



Northside College Preparatory High School

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John Ceisel
Chair

Jon Feiger
Vice Chair

Cathy Quigley
Secretary

Local School Council Minutes January 14, 2010

Commencement

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Jon Feiger.

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

Absent: John Ceisel

Guests: Ellen Youniss (parent, Parent Network President); Faith Spencer (parent); Mary Lou Domenico (parent); Carlos Pineda (parent)

Jon Feiger, chairing the LSC meeting in John Ceisel's absence, welcomed Nicole Flores to the LSC as the new teacher representative replacing Tim Devine.

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 December 10, 2009 (see Motion #2)

Public Comment

- None of the guests present had any previously prepared questions or comments; Mr. Feiger indicated that guests were welcome to ask questions about any of the issues that might be brought up in the course of the meeting.

Communications

- Mr. Feiger announced that Mr. Rodgers had been awarded membership in the Headmasters Association of the United States and would be inducted at the annual conference of this organization in February. A select group of school administrators receive this honor, enabling them to build connections and network with other schools throughout the nation.
- Mr. Devine's resignation from the LSC required the council to select a replacement to serve as secretary for the remainder of the current term. Cathy Quigley was nominated and approved to fill this role on the council (see Motion #3).

Principal's Report

- Mr. Rodgers explained that a technical glitch in the colloquium registration procedure required the process to be repeated next week.
- An all-school colloquium on January 13th focused on health and wellness and included presentations by professionals (both from within the school and also from the outside community) in fitness, sports medicine, pilates, yoga, stress management, and acupuncture. A "stress relief day" for teachers is planned for a future date.
- No budget requests/approvals were required for this month.
- There was a small change in the proposed admissions policy for CPS selective enrollment schools: originally, 50% of students were to be admitted based on point totals alone, with the other 50% selected

from four different tiers based on census tract data; the change requires that no more than 40% of students admitted can be chosen based solely on point totals, with the final cut score for each school to be determined at a later date.

- There will be a 900-point system for ranking students seeking admission to selective enrollment schools (the 100 points for 7th grade attendance were eliminated).
- The tier system may be adjusted before final implementation.
- A computerized system will place students in their highest choice schools for which they are qualified. Each student will be placed in only one high school.
- The Corey H Settlement Agreement mandates that schools must maintain a special education population of at least 10% of the total student population. Northside has applied for a waiver in the past, but this year it has not been approved. The administration has reapplied for the waiver, but Northside might be required to admit a higher number of special education students. The policy at Northside has been to look at the nature of a student's disability to insure that the student will be able to succeed in the school's college preparatory curriculum; special education administrators have reached out to local elementary schools to facilitate appropriate student placement. The number of students in classes for the severely and profoundly disabled has been reduced because of overcrowded classroom conditions.
- In response to questions from parents, Mr. Rodgers explained the proposed policy to maintain socio-economic diversity in the selective enrollment schools based on neighborhood tiers in the city. He indicated that the administration intends to maintain the level of excellence in education at Northside as the new admissions policies are implemented.
- Spirit week has been ongoing at Northside, culminating in a pep rally, homecoming game (varsity boys basketball), and dance.
- The Field Foundation has awarded Northside a \$10,000 grant supporting professional development in the science department.
- There will be a town hall meeting at Northside on the 21st Century Classroom Computing (aka 1-1 computing) project on January 26th. An overview and rationale for the program will be presented, and demonstrations will be set up.
- The celestial garden and urban habitat projects are proceeding.
- Early decisions and scholarship awards for college-bound seniors are coming in. (Mr. Feiger requested a summary of college admissions process partnerships with schools of various sizes.)

Teacher's Report

- Mr. Albritton described the positive response to the health fair hosted by Mrs. Cirrincione, the rest of the physical education department, and the health colloquium, including a dramatic portrayal of mental health issues and other breakout sessions.
- Various awards have been received by faculty and students, including recognition for Anna Park in the social studies department, student awards from the National Center for Women and Information Technology, and free computers to be presented to four Northside students.
- Mr. Correa has been coordinating weekend testing dates.
- Mr. Park (orchestra), Mr. Lill (band), and Mrs. Martinez (chorus) coordinated holiday concerts at school and performances in Lincoln Square, at Navy Pier, and at Macy's.

Student's Report

- Ms. La Faire described the events of homecoming week, including the various spirit days, pep rally, basketball game, and dance. Students are looking forward to the larger scale of the dance (in the gym, with refreshments).
- Students are eagerly anticipating the Battle of the Bands, a popular event at Northside.
- Semester final exams are scheduled for the last week in January.
- Students are obtaining recommendations for courses for next year in preparation for program registration in February.

Finance Committee/Friends of Northside

- Friends of Northside President Vicki McMannon reported that receipts for the annual appeal are currently up to \$170,000 in donations, approximately \$8,000-\$10,000 ahead of the level of two years ago.

- There will be a Cubby Walk kickoff meeting next week.

Northside Parent Network

- Northside Parent Network President Ellen Youniss described the buffet provided by parents for teachers right before the holiday break. The teachers were very appreciative. Next year, lunch might be served in addition to desserts and holiday treats.
- The Parent Network is working with Friends of Northside to plan other activities, including the 11th Anniversary Gala at Galleria Marchetti on Saturday, March 13th. The full price for a ticket is \$60, with a discounted price of \$50 for teachers. Alumni and former faculty members are also invited to the event.
- Plans are being discussed for a college admissions forum for parents and families for next year.

Building and Facilities

- Upcoming capital improvements: repairs to the boiler in the swimming pool, painting of eaves, replacement of carpeting, purchase of a new video projector for the auditorium, improved lighting for the gym, purchase of a theatre curtain, etc.
- Some funding may come from CPS, but the budget is very tight; Northside's budget has not been increased since 1999. The current budget is exhausted by the end of October.
- The administration's focus is on being proactive in anticipating needed repairs and conducting preventive maintenance.

Community Relations

- The LSC election will be held on April 22nd in the faculty lunchroom during the 3rd quarter report card pick up.
- Applications are available from Mrs. Kato in the counseling office or online via the CPS website.
- Applications are due by 3:00 PM on March 11th; two forms of identification are required when the materials are submitted to Mrs. Kato. (Application materials can also be submitted downtown in the CPS offices, but the deadline is March 4th.)
- There will be a candidate forum at Northside on March 23rd at 7:00 PM.
- Promotional materials will be disseminated in the next few weeks.

Principal Selection and Evaluation

- Dates for conducting and completing each part of the process will be finalized at the February LSC meeting.
- Surveys will be distributed during the first week of February.

New Business

- The CPS law department returned the requested admissions documentation provided by Northside; no other information was required.
- Faculty openings are posted via a regular process; no new positions have been filled for next year.
- Northside is currently hosting a number of student teachers and interns.

Upcoming Meetings

- Friends of Northside: Tuesday, January 19th, at 7 PM
- Parent Network: February 4th, at 7 PM, in the faculty lunchroom
- LSC: February 18th (changed from original schedule)

Proposed Agenda

- To approve the standard agenda for next month's meeting (see Motion #4)

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the LSC will be on February 18th at 7:00 PM in the faculty lunchroom. Public participation is welcome.

Motion #: 1
Motion made by: Meredith O'Connor
Seconded by: Vicki McMannon
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	11	0	0	1

Motion #: 2
Motion made by: Petrina La Faire
Seconded by: Robert Albritton
Motion: To approve Minutes from the previous meeting (December 10, 2009)

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	11	0	0	1

Motion #: 3
Motion made by: Mary Lou Schmidt
Seconded by: Vicki McMannon
Motion: To install Cathy Quigley in the office of secretary of the LSC to serve for the remainder of the current term

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	11	0	0	1

Motion #: 4
Motion made by: Mary Lou Schmidt
Seconded by: Robert Albritton
Motion: To approve the standard agenda for next month'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	11	0	0	1