger
Vice Chair

Tim Devine
Secretary

Local School Council Minutes

April 16, 2009

Commencement

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m. by John Ceisel.

Present: Scott Baskin, John Ceisel, Andrew Czyszczon, Tim Devine, Jon Feiger, Marnie Gielow, Vicki McMannon, Martha Mulligan, Meredith O'Connor, Cathy Quigley, Barry Rodgers, Mary Lou Schmidt

Absent: (none)

Guests: There were numerous guests. The persons who asked to speak during the public comment portion of the meeting were: Diane Monnich, Lynda Brodsky, Barbara Swiatlowski, All Dekhtyr, Jean Marie Koon, Caitlin Swieca, Vasiliki Mitrakos, Zlatana Alibegovic, Rory Coursey, Evan Rogers, John Mussman, Melissa Jordan, Allesandra Powers, John Friedmann, Jennifer Friedmann, Bob Solomon, Abir Usman, Dashiell Bark-Huss, and Sonya Dekhtyr.

Approval of Agenda

To approve the Agenda for the meeting (see Motion #1).

Approval of Minutes

To approve Minutes from the previous meeting (see Motion #2).

Public Report

- John Ceisel opened by explaining the role of the LSC to clarify what the entity's role is and what it is not. The LSC is responsible for principal selection and evaluation, approving discretionary expenditures, and approving the School Improvement Plan. The LSC does not have a role in making other personnel decisions or curricular decisions. John thanked audience members for their attendance and for their dedication to Northside.
- Barry Rodgers stated that:
 - There will be no changes to the Latin Program.
 - Northside is a place where we write in sand and sometimes change is necessary. The goal is to ensure that students are provided with the best learning experiences possible.
 - It is recognized that the timing of the change has been difficult for journalism students because the course is being moved to the 8-period day, but their programs have not yet been designed for the 2009-2010 academic year, so there is time to make any necessary adjustments.
 - It is important to make the correct decision and not the easy decision.
 - Mr. Hennagir has demonstrated ideas for dynamic curricular enhancements so that the journalism program will be well poised for the contemporary needs of journalism.
- Giovanni Benincasa welcomed the audience and said he looks forward to garnering ideas to enhance and evolve the journalism program.
- Commentators articulated:
 - Support for Mr. Tylinski and the consistent quality of his teaching and his positive effect on the Northside community and ethos. He is a student-centered educator who builds trust, respect, and academic skill in his Latin and Journalism programs.
 - Students edit the *HoofBeat* because it is a student-run newspaper.
 - Support for the Latin Program, and demonstrated its rigor and success by referencing the numerous awards earned by the team, the rigor of the program, the academic merits of the program, and the camaraderie of the Latin and Certamen students.
 - Concern was raised about recent censorship of editorials written by the *HoofBeat* staff.

- Concern that the treatment of Mr. Tyliniski and the issues surrounding the Journalism and Latin programs are indicative of broader issues afoot in the school (e.g. communication between administration and the faculty/students, trust afforded to students by the administration).
- Concern that the changes to the Journalism were made hastily and without any student input, that by embedding the Journalism program in the 8-period day will not allow freshmen and sophomores to participate, and juniors and seniors will have to sacrifice one of their other courses to participate in Journalism, the timing of the decision has made preparation for next year (e.g. selection of the editorial staff) very difficult,
- By embedding the program in the 8-period day many students currently in the Journalism program are likely to not continue their involvement. Specifically, of the 45 students who are currently taking Journalism, only 10 have indicated an interest/ability in taking the course next year under the model that has been proposed by the administration.
- That the administrators who made the decision to change the Journalism program seem to have little understanding of the dynamics of such a program.
- The *HoofBeat*, under the leadership of Mr. Tyliniski, has already made strides to evolve the news delivery into a mixed media format.
- Interest in ensuring that the new teacher of Journalism has the qualifications and time to lead the program.
- Concern that on the Wednesday before Spring Break, the administration extended an olive branch to the staff of *HoofBeat* and the next day the administration announced that the Journalism teacher was being replaced and that the program was going to be embedded in the 8-period day, which does not seem to be an open decision-making process.
- Concern that student voice was not sought or welcomed in a pro-active manner.
- Concern that student voice is being stifled, as evidenced by the censorship of editorials, and this will lead to significant decay of Northside's student voice and culture.
- That efforts have been made to start a broadcast journalism program this academic year by students and the administration has not supported this program, as evidenced by its not following through on the purchase of necessary equipment.
- Students will not be able to produce the newspaper within the confines of the 100-minute class period, so they will necessarily need to come after school to produce the paper. Therefore, the rationale to embed the course in the 8-period day does not really solve the administration's goal to allow students who have non-Journalism responsibilities after school to now become participants in Journalism.
- Student input is valued and respected by Mr. Tyliniski. A majority of Northside's National Merit Scholars have taken Latin and, along with the Journalism students, have matriculated into tier one universities.
- The censorship of editorials is a matter of 1st Amendment and human rights.
- A proposal to allow Mr. Tyliniski to remain as the teacher of the Journalism program and have him mentor Mr. Hennagir so that when Mr. Tyliniski does retire, Mr. Hennagir will be well-poised to take over the program.
- Concern about how the administration handled a matter at the IJCL conference.
- That the passion of the faculty and students must be protected. That passion has been the foundation of what has made Northside unique.
- Concern that the administration made misstatements about an article that was supposedly written by a previous editor of the *HoofBeat* and about how Lane Tech handles some editions of its student newspaper.
- That the atmosphere of Northside has changed.
- That the administration should recognize its mistakes and apologize to Mr. Tyliniski and the students, and retain Journalism in its current format.
- The following questions were posed:
 - What will happen to the Latin Program after Mr. Tyliniski's retirement?
 - Can students take Journalism as an Independent Study and who will teach the Independent Study?
 - Was Mr. Tyliniski asked if he was bored with teaching Journalism?
 - How will technology be used if the computer program students are using the computer facilities?
 - Can details about the about the new Journalism program be provided?
 - How will a print newspaper be produced in the new Journalism program? Will it be done within the course that has been embedded in the 8-period day? How many editions of the newspaper will the students be expected to produce each year?
 - When will students hear from Mr. Hennagir about the curriculum related to Journalism?

- What happened to the broadcast journalism equipment?
- Will there still be an after school Journalism club?
- Can Mr. Tylinski remain as the teacher of the Journalism program and have him mentor Mr. Hennagir so that when Mr. Tylinski does retire, Mr. Hennagir will be well-poised to take over the program?
- What will happen if not enough students sign up for the new Journalism course?

Principal's Report

- All positions have been restored for the 2009-2010 academic year.
- To allocate SGSA funds for Library Aides (\$105k), Guidance Counselor Aides (\$104k), Extended Day for Teachers (\$31k), the CPS-imposed Tech EXCL Lease (\$8k), Writing Center (\$5k), and school supplies (\$141.00) for the 2009-2010 academic year (see Motion #3).
- To allocate \$9,900 for college counseling (see Motion #4).
- To allocate \$60 graduation fee (see Motion #5).
- Students will be going to a state competition for Future Problem-Solvers.
- Sam Hamer has been interviewed by NPR about the prom committee's decision to not hold prom at the Congress Hotel.
- One of Johan Tabora's rocketry teams, comprised of Michelle Diaz, Sarah Winters, Anna Ky, and Billy Figueroa were ranked one of the top 100 teams in the country and will be competing in Virginia.
- Discussed TB tests of faculty and chaperones.

Teacher's Report

- Spring Break trips: John Hahm and Sonia Fernandez travelled to Dublin, Paris, and London; Nythia Rivera and Jeung-Hee Park travelled to Spain and Portugal, and; Stella Hahn and Peggy Murphy visited our sister school in Busan, Korea.
- A cohort of students from the Czech Republic will be visiting Northside next week.
- Northside's Economics Team will be competing in the Midwest regional championships in Houston in two weeks.
- I-Day was yesterday and continues to be a hallmark event of Northside.

Student's Report

- The *Mikado* was excellent.
- There have been questions regarding Cubby Walk. Some athletic events are being rescheduled so the student/athletes are more likely to be able to participate in Cubby Walk.

Finance Committee/Friends of Northside

- To increase the student fee by \$25 to \$495 (see Motion #6).
- To increase the parking fee to \$200 (see Motion #7).
- The Celestial Garden is very close to signing the grant agreement with the City.
- Discussed Annual Fund and funds received from the 10th Anniversary Gala.

Community Relations

- Discussed the 2016 Olympic bid.

Principal Selection and Evaluation

- The committee will meet in a closed session on April 21st from 6:00-9:00 p.m. The LSC will meet in an open session at 9:00 p.m. The committee will meet in a closed session on April 28th at 7:00 p.m.

New Business

- Discussed communication of events to parents and the community on the website and via e-mail blasts.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the LSC will be on April 21st at 9:00 p.m. Public participation is welcome.

Motion #: 1
Motion made by: Martha Mulligan
Seconded by: Vicki McMannon
Motion: To approve the Agenda for the meeting

Record of Votes on Motion

Council Members	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
John Ceisel (parent)	X			
Jon Feiger (parent)	X			
Marnie Gielow (parent)	X			
Vicki McMannon (parent)	X			
Mary Lou Schmidt (parent)	X			
Cathy Quigley (parent)	X			
Scott Baskin (community)	X			
Meredith O'Connor (community)	X			
Martha Mulligan (teacher)	X			
Tim Devine (teacher)	X			
Barry Rodgers (principal)	X			
Andrew Czyszczonek (student)	X			
Total	12	0	0	0

Motion #: 2
Motion made by: Vicki McMannon
Seconded by: Martha Mulligan
Motion: To approve the Minutes from the previous meeting

Record of Votes on Motion

Council Members	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
John Ceisel (parent)	X			
Jon Feiger (parent)	X			
Marnie Gielow (parent)	X			
Vicki McMannon (parent)	X			
Mary Lou Schmidt (parent)	X			
Cathy Quigley (parent)	X			
Scott Baskin (community)	X			
Meredith O'Connor (community)	X			
Martha Mulligan (teacher)	X			
Tim Devine (teacher)	X			
Barry Rodgers (principal)	X			
Andrew Czyszczonek (student)	X			
Total	12	0	0	0

Motion #: 3
Motion made by: Vicki McMannon
Seconded by: Martha Mulligan
Motion: To allocate SGSA funds for Library Aides (\$105k), Guidance Counselor Aides (\$104k), Extended Day for Teachers (\$31k), the CPS-imposed Tech EXCL Lease (\$8k), Writing Center (\$5k), and school supplies (\$141.00) for the 2009-2010 academic year

Record of Votes on Motion

Council Members	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
John Ceisel (parent)	X			
Jon Feiger (parent)	X			
Marnie Gielow (parent)	X			
Vicki McMannon (parent)	X			
Mary Lou Schmidt (parent)	X			
Cathy Quigley (parent)	X			
Scott Baskin (community)	X			
Meredith O'Connor (community)	X			
Martha Mulligan (teacher)	X			
Tim Devine (teacher)	X			
Barry Rodgers (principal)	X			
Andrew Czyszczonek (student)	X			
Total	12	0	0	0

Motion #: 4
Motion made by: Vicki McMannon
Seconded by: Mary Lou Schmidt
Motion: To allocate \$9,900 for college counseling

Record of Votes on Motion

Council Members	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
John Ceisel (parent)	X			
Jon Feiger (parent)	X			
Marnie Gielow (parent)	X			
Vicki McMannon (parent)	X			
Mary Lou Schmidt (parent)	X			
Cathy Quigley (parent)	X			
Scott Baskin (community)	X			
Meredith O'Connor (community)	X			
Martha Mulligan (teacher)	X			
Tim Devine (teacher)	X			
Barry Rodgers (principal)	X			
Andrew Czyszczonek (student)	X			
Total	12	0	0	0

Motion #: 5
Motion made by: Andrew Czyszczonec
Seconded by: Vicki McMannon
Motion: To allocate \$60 graduation fee

Record of Votes on Motion

Council Members	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
John Ceisel (parent)	X			
Jon Feiger (parent)	X			
Marnie Gielow (parent)	X			
Vicki McMannon (parent)	X			
Mary Lou Schmidt (parent)	X			
Cathy Quigley (parent)	X			
Scott Baskin (community)	X			
Meredith O'Connor (community)	X			
Martha Mulligan (teacher)	X			
Tim Devine (teacher)	X			
Barry Rodgers (principal)	X			
Andrew Czyszczonec (student)	X			
Total	12	0	0	0

Motion #: 6
Motion made by: Scott Baskin
Seconded by: Vicki McMannon
Motion: To increase the student fee by \$25 to \$495

Record of Votes on Motion

Council Members	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
John Ceisel (parent)	X			
Jon Feiger (parent)	X			
Marnie Gielow (parent)	X			
Vicki McMannon (parent)	X			
Mary Lou Schmidt (parent)	X			
Cathy Quigley (parent)	X			
Scott Baskin (community)	X			
Meredith O'Connor (community)	X			
Martha Mulligan (teacher)	X			
Tim Devine (teacher)	X			
Barry Rodgers (principal)	X			
Andrew Czyszczonec (student)	X			
Total	12	0	0	0

Motion #: 7
Motion made by: Scott Baskin
Seconded by: Jon Feiger
Motion: To increase the parking fee to \$200

Record of Votes on Motion

Council Members	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
John Ceisel (parent)	X			
Jon Feiger (parent)	X			
Marnie Gielow (parent)	X			
Vicki McMannon (parent)	X			
Mary Lou Schmidt (parent)	X			
Cathy Quigley (parent)	X			
Scott Baskin (community)	X			
Meredith O'Connor (community)	X			
Martha Mulligan (teacher)	X			
Tim Devine (teacher)	X			
Barry Rodgers (principal)	X			
Andrew Czyszczon (student)	X			
Total	12	0	0	0