



Northside College Preparatory High School

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John Ceisel
Chair

Jon Feiger
Vice Chair

Cathy Quigley
Secretary

Local School Council Minutes February 18, 2010

Commencement

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by John Ceisel.

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

Absent: [all members present]

Guests: Crystal Melto (parent); Kristin Meyer (parent); Mary Lou Domenico (parent); Jim McVane (parent)

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 January 14, 2010 (see Motion #2)

Public Comment

- [none]

Communications

- [none]

Principal's Report

- Mr. Rodgers reported that he had met with the CPS inaugural committee for district technology initiatives. The meeting focused on a hybrid model for an online curriculum. Several principals, technology specialists, and other individuals from CPS developed a vision and mission for the technology initiative, 21st Century Classroom Computing.
- Stated goals of the program included increasing levels of student engagement, extending the classroom, building relationships with vendors such as Microsoft, and setting standards for new software. The tone of the meeting was very positive.
- Some individuals were under the impression that schools have a pool of money that can be reallocated to technology, but that is not true, at least at Northside. At the same time, Northside is building a reputation as a district leader in technology.
- VOISE is a school in the CPS system that has instituted an all-digital curriculum. The program includes one-to-one computing but with a more prepackaged software bundle than is being considered for Northside's program.
- The University of Michigan's engineering program is looking at potential partnerships with Northside, possibly providing high school seniors with admissions incentives and financial aid benefits.
- Mr. Rodgers stated that the final list of students who would be offered positions in the selective enrollment high schools was still being discussed for the 2010-2011 incoming freshman class. Letters were scheduled to be mailed to students and their families tomorrow.
- Mr. Rodgers met last week with the CPS Office of Academic Enhancement, presenting Northside's position that diversity is valued and must be balanced by a high level of academic excellence. The

administration's goal is to maintain the current honors – AP curriculum and to admit students who will be able to successfully complete the academic program at Northside.

- Ultimately, Mr. Huberman will make all of the decisions regarding minimum scores accepted from each census tract, with a maximum of 40% of students accepted solely on the basis of total points (and a minimum of 60% admitted from the four tiers).
- 6,100 students applied to Northside, with 1,500 students selecting Northside as their first choice. The administration had not been notified of which students had been accepted or what the cutoff scores would be. Mr. Rodgers hoped to receive data tomorrow, and he indicated that he would notify the members of the LSC of any developments via e-mail.
- Northside had proposed that the school would accept 13 special education students, but CPS actually reduced this number so that these students could be more evenly distributed among all of the selective enrollment schools. The severe and profoundly disabled class would be adding one or two students, and losing one student who would be aging out at the end of this year.
- In answer to a parent's question, Mr. Rodgers indicated that the one-to-one computing initiative was not connected to the high school admissions process.
- Plans were being made for a February 25th meeting with families of potential incoming freshmen, but this date hinged on the mailing of the acceptance letters in a timely manner.
- Northside is awaiting a response to a \$2.5 million grant proposal submitted by Dr. Schmidt and Mr. Benincasa to the National Science Foundation, seeking to secure outside funding for the 21st Century Computing Program. So far this year the program has been implemented successfully at Northside; updates can be viewed on the school website at <http://www.nscollegeprep.cps.k12.il.us/21cc/>.
- Solar panels are going to be installed at Northside beginning next week.
- Mr. Rodgers requested the following disbursements for school programs:
 - \$9,900 for operations
 - \$9,000 for special events for students
 - \$600 for the next report card pick up
 - \$2,500 for programming
 - \$22,000 total

(See Motion #3.)

Teacher's Report

- Mr. Albritton reported that teachers are mentoring student teachers in many departments, and there are two technology interns.
- Ms. Volesky, a teacher in the science department, recently applied for and was awarded a grant.
- A media technology grant was awarded to the school newspaper by the McCormick Foundation.
- Teachers participated in stress relief and relaxation sessions.
- Teachers also participated in a department retreat day focusing on activities specific to their departments, e.g., Shakespeare reading in the English department, student thinking activities in the math department.

Student's Report

- Ms. La Faire reported that eight Northside juniors (including Petrina) were among the recipients of the World Sport Chicago Scholarship. High school juniors who have participated in an Olympic or Paralympic sport for at least two years are eligible to apply for the scholarship, which includes scholastic assistance and mentoring for junior and senior year and the opportunity to apply for college scholarships.
- Other students have been awarded internships (Leah Feiger, NOW and Una Lim, working with Dick Durbin).
- Some students will have the opportunity to participate in a conference in Munich through the Model U. N. of the University of Chicago.
- The Talent Show was held last week in Northside's auditorium. First place was awarded jointly to the dance group Hypnotik and James Kelenyi.
- The Latin team took first in the Illinois Certamen League competition.
- Winter sports are in full swing, including indoor track, girls bowling, and boys swimming.
- The Battle of the Bands was the "best yet."

- Students have registered for their desired classes for next year.
- Juniors have turned in their self-assessments, formally beginning the college planning process.
- Morale is good!

Finance Committee/Friends of Northside

- Friends of Northside President Vicki McMannon reported that receipts for the annual appeal are currently up to \$175,000 in donations, approximately \$5,000 ahead of the level of two years ago. Donations have slowed down, but that is typical of this time of year.
- Friends of Northside was able to procure \$2 tickets for the Cubs game for Cubby Walk – only 3 or 4 organizations were able to get tickets for that reduced price this year.
- There will be a Cubby Walk pep rally on March 17th, and the event will take place on April 14th.

Northside Parent Network

- Crystal Melto, representing the Northside Parent Network, spoke of plans for a parent forum on the college process; the plan is for parents of seniors who have already gone through the process to speak to parents of juniors who are just beginning the process. The Parent Network is working with the counseling office to facilitate this forum, which is scheduled to be held in April.
- Ms. Melto spoke about the 11th Anniversary Gala at Galleria Marchetti on Saturday, March 13th, from 6 p.m. – 11 p.m. The theme is “Reach for the Stars.” Tickets are \$60 apiece (\$50 for faculty and staff).
- There will be a pianist performing during an Italian buffet dinner, with a live auction and a silent auction including a wine cellar stocked by ongoing donations from Northside families. There will be a 50-50 raffle to recoup the cost of auction pay software purchased by the committee, and a “call from the heart” project to raise money to fund the upgrade of the projector in the auditorium.
- About 72 tickets have already been purchased; the goal is 300 tickets. \$1000 in advertising has already been sold.
- Michael Smith’s Mission Press Incorporated is printing programs for the event at a very reasonable cost.
- Invitations for the gala have already been mailed out, and the Parent Network website provides access to downloadable forms with information and opportunities to make donations.
- Mr. Rodgers thanked Ms. Melto and her committee for all of their hard work.

Building and Facilities

- [nothing to report]

Community Relations

- Mrs. Murphy designed promotional materials encouraging people to participate in the upcoming LSC election.
- An e-mail blast has already gone out, and there will be additional e-mail blasts. *EPIC* will print an article, and Mrs. Kato includes the blurb in all of her e-mail communications to Northside parents and families. Flyers will be included in progress report mailings to be sent home on March 5th.
- Applications are due March 4th at CPS downtown, or March 11th (at 3 p.m.) to Mrs. Kato in the counseling office.
- The candidates’ forum is March 23rd at 7 p.m. in the choral room.
- The election is on April 22nd, report card pick up day, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the faculty lunchroom.
- An election judge is needed for that day.
- Mr. Ceisel indicated that there will be vacancies, so he encouraged people to run for the LSC.

Principal Selection and Evaluation

- Dates for conducting and completing each part of the process: every Tuesday in March (March 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd)
- The first meeting will include an overview from Mr. Rodgers; each meeting will take approximately 2 hours.
- Collaboration will be the focus of the process.
- After the candidates’ forum on March 23rd, we will proceed immediately to the final principal evaluation meeting.
- Mr. Ceisel will provide LSC members with copies of all forms necessary to complete the evaluation.

New Business

- [none]

Upcoming Meetings

- Friends of Northside: Thursday, February 25th, at 7 p.m.
- Parent Network: March 4th, at 7 p.m., in the faculty lunchroom
- LSC: March 11th at 7 PM in the faculty lunchroom

Proposed Agenda

- To approve the standard agenda for next month's meeting (see Motion #4)
- The agenda was amended to eliminate "curriculum" as a committee.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m. (see Motion #5).

Next Meeting

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

Motion #: 1
Motion made by: Vicki McMannon
Seconded by: Robert Albritton
Motion: To approve the Agenda for tonight's meeting

Record of Votes on Motion

Council Members	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
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			
Total	12	0	0	0

Motion #: 2
Motion made by: Vicki McMannon
Seconded by: Robert Albritton
Motion: To approve Minutes from the previous meeting (January 14, 2010)

Record of Votes on Motion

Council Members	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
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			
Total	12	0	0	0

Motion #: 3
Motion made by: Vicki McMannon
Seconded by: Petrina La Faire
Motion: To approve the following fund allocations for school services and programs: \$9,900 for operations; \$9,000 for special events for students; \$600 for next report card pick up; \$2,500 for programming (\$22,000 total)

Record of Votes on Motion

Council Members	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
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			
Total	12	0	0	0

Motion #: 4
Motion made by: Jon Feiger
Seconded by: Vicki McMannon
Motion: To approve the standard agenda for next month's meeting (amended to eliminate "curriculum" under committee reports)

Record of Votes on Motion

Council Members	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
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			
Total	12	0	0	0

Motion #: 5
Motion made by: Vicki McMannon
Seconded by: Petrina La Faire
Motion: To adjourn the LSC meeting

Record of Votes on Motion

Council Members	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
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			
Total	12	0	0	0