



Northside College Preparatory High School

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John Ceisel
Chair

Vicki McMannon
Vice Chair

Cathy Quigley
Secretary

Local School Council Minutes December 14, 2010

Commencement

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by John Ceisel.

Present: John Ceisel, Vicki McMannon, Barry Rodgers, Kathleen Andrade, Gail Myers Jaffe, Crystal Melto, Cathy Quigley, Diane Monnich, Meredith O'Connor, Robert Albritton, Nicole Flores, Cesar Monarrez

Guests: Mrs. Spillane (special programs coordinator), Mr. McVane (parent), Mr. Feiger (parent), Mr. Howenstine (parent), Mr. Wilson (parent), Mrs. Gupta (parent)

Communications

- Mr. Ceisel informed the LSC about a childhood obesity conference.

Amendment and Approval of Agenda

To amend agenda to include vote on how to use laptop computer awarded to LSC and to include vote on principal contract renewal (**see Motion #1**)

To approve the amended agenda for tonight's meeting (**see Motion #2**)

Approval of Minutes

To approve the minutes from the previous month's meeting on November 9, 2010 (**see Motion #3**)

Student's Report

- An all-school colloquium was conducted on relevant behavioral and ethical issues including bullying and academic integrity; the program included a presentation by a professor of philosophy and opportunities for discussions on ethics; students would like to continue this conversation.
- The advanced music ensembles for the jazz band, orchestra, and chorus are performing in a holiday concert this evening.
- Pack the Gym / Pool night included basketball games and a boys swim meet, resulting in Northside victories in three basketball games and the swim meet.
- The next Pack the Gym night will include homecoming basketball games on January 7th, at the conclusion of Spirit Week. The homecoming dance will be held on January 8th.
- Students were looking forward to the winter break beginning after colloquium on Friday, December 17th.

Principal's Report

- Mr. Rodgers also described the ethics colloquium and asserted that Northside is at our best when everyone is working together. He commended teacher leader Mr. Albritton and indicated that many teachers and students participated meaningfully in the schoolwide program.
- The Principal for a Day event yielded a partnership with the EPA and a series of lectures in environmental science classes by EPA experts.
- The counseling office reported that 133 Northside students were named as Illinois State Scholars.
- Programs continue to be developed and implemented to help students achieve success at Northside:
 - The SUCCESS program at Northside continues to hold weekly meetings on Tuesday afternoons to help students develop note-taking skills and stress management techniques.

- Additional efforts to assist struggling students include group/peer tutoring and meetings with adult mentors, counselors, social workers, parents, and teachers; there were meetings with families of students participating in the program on report card pickup day.
- Some significant challenges were revealed by the results of the 9th grade Explore test; relevant data were used to help our students by working with a reading specialist and implementing math tutoring by Ms. Mulligan and Mrs. Sullivan.
- When 5-week grade reports were issued, every student in the NCLB program but one was failing one or more classes; now, five of these students passing all of their classes.
- Success is ongoing and continues to move forward, but it is not always noticeable.
- Mr. Good is coordinating the peer mentoring program.
- The school continues to develop relationships with families to show how we can support at-risk students.
- New challenges which have arisen: students needing glasses, technology in the home; to address these needs, students have been equipped with laptops and internet access via a partnership with Mobile Citizen.
- There has been some frustration – every teacher wants every student to succeed – wholistically, everyone is very supportive – administrators are listening and the program is continuing to evolve.
- Good things: students are attending school every day, even in subzero temperatures while traveling long distances on public transportation.
- Students unanimously feel that they feel connected to and supported by the school and the people of Northside.
- Mrs. Spillane, Mr. Good continue to put a lot of themselves into the program; Dr. Murphy is very invested in the program, as well as the counseling office and the students and their families – the work and cooperation are inspirational.
- Next steps: second semester some students will participate in a special colloquium for studying regular academic subjects; three to five students are severely at risk: their class load may be reduced by one so that in the long term they can be successful. Meaningful and substantial change takes time; the ultimate goal is for these students to graduate from Northside and enter college on a level playing field with other students.
- Another next step: plan for a summer program reflecting what has been learned this year to help students admitted under this program next year.
- Issue of funding – there may be a significant increase in the number of students participating in this program next year, so financing needs will increase correspondingly in the areas of personnel, counseling services, transportation, laptops, internet service, and meetings.
- Terry Mazany, president and CEO of Chicago Community Trust, was named interim CEO of CPS after the resignation of Ron Huberman. A permanent replacement is still being sought.
- A CPS budget handout containing an outline of how CPS spends their money reflects how the script is changing constantly, especially with the impending election of a new mayor and appointment of a new head of CPS.
- New courses will be added to the curriculum at Northside, including earth space science, anthropology, world literature, exploring computers (replacing infotech) – reflecting the interdisciplinary importance of computers and technology.
- Northside's yearbook was awarded a Columbia Scholastic press gold medal.
- The Debate team won awards for a presentation on tax revenue issues.
- The new projector for the auditorium was purchased and will be installed. We had approved \$9,900 for the projector, and we're coming in a little bit under that amount.
- A community-building alumni event is happening this week on Thursday: three bands will be playing – two alumni bands and science teacher Mr. Coy's band.
- Mr. Rodgers received notification from the Illinois State Board of Education that our school has been nominated by Illinois for the blue ribbon schools award in recognition for being a high-performing school that demonstrates academic growth. The accreditation process will be completed by February

18th. The award includes federal recognition by the U. S. Department of Education. Representatives from Northside will go to Washington, D.C. next year. 50-60 schools were nominated across the country.

- Update on selective enrollment: there have been no updates whatsoever from CPS – the admissions process has been passed as written, the testing process has been centralized, and the office is currently processing applications; issues may be revisited in January.
 - This year students can put down up to six choices of schools, but again each student will receive only one offer for admission to the highest school for which he or she qualifies.
 - Scores are now published – families can see approximately where their students are ranked.
 - Choices are centralized and completely based on cut scores and tiers.
- Mr. Albritton echoed the comments made by Mr. Rodgers regarding the SUCCESS program: the administration is working hard to help students, and the teachers really want to enable these students to succeed, but they sometimes feel ill-equipped to do so. SIPAAA and newly distributed funds will have to be allocated based on what has been learned throughout the process this year. The LSC's funding decisions were made based on information available at the time, but experience shows the need to adjust.
- Mr. Ceisel also pointed out that we need to insure that the needs of all of Northside's teachers and students are considered, and that no one is affected adversely by the necessary attention given to at-risk students.
- Freshman teachers have, and will continue to have, opportunities to meet with Mrs. Spillane and submit a wish list or a list of concerns and suggestions for how to address them.
- Mr. Albritton pointed out the difficulty of teaching regular-level students in the gifted classroom as opposed to the well-researched issue of teaching gifted kids in the regular classroom.
- This year the students admitted under the NCLB program will have gone through the selective enrollment process, but it is not clear what will happen after that point.
- No word on an education budget: leadership in Springfield seems to be more supportive of schools, so hopefully the process of seeking and securing school funding can be more proactive.

Public Comment

- Mrs. Gupta inquired about how a selective enrollment school establishes its cut score; Mr. Rodgers replied that this is determined by the law of supply and demand and is set by the performance of the students: there are 275 open seats, of which 30% will be filled by students achieving top scores overall, and the rest by top scores from each of four tiers determined by socio-economic factors.
- Mr. Feiger related that historically Northside has been able to set a cut score, but that policy changed last year, although Mr. Rodgers was able to lobby for and secure a bottom cut score to insure that there is a range in which students can learn successfully.
- Since many students are commuting 1.5 hours or more, one parent suggested that we consider raising money to get a bus, but students may be too widely distributed to make that effective; others suggested a more creative solution with parents picking up students in various locations.
- Mr. Howenstine spoke to classroom issues at Northside. He has heard that some teachers are not prepared to teach the subjects they are teaching or are capricious or defensive in the classroom. He suggested that someone might be brilliant, but not necessarily good at teaching a group of students with a wide range of abilities. He suggested that some sort of teacher evaluation system be put into place enabling students to anonymously evaluate teachers. He offered his services to help facilitate such an evaluation process.
- Mr. Albritton indicated that he does request feedback from the students, but that teachers cannot be compelled to do so; some teachers do distribute evaluation forms, but it is optional.
- Mr. Rodgers indicated that growth and improvements in teaching at Northside are implemented through a reflective process: teachers meet on a weekly basis to talk about their practices, and there are also formal peer observations. He also expressed the opinion that forms alone are not sufficient – teachers must be willing to internalize the feedback they receive.

- On the other hand, capricious behavior is handled immediately by the principal – usually situations work out for the best with student/teacher cooperation and parent support
- Many teachers are taking a more active role in self-assessment; they are more willing to open up their practice, keep lines of communication open, and weave behavior modification into the fabric of the school.

Teachers' Report

- John Belcaster and Jill Sullivan were nominated for outstanding educator awards.
- Adrienne Cirincione became national board certified.
- Marcos Alcozer received a \$1200 Harris Fellowship Leadership Grant.
- The Art and Social Studies departments received grants.
- The teachers appreciated the holiday buffet provided by Northside parents.
- Anne Huestis and Robert Albritton coordinated the all-school colloquium on ethics.
- The Latin team continues to win competitions under the leadership of the new Latin teacher, Mr. Nifong.
- Tim Devine continues to publish news of Northside graduates who have gone on to achieve further success.
- A CPS teacher team management toolkit outlines professional development in teacher teams and PLCs – a model that is already in place at Northside.

Committee Reports

- Finance Committee / Friends of Northside
 - Approximately \$155,000 has been raised so far in the Annual Appeal – the annual goal is \$200,000.
 - Mrs. McMannon distributed a report on finances, including requests from Mr. Rodgers and all amounts which have been disbursed.
 - The finance committee will meet with Mr. Rodgers next month.
- Northside Parent Network
 - Committee meetings and planning for the Gala are ongoing.
 - Parents provided a holiday buffet for the teachers.
- Community Relations
 - A meeting will be scheduled for the beginning of the new year.
 - Survey results from report card pick up are still being aggregated.
 - Some parents have requested more assistance with the college application process.
- Principal Selection and Evaluation Committee
 - The committee met in closed session to consider the renewal of Mr. Rodgers' contract for four more years.
 - A motion was made to conduct the vote for the renewal of Mr. Rodgers' principal contract. (**see Motion #4**).
 - The Northside Local School Council voted unanimously to renew the contract of Principal Barry Rodgers for a second four-year term. Mr. Rodgers thanked the LSC for their support; Mr. Ceisel thanked Mr. Rodgers for his service on behalf of Northside.
 - Now begins the process of principal evaluation for the 2010-2011 school year.

New Business

- LSC training form blanks are available in the school office mailbox.
- A laptop was awarded to the Northside LSC for having a contested LSC election in all categories (parent, teacher, and community representative). The council agreed to give the laptop to Vicky Anderson to be used as needed.

Upcoming Meetings

- Finance Committee: TBD
- Friends of Northside: TBD
- Parent Network: January 6th
- Principal Selection and Evaluation: TBD
- LSC: January 11th
- Community Relations: TBD

Agenda

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

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. (see **Motion #6**).

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the LSC will be on Tuesday, January 11th at 7:00 p.m. in the faculty lunchroom. Public participation is welcome.

Motion #: 1
Motion made by: Gail Myers Jaffe
Seconded by: Nicole Flores
Motion: To amend agenda to include vote on how to use laptop computer awarded to LSC and to include vote on principal contract renewal

Record of Votes on Motion

Council Members	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
John Ceisel (parent)	X			
Vicki McMannon (parent)	X			
Kathleen Andrade (parent)	X			
Gail Myers Jaffe (parent)	X			
Crystal Melto (parent)	X			
Cathy Quigley (parent)	X			
Diane Monnich (community)	X			
Meredith O'Connor (community)	X			
Robert Albritton (teacher)	X			
Nicole Flores (teacher)	X			
Barry Rodgers (principal)	X			
Cesar Monarrez (student)	X			
Total	12	0	0	0

Motion #: 2
Motion made by: Gail Myers Jaffe
Seconded by: Nicole Flores
Motion: To approve the amended agenda for tonight's meeting

Record of Votes on Motion

Council Members	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
John Ceisel (parent)	X			
Vicki McMannon (parent)	X			
Kathleen Andrade (parent)	X			
Gail Myers Jaffe (parent)	X			
Crystal Melto (parent)	X			
Cathy Quigley (parent)	X			
Diane Monnich (community)	X			
Meredith O'Connor (community)	X			
Robert Albritton (teacher)	X			
Nicole Flores (teacher)	X			
Barry Rodgers (principal)	X			
Cesar Monarrez (student)	X			
Total	12	0	0	0

Motion #: 3
Motion made by: Vicki McMannon
Seconded by: Diane Monnich
Motion: To approve the minutes from last month's meeting (November 9, 2010)

Record of Votes on Motion

Council Members	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
John Ceisel (parent)	X			
Vicki McMannon (parent)	X			
Kathleen Andrade (parent)	X			
Gail Myers Jaffe (parent)	X			
Crystal Melto (parent)	X			
Cathy Quigley (parent)	X			
Diane Monnich (community)	X			
Meredith O'Connor (community)	X			
Robert Albritton (teacher)	X			
Nicole Flores (teacher)	X			
Barry Rodgers (principal)	X			
Cesar Monarrez (student)	X			
Total	12	0	0	0

Motion # 4
Motion made by: John Ceisel
Seconded by: Kathleen Andrade
Motion: To conduct voting on renewal of principal's contract

Record of Votes on Motion

Council Members	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
John Ceisel (parent)	X			
Vicki McMannon (parent)	X			
Kathleen Andrade (parent)	X			
Gail Myers Jaffe (parent)	X			
Crystal Melto (parent)	X			
Cathy Quigley (parent)	X			
Diane Monnich (community)	X			
Meredith O'Connor (community)	X			
Robert Albritton (teacher)	X			
Nicole Flores (teacher)	X			
Barry Rodgers (principal)	X			
Cesar Monarrez (student)	X			
Total	12	0	0	0

Motion #: 5
Motion made by: Gail Myers Jaffe
Seconded by: Crystal Melto
Motion: To approve standard agenda for January 11th LSC meeting

Record of Votes on Motion

Council Members	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
John Ceisel (parent)	X			
Vicki McMannon (parent)	X			
Kathleen Andrade (parent)	X			
Gail Myers Jaffe (parent)	X			
Crystal Melto (parent)	X			
Cathy Quigley (parent)	X			
Diane Monnich (community)	X			
Meredith O'Connor (community)	X			
Robert Albritton (teacher)	X			
Nicole Flores (teacher)	X			
Barry Rodgers (principal)	X			
Cesar Monarrez (student)	X			
Total	12	0	0	0

Motion #: 6
Motion made by: Gail Myers Jaffe
Seconded by: Kathleen Andrade
Motion: To adjourn the LSC meeting

Record of Votes on Motion

Council Members	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
John Ceisel (parent)	X			
Vicki McMannon (parent)	X			
Kathleen Andrade (parent)	X			
Gail Myers Jaffe (parent)	X			
Crystal Melto (parent)	X			
Cathy Quigley (parent)	X			
Diane Monnich (community)	X			
Meredith O'Connor (community)	X			
Robert Albritton (teacher)	X			
Nicole Flores (teacher)	X			
Barry Rodgers (principal)	X			
Cesar Monarrez (student)	X			
Total	12	0	0	0