



# Northside College Preparatory High School

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John Ceisel  
*Chair*

Jon Feiger  
*Vice Chair*

Cathy Quigley  
*Secretary*

## Local School Council Minutes

**April 8, 2010**

### Commencement

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by John Ceisel.

**Present:** Robert Albritton, John Ceisel, Jon Feiger, Nicole Flores, Petrina La Faire, Vicki McMannon, Eileen Murphy, Meredith O'Connor, Cathy Quigley, Barry Rodgers, Mary Lou Schmidt

**Absent:** Scott Baskin

**Guests:** Ellen Youniss (Parent Network President), Jim McVane, Mary Ann DiDomenico, Kathleen Andrade, Gail Meyers

### Public Comment

- Discussion focused on suggestions for solving the Chicago Public Schools budget crisis

### Approval of Agenda

To approve the Agenda for tonight's meeting (**see Motion #1**)

### Approval of Minutes

To approve the Minutes from the previous month's meeting on March 11, 2010 (**see Motion #2**)

### Communications

- [none]

### Principal's Report

- Mr. Rodgers reported that he had received preliminary budget data from CPS, but numbers were being recalculated in light of recent pension law changes. A new budget was scheduled to be released to schools on April 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Mr. Rodgers indicated that he would forward any budget information which he receives from CPS to the LSC. April 29<sup>th</sup> is the scheduled deadline for approving school budgets, but that deadline might be changed.
- Other budget items:
  - SGSA (Supplemental General State Aid) funds still need to be approved.
  - Schools will not receive money for textbooks, lab materials, study guides, and other ancillary materials for Advanced Placement classes (these funds have been reduced over the last two years from \$30,000 to \$20,000 to nothing).
  - Athletics: only freshman and varsity programs are being funded at this time.
- Mr. Rodgers is researching alternative means of funding stipends for coaches and supports creative scheduling so that all of our sophomore students can participate in sports programs.
- In the short-term, Friends of Northside can cover the cost of coaching stipends for sophomore teams; the school and the LSC cannot currently be involved in this funding. For now, sophomore athletes can be on varsity rosters, and competitions can be scheduled with suburban teams that support multiple levels.
- Athletic funding for next year will depend on how these financial issues are resolved at CPS before fall sports teams begin practicing in the middle of August.
- Mr. Rodgers reported on the NCLB (No Child Left Behind) admissions process for incoming freshmen:
  - After the completion of the initial process of admitting students to the selective enrollment schools based on grades, test scores, and socioeconomic tiers, 25 students will be admitted to each of the top selective

enrollment schools from elementary schools in which 45% of students failed to meet or exceed minimum standards in reading or math.

- People from the CPS Office of Academic Enhancement plan to meet with prospective students and families and selective enrollment school personnel on the Thursday before spring break.
  - Northside has been well represented in this process. Prospective students were invited to our school to explore and learn more about Northside, and so that we can learn more about the students as well. 15 students and their families visited Northside this week.
  - At this time, final decisions have still not been made regarding the details of implementing this process.
  - One issue raised by principals is the fact that many of these students were already accepted at selective enrollment schools, including King and Westinghouse, with the consequence that schools like Northside would be taking some of the other schools' best performing students. This issue has not been resolved as yet.
  - 25 students will be invited to attend Northside – it is possible that some of these students will decline this invitation. Distance travelled will probably be the biggest factor. Students in this process have expressed an interest in attending a selective enrollment school and have been deemed qualified; the students ranked schools in order of preference, and each student will receive one offer.
  - Parents are scheduled to be notified sometime during the week of April 19<sup>th</sup>. Ultimately the students will be the ones who make the decision.
  - Ultimate question: what is best for the student?
  - Two criteria for success at Northside: intellectual capacity + desire and commitment.
  - Feedback from visiting families: Northside is so much more than academics; students here are part of a family.
  - Most important goal for Northside: to do everything possible to facilitate the success of all students who attend our school.
- City championships for cheerleading and poms teams have been rescheduled to April 24<sup>th</sup> in response to requests from schools whose teams would not have been able to participate during spring break.
  - Preliminary data on college admissions for Northside's graduating seniors include acceptances from Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Harvard, the University of Illinois, Northwestern, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Yale, MIT, and the University of Michigan. Many students have been awarded full or partial scholarships.
  - Many events have been planned for the rest of this school year, including Elephants with Riders, musical performances, junior and senior prom, and graduation.
  - Mr. Rodgers issued the following requests for funds from Friends of Northside:
    - Operations: \$9,900
    - Athletics: \$9,900
    - Report Card Pick Up: \$600
  - To approve the transfer of funds (**see Motion #3**)

### **Teacher's Report**

- Mr. Albritton and Ms. Flores reported on the achievements of various Northside faculty members and students...
  - The faculty sponsors for the National Honor Society, Ms. Ortiz and Ms. Searcy, successfully completed this year's member selection process.
  - Mr. Leo Park was named a finalist for the Golden Apple award for excellence in teaching.
  - Students are participating in an engineering expo at the University of Michigan – Ann Arbor next week.

### **Student's Report**

- Ms. La Faire reported on upcoming events, including band concerts, choral concerts, and orchestra concerts.
- Spring sports seasons are in full swing.
- Students are preparing for AP exams in May, as well as other tests and final exams. (Today was the last day of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.)
- Students (and faculty and parent chaperones) participated in school trips to Japan and Europe (Italy and France).
- Students are concerned about prospective budget cuts, especially as they are related to their sports programs. Northside students are hoping for a positive resolution to this crisis; students from other schools were participating in walkouts to protest budget cuts.
- Seniors are excited about college acceptances, although some are disappointed in the small amounts of government financial aid available.

- [Mr. Rodgers noted that every graduating senior from Northside will have an opportunity to participate in a program of some kind next year; the vast majority of students choose college, but a few students may opt to join the military or some other form of service. The counseling office works with every student, even after graduation, to insure that they are making the most of the opportunities available to them.]
- Many tickets are still available for junior prom – junior prom will be held at the W Hotel; senior prom will be at the Intercontinental.

### **Finance Committee**

- [nothing to report]

### **Friends of Northside**

- Friends of Northside President Vicki McMannon reported that the annual appeal has raised approximately \$187,000.
- \$35,000 in funds from the Cubby Walk have been deposited; the route is prepared, the ticket lists have been put together, and the weather should be good for next Wednesday!
- The Gala produced a net profit of approximately \$34,000-\$35,000.
- Friends of Northside should end the year with about \$240,000 to \$250,000 in funds, including matching gift donations for the Cubby Walk. These anticipated amounts are about the same as two years ago.

### **Northside Parent Network**

- Ellen Youniss reported on the use of fundraising software at the Gala and its potential future use for the annual appeal and other fundraising events; she thanked Friends of Northside and the Gala event planners for purchasing the software.
- Next year's Board of Directors for the Parent Network will be elected next week. First, Board members are elected, and then officers are chosen.
- The annual college fair will be at Von Stueben on Monday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, co-hosted by Von Stueben, Northside, and Payton.
- A parent-led college forum will be conducted in the auditorium between the two sessions of Report Card Pick Up Day, sponsored cooperatively by the Parent Network and Ms. Medina in the counseling office.
- Junior Book Awards will be presented on Friday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, with colleges donating over 40 awards this year. Some new colleges are represented this year, including the University of Wisconsin-Madison.
- The annual Music Awards and Appreciation Dinner will be held on Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> especially for musicians in advanced music ensembles and their families.
- The LSC thanked Ellen Youniss, whose youngest child is graduating from Northside this year, for all of her hard work and years of service as Parent Network President.
- [There was some discussion about adding more dates and events to the calendar on the school website, including concerts. One parent wondered if the daily bulletin could be posted on the school website, as well.]

### **Building and Facilities**

- [nothing to report]

### **Community Relations**

- Voting in the LSC elections will be conducted on Report Card Pick Up Day on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Principal Selection and Evaluation**

- The principal evaluation committee report has been completed. Mr. Ceisel described the process as one modeling the kinds of collaborative, constructive, and critical behavior that we like to see in our students.
- To approve the principal evaluation committee report (**See Motion #4**)
- (The motion was approved unanimously, including Mr. Baskin in absentia.)
- To continue the collaborative and supportive principal evaluation process, Mr. Rodgers and Mr. Ceisel will meet one-on-one to go over the committee's report.

### **Old Business**

- [none]

### **New Business**

- A discussion ensued addressing suggestions about how to inform parents about the CPS budget crisis and its impact on Northside...
  - by asking parents to send letters to state representatives
  - by providing parents with addresses and e-mail links to legislators' offices (Mr. Feiger suggested that we should include nonincumbent candidates in the upcoming election – they might adjust their election campaigns accordingly.)
  - by providing a form letter or correspondence with an opportunity to modify (Mrs. O'Connor suggested that personal letters, even if they are only one paragraph, are more effective than form letters and e-mails.)
  - by educating families about the extent of the budget crisis via an e-mail blast, a letter writing campaign, or a meeting after report card pick up.
  - [Mr. Albritton and Ms. Flores indicated that the teachers' union has sent e-mails to teachers concerning relevant House and Senate bills, describing the union's position on legislation and pension concerns.]

### **Upcoming Meetings**

- Finance Committee: April 16<sup>th</sup>
- Friends of Northside: April 13<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m., in the faculty lunchroom
- Parent Network: April 15<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m., in the faculty lunchroom
- LSC: May 13<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m., in the faculty lunchroom

### **Proposed Agenda**

To approve the standard agenda for next month's meeting (**see Motion #5**)

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m. (**see Motion #6**).

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the LSC will be on May 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the faculty lunchroom. Public participation is welcome.

**Motion #:** 1  
**Motion made by:** Vicki McMannon  
**Seconded by:** Mary Lou Schmidt  
**Motion:** To approve the Agenda for tonight's meeting

**Record of Votes on Motion**

<b>Council Members</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
John Ceisel (parent)	X			
Jon Feiger (parent)	X			
Scott Baskin (parent)				X
Vicki McMannon (parent)	X			
Cathy Quigley (parent)	X			
Mary Lou Schmidt (parent)	X			
Eileen Murphy (community)	X			
Meredith O'Connor (community)	X			
Robert Albritton (teacher)	X			
Nicole Flores (teacher)	X			
Barry Rodgers (principal)	X			
Petrina La Faire (student)	X			
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

**Motion #:** 2  
**Motion made by:** Robert Albritton  
**Seconded by:** Nicole Flores  
**Motion:** To approve Minutes from the previous meeting (March 11, 2010)

**Record of Votes on Motion**

<b>Council Members</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
John Ceisel (parent)	X			
Jon Feiger (parent)	X			
Scott Baskin (parent)				X
Vicki McMannon (parent)	X			
Cathy Quigley (parent)	X			
Mary Lou Schmidt (parent)	X			
Eileen Murphy (community)	X			
Meredith O'Connor (community)	X			
Robert Albritton (teacher)	X			
Nicole Flores (teacher)	X			
Barry Rodgers (principal)	X			
Petrina La Faire (student)	X			
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

**Motion #:** 3  
**Motion made by:** Mary Lou Schmidt  
**Seconded by:** Cathy Quigley  
**Motion:** To approve the transfer of funds from Friends of Northside: \$9,900 for Operations, \$9,900 for Athletics, and \$600 for Report Card Pick Up, for a total disbursement of \$20,400

**Record of Votes on Motion**

<b>Council Members</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
John Ceisel (parent)	X			
Jon Feiger (parent)	X			
Scott Baskin (parent)				X
Vicki McMannon (parent)	X			
Cathy Quigley (parent)	X			
Mary Lou Schmidt (parent)	X			
Eileen Murphy (community)	X			
Meredith O'Connor (community)	X			
Robert Albritton (teacher)	X			
Nicole Flores (teacher)	X			
Barry Rodgers (principal)	X			
Petrina La Faire (student)	X			
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

**Motion #:** 4  
**Motion made by:** Vicki McMannon  
**Seconded by:** Cathy Quigley  
**Motion:** To approve the principal's evaluation prepared by the Principal Selection and Evaluation Committee

**Record of Votes on Motion**

<b>Council Members</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
John Ceisel (parent)	X			
Jon Feiger (parent)	X			
Scott Baskin (parent)	X (in absentia)			
Vicki McMannon (parent)	X			
Cathy Quigley (parent)	X			
Mary Lou Schmidt (parent)	X			
Eileen Murphy (community)	X			
Meredith O'Connor (community)	X			
Robert Albritton (teacher)	X			
Nicole Flores (teacher)	X			
Barry Rodgers (principal)	X			
Petrina La Faire (student)	X			
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Motion #:** 5  
**Motion made by:** Vicki McMannon  
**Seconded by:** Jon Feiger  
**Motion:** To approve the standard agenda for next month's meeting

**Record of Votes on Motion**

<b>Council Members</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
John Ceisel (parent)	X			
Jon Feiger (parent)	X			
Scott Baskin (parent)				X
Vicki McMannon (parent)	X			
Cathy Quigley (parent)	X			
Mary Lou Schmidt (parent)	X			
Eileen Murphy (community)	X			
Meredith O'Connor (community)	X			
Robert Albritton (teacher)	X			
Nicole Flores (teacher)	X			
Barry Rodgers (principal)	X			
Petrina La Faire (student)	X			
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

**Motion #:** 6  
**Motion made by:** Meredith O'Connor  
**Seconded by:** Eileen Murphy  
**Motion:** To adjourn the LSC meeting

**Record of Votes on Motion**

<b>Council Members</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
John Ceisel (parent)	X			
Jon Feiger (parent)	X			
Scott Baskin (parent)				X
Vicki McMannon (parent)	X			
Cathy Quigley (parent)	X			
Mary Lou Schmidt (parent)	X			
Eileen Murphy (community)	X			
Meredith O'Connor (community)	X			
Robert Albritton (teacher)	X			
Nicole Flores (teacher)	X			
Barry Rodgers (principal)	X			
Petrina La Faire (student)	X			
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>