



Northside College Preparatory High School

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John Ceisel
Chair

Jon Feiger
Vice Chair

Cathy Quigley
Secretary

Local School Council Minutes March 11, 2010

Commencement

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

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

Absent: Meredith O'Connor

Guests: Ellen Youniss (Parent Network President), Jim McVane, Erick Howenstine, Mary Ann DiDomenico, Joe Minogue, Kathy Andrade, Debra Feinstein, Maggie Randolph, incoming freshman parent

Public Comment

- Discussion regarding how to best support the 25 students from the lowest performing middle schools in Chicago who will be selected to attend Northside in the fall of 2010
- Discussion regarding an incident of academic dishonesty in which a department final exam was compromised: Mr. Rodgers responded to parents' comments and questions by describing the nature of the incident and the administration's response. He underscored the seriousness of the actions of several students, while maintaining confidentiality and asserting that student discipline is a part of the student's growth and development as a whole person.

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 February 18, 2010 (see Motion #2)

Communications

- [none]

Principal's Report

- Mr. Rodgers reported that the CPS budget crisis is ongoing; he will continue to fight for the integrity of Northside's programs.
- Sophomore sports programs are in jeopardy; a final decision will be made on March 24th.
- If CPS will no longer fund sophomore sports programs, then \$17,000-\$23,000 would need to be raised to sustain sophomore softball, soccer, baseball, and volleyball teams.
- Mr. Rodgers has requested an updated list of all proposed program and personnel cuts.
- The cheerleading and poms city championships were rescheduled for March 27th – during spring break, when several of Northside's student participants will be on class trips out of the country. This will affect teams from other CPS schools as well; discussions with the CPS office of sports administration are ongoing to postpone the competition until after spring break.
- The African American Club put on an incredible performance in a schoolwide colloquium; a playwright worked with these students to write and rehearse the production.
- Everyone is looking forward to the Gala this weekend to raise needed money for Northside's programs, to build a spirit of community and celebrate with others in the Northside family.
- There are many other upcoming events to look forward to, including the school musical, concerts, elephant with riders event, construction of the joy garden, and a school dance.

- Regarding college admissions, many positive results are coming in, but April 1st is the big commitment day when most schools will issue their acceptance decisions. For most of our seniors, the fruits of their labor are being realized. The counseling department can report on college admissions at the May LSC meeting. Now the challenge is to help our seniors maintain their academic focus for the last few months of the year.
- Mrs. Youniss indicated that the Parent Network and the counseling department are going to host a forum on report card pick up day between the afternoon and evening sessions; groups of experienced parents (of seniors and alumni) will talk to parents of juniors about their college application experiences.
- Dr. Murphy described the outstanding class of incoming freshman students at Northside, the class of 2014.
- 274 students were invited to attend Northside as freshmen next year: 254 accepted the invitation. Of the other 20 students, 14 decided to attend other schools (Lincoln Park, Trinity, St. Ignatius, Latin, Francis Parker) and 6 students have not yet responded. 48 of the students attending Northside next year have perfect scores of 900 points (7th grade testing and grades, admissions test). The average score for incoming freshmen is 885.
- With 25 additional students, the incoming freshman class will total 279 students.
- Statistics: 6140 students applied to Northside; 1500 students had Northside as their first choice. Of the 274 students invited, 21 students put Northside as their 2nd choice; 14 of these students are coming to Northside, and 4 have not responded either way. The racial makeup of the incoming freshman class is 46% Caucasian non-Hispanic, 24% Asian, 20% Hispanic, 5% African American, 1.5% Native American, 3% other. Special education students are included in these numbers. Racially, Northside is similarly balanced to previous years; the number of students from Tier 4 has decreased, somewhat. There has been little or no change in racial balance, but a slight change in socioeconomic balance.
- The goal of maintaining diversity was achieved at Northside and other selective enrollment schools.
- The average score for incoming students, not including special education students, is 888 (a little bit higher than in previous years); cut scores have maintained the academic integrity of the school. 40% of students were admitted on pure cut score, and then cut scores based on economic tiers; the change did not seem to significantly affect Northside's overall scores and makeup.
- In an effort to meet NCLB guidelines, 336 students with higher stanines from underperforming middle schools (schools where more than 55% of students did not meet or exceed standards) will choose the selective enrollment school they want to attend. The schools were selected because they are currently meeting the criteria for acceptable yearly progress as prescribed by NCLB. The schools will receive additional resources of \$250,000 to support these students; the distribution of students will be finalized on April 9th.
- In response to questions from parents...
 - Mr. Rodgers indicated that 9% of the faculty of Northside is African American. One of our African American faculty members is coordinating the CPS African American essay contest, with the event being hosted by Northside.
 - Regarding the status of 21st century classroom computing at Northside, we are still seeking funding agents and working on other funding options. A student town hall meeting and a more formal assembly for parents included demonstrations and question-and-answer sessions. Data is being collected via surveys and focus groups to get an idea of how people feel about the family contribution and defining affordability; there won't be any parent data for the incoming class or for graduating seniors.

Teacher's Report

- Mr. Albritton and Ms. Flores reported on the achievements of various Northside faculty members and students...
 - Mr. Yanek and Mr. Solin conducted computer science presentations for other CPS teachers.
 - Mr. Arnum conducted a program, "Our World Underwater," in Rosemont.
 - Mr. Tyliniski was honored as teacher of the year for his sponsorship of Northside's Latin team. Students David Jaffe and Elizabeth Jay led the Latin team to another successful year in statewide and national competitions.
 - Other students have been recognized for their performance in poetry, reading and writing, and computer science competitions.

Student's Report

- Ms. La Faire reported that spring sports have started – new seasons are in full swing.
- A blood drive was recently held at Northside – a large number of students donated blood.
- The Northside musical, "She Loves Me," will be performed next week and weekend beginning on March 18th.
- "Glow in the Dance" will be hosted by the Latino Club tomorrow evening.

- On Wednesday the student council president gave a State of the Union speech, generating a lot of discussion among the student body.
- On April 16th, “One-stock” will feature student bands and other entertainment, Jamba Juice and other foods, booths, and a variety of groups seeking donations. This event is sponsored by the One colloquium to facilitate change and to make a difference; everyone is welcome to attend this family event.
- The African American performance piece, from the student perspective, was very informative, presenting a different point of view to students.
- The 3-on-3 basketball tournament was sponsored by NHS (Mr. Rodgers’ team won.)

Finance Committee/Friends of Northside

- Friends of Northside President Vicki McMannon reported that the annual appeal has raised \$184,000 with an average donation of \$500.
- The Joy Garden received a \$100 donation from a woman in the neighborhood who read about the project in the *Chicago Tribune*.
- The Cubby Walk Kick-Off is next week; the “Reach for the Stars” Gala is in a couple of days.

Northside Parent Network

- Ellen Youniss reported that the sale of tickets for this weekend’s Gala has been cut off, but she still has some tickets available if anyone needs them.
- She will e-mail part of the silent auction booklet with directions and reminders about the Gala. In lieu of issuing tickets, there will be a guest list at the event.
- Current numbers: 262 people are attending. Ticket prices and sponsorships have already covered the expense of the restaurant and other obligations, so everything raised at the event will be fundraising profit.
- The parent-led discussion about the college search and admissions process will be held on Thursday, April 22nd.
- The Parent Network will be helping Friends of Northside with the Cubby Walk, as well.
- Junior Book Awards, an annual event organized by the Parent Network, will be presented in the auditorium on May 28th. Universities from all over the United States present awards to juniors for their achievements in various areas, including athletics, writing, and computer science. A total of 45 awards will be presented.

Building and Facilities

- An incident involving a theft that has been looked into by the appropriate authorities; we need to find an economically feasible way to update our security system.

Community Relations

- Vicki McMannon reported that today was the closing date for LSC candidate applications. Northside has contested elections in every category: faculty representative (3), community representative (4), student representative (5), and parent representative (14 candidates for 6 positions).
- The candidate forum is Tuesday, March 23rd at 7:00 p.m. in the choral room.
- John Ceisel thanked parents for putting their names forward.
- Voting will be conducted on report card pick up day on April 22nd.

Principal Selection and Evaluation

- The Principal Evaluation Committee (consisting of all LSC members) will meet on each Tuesday of this month.
- Our goal is to conduct an extremely constructive and collaborative process.
- The evaluation should be formally approved at the April LSC meeting.
- Updates from Walter Payton and Whitney Young: these schools also seek input from parents, faculty, staff, and students. Whitney Young and Northside use the CPS evaluation form; Walter Payton does not.

New Business

- [none]

Upcoming Meetings

- Friends of Northside: March 22nd at 7 p.m. in the faculty lunchroom
- Parent Network: April 15th, at 7 p.m., in the faculty lunchroom
- LSC: April 8th at 7 p.m. in the faculty lunchroom
- Principal Evaluation Committee: every Tuesday this month

Proposed Agenda

To approve the standard agenda for next month's meeting (see Motion #3)

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. (see Motion #4).

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the LSC will be on April 8th at 7:00 p.m. in the faculty lunchroom. Public participation is welcome.

Motion #: 1
Motion made by: Vicki McMannon
Seconded by: Jon Feiger
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: Vicki McMannon
Seconded by: Jon Feiger
Motion: To approve Minutes from the previous meeting (February 18, 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	11	0	0	1

Motion #: 3
Motion made by: Jon Feiger
Seconded by: Vicki McMannon
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

Motion #: 4
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	11	0	0	1