



# Northside College Preparatory High School

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John Ceisel  
*Chair*

Jon Feiger  
*Vice Chair*

Cathy Quigley  
*Secretary*

## Local School Council Minutes

May 6, 2010

### Commencement

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 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:** Mrs. Monnich, Mrs. Jaffe, Mrs. Andrade, Mrs. Meyers, Mrs. Melto, three other parents

### Public Comment

- Mr. Ceisel welcomed the newly elected members of the LSC, whose term will begin in July. He described 2010-2011 as a "challenging but good" year.

### 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 April 8, 2010 (**see Motion #2**)

### Communications

- [none]

### LSC Election Results

- Each member of the LSC signed a document certifying the results of the April 2010 LSC election.

### Principal's Report

- Mr. Rodgers spoke to the issues of CPS budget and financing, and stated that while these are difficult times, Northside is up to the challenge. The building is full of people who are committed to the school and its tradition of excellence, and they will persevere. The Northside family must prepare for this time of change and focus on our values in education and the future, much like our graduates will be doing on June 14<sup>th</sup>. Vouchers legislation was not enacted by the state legislature, and Illinois legislators must be held accountable for the potential negative effects of insufficient educational funding, including larger class sizes and teacher layoffs.
- Graduating seniors continue to reap the fruits of their labors with many top-rate college acceptances and scholarship offers. Mr. Rodgers distributed data with a breakdown of students' planned destinations for next year.
- The Joy Garden was officially opened in a ribbon-cutting ceremony.
- Solar panels have been installed in the roof of the school above the pool.
- Urban Habitat has presented a plan for the ecological development of the landscape of Northside over the next 10 to 15 years.
- Construction of the Celestial Garden is still in the process of being finalized: a number of benches were cast, but they were not built according to specifications, and they will be reconstructed. In the meantime, the process is moving forward.
- NCLB students have received invitations from CPS to attend Northside College Prep High School in the fall.
  - The deadline for acceptance is tomorrow (Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup>.) So far, seven out of twenty-five students have accepted. There is no second round of acceptances scheduled for this process.

- Mr. Rodgers feels very confident about the chances for success of the seven students who have already registered to attend Northside in the fall.
- These students are facing long commuting times, and they have been introduced to students who already attend Northside and are similarly situated. They are excited about coming to Northside in the fall and have asked about various extra curricular activities.
- \$250,000 has been added to the school's regular budget line to give the school flexibility in dispensing the funds.
- Mr. Rodgers provided an update on the CPS budget crisis:
  - The budget for the upcoming school year is in a state of flux amidst the issues of a \$600 million deficit and the potential consequences of 20-25% budget cuts across the board, class sizes of 35 students, and teacher and staff layoffs.
  - Here at Northside, we are facing double digit reductions in teachers and staff positions.
  - There is some fluidity to the process, as the deficit might be reduced with the release of some state funds and the teacher's union may be changing leadership.
  - At Northside, some teacher positions and a counselor position have been restored using discretionary funds. Teachers who will not return to Northside in the fall will be notified in early June.

### Teacher's Report

- Ms. Flores reported that there was a meeting of the 1:1 cohort teachers with all of the faculty to demonstrate some of the achievements of teachers and students in the tablet computer program at Northside.
- Ms. Flores reported on the accomplishments of various Northside faculty members and students....
  - Mr. Tabora and his group of rocket scientists were invited to compete in Washington, D. C.
  - Mr. Park, Mr. Lill, and Mrs. Martinez were preparing for performances of the string orchestras and ensembles, the concert band and jazz band, and various choruses, including the newly formed parent and faculty choir (including Ms. Flores).
  - Mr. Snow was invited to conduct a seminar on *The Canterbury Tales* at Yale.
  - The Japanese and Chinese Honor Societies recognized their student members with special events.
  - The Northside Math Team, sponsored by Mrs. Sullivan, won 2<sup>nd</sup> place at city and 5<sup>th</sup> place in state competition.
- Teacher morale is mixed at this time in the school year: there is excitement about the end of the year tempered by anxiety about looming budget cuts and the implications for teachers and their programs.

### Student's Report

- Ms. La Faire reported on upcoming events, including orchestra, band, and choral concerts; Elephants with Riders; I-Day and I-Night; and junior and senior prom and graduation.
- Juniors will be recognized at the Junior Book Awards ceremony later this month.
- Several Northside students received awards from the Coppola playwright competition.
- Students are nervous and excited about AP exams and final exams; this is a critical time of year for all Northside students.
- In talking to students about their opinions about the 1:1 computing program at Northside, Ms. La Faire heard mixed reviews: most underclassmen were excited, while upperclassmen expressed more practical concerns about how they would pay for the tablet and how they would transport and maintain it on a daily basis.

### Finance Committee

- Mr. Baskin reported that there was a Finance Committee meeting, and several items were discussed and proposed.
- After much discussion and consideration, the committee proposed that school fees charged to each student for the 2010-2011 school year remain the same as this year (\$495). This fee includes the following:
  - \$260 for student activities
  - \$110 for technology
  - \$125 for departmental fees
- To approve the amount charged for school fees for 2010-2011 (**see Motion #3**)
- The Finance Committee also reviewed areas that have not been self funding.

- The committee proposed that the fee for taking an Advanced Placement exam be increased (from \$85) to \$100 per exam. At this time, this just covers the cost for the school to administer the exams, including money charged by the College Board as well as fees for renting facilities and paying offsite test proctors. (Free and reduced lunch students would be charged \$7.)
- To approve the increased fee for taking an Advanced Placement exam next year (**see Motion #4**)
- The committee felt that the current yearbook fee was not sufficient to cover the cost of producing the yearbook, so they suggest an increase in the yearbook price (from \$35) to \$40.
- To approve the increased yearbook price (**see Motion #5**)
- This year, the fee for student parking permits was increased to \$200. This resulted in a reduction in the number of students applying for these permits, so the committee proposed reducing the permit parking fee to \$175.
- To approve the reduced student parking permit fee for next year (**see Motion #6**)
- From the student perspective, people without permits have been seen parking in the lot; Ms. La Faire would urge stricter enforcement of the requirement to purchase a permit to park in the student lot.
- An article will be submitted to the parent newsletter *EPIC* to explain the changes in fees for the 2010-2011 school year.

#### **Friends of Northside**

- Friends of Northside President Vicki McMannon reported that the annual appeal has raised approximately \$193,500.
- Correspondence to families requesting donations to fund the purchase of Advanced Placement support materials and sophomore sports programs raised an additional \$7,500.
- Cubby Walk netted approximately \$38,000.
- The final net profit of the gala was approximately \$34,000.
- This year Friends of Northside has raised a total of \$265,500, compared to \$250,000-\$255,000 last year.
- In 2007, Friends ended the year with \$187,500 in fundraising revenue.
- Northside families and friends have been very generous with donations, especially after the recent e-mails and letters sent home.
- \$34,181 has been raised through brick money and theater donations; more money may be raised at the advanced ensemble concert and the MADD awards ceremony.
- Last year's gala (in Northside's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary year) raised about \$24,000. Two years ago, approximately \$15,000 was raised. This year, the ticket price was increased, but there was much more provided to attendees, including a full dinner. The goals of the gala remain to build community as well as to seek sponsors for school funding.

#### **Northside Parent Network**

- [nothing to report – meeting at the same time as the LSC meeting]

#### **Building and Facilities**

- [nothing to report outside of what Mr. Rodgers already covered in the Principal's Report]

#### **Community Relations**

- [nothing to report]

#### **Principal Selection and Evaluation**

- Mr. Rodgers will provide his comments on the Principal's Evaluation submitted to him last month.

#### **Old Business**

- [none]

#### **New Business**

- **SIPAAA review**
  - The categories of goals are preset.
  - Some data are incorrect because they are prepopulated and cannot be changed by the school.

- In response to a question, the numbers of suspensions and expulsions from 2009-2010 are not entered, but Mr. Rodgers thinks that the total will be around 30.
- In response to a question from Mr. Albritton, Mr. Rodgers indicated that the data should be used by department chairs to improve instruction, with each department deciding how to prioritize the data categories (percent of students who exceed standards, average act scores, data sorted by gender and race). This information should be included to determine department goals.
- The purpose of the SIPAAA is to drive how the school should improve, to prioritize needs, to identify positives, to decide how to allocate and spend money wisely, and to provide a snapshot of the school based on quantitative and anecdotal data.
- Mr. Rodgers suggested that there is a current culture of change and fluidity necessitated by the fact that we may lose 10 or more teachers. We must keep an open mind and consider the best next steps for instruction, including the leadership team's thoughts for the future (single tiered classes, block scheduling, etc.)
- **Referring to the budget...**
  - \$9,000,000 required to maintain operations at Northside
  - \$514,000 of discretionary money including \$250,000 from NCLB student funds
  - Budget Goal: to meet the needs of new students but, at the same time, sustain the Northside culture of excellence and continue to improve practices that benefit, support, and address the needs of all students
  - Strategy: when funding teaching positions, including benefits – pay lowest cost positions using discretionary money
  - The LSC discussed specific personnel items, including the dean of students/admissions counselor, library and guidance aides, and clerks.
  - The sub bucket pays for costs associated with professional development for teachers; Friends of Northside often has to replenish this fund during the school year.
  - Extended day refers to costs for tutors to assist NCLB as well as all students.
  - The Writing Center and a cart of laptop computers can benefit all students; each NCLB student will receive his or her own tablet for use during the school year.
  - The budget funds 7 positions that might possibly have been cut by CPS.
  - SGSA money was possibly going to be eliminated, but now it has been restored. The money per pupil rate has been reduced from \$750 to \$735 per student, but we were very happy to have that money returned.
  - Even with the restored funds, we are still looking at a possible double-digit reduction in teachers and staff.
  - The SIPAAA could be amended if money from the state is forthcoming and teacher positions can be restored.
  - NCLB students will be served by achievement gap programs already in place: reduced class size, access to technology, peer mentors, adult mentors, additional tutoring outside of class, etc.
  - Other services already offered at Northside include: a Wellness Center, an active and engaged counseling department, the Success program (not just for NCLB students).
  - With this budget we are internally rearranging the things that we do already at Northside.
  - Additionally, we will be able to provide extra tutoring above and beyond what we currently offer.
  - \$4700 of additional money allocated for tutoring will benefit NCLB as well as all students in need – we are not targeting any particular program solely for the NCLB students; they will have their own computer, a peer mentor, an adult mentor – these will be their main supports.
- **Issues regarding NCLB students and viewpoints expressed...**
  - The Success program automatically identifies “at-risk” students, and the NCLB students will be immediately identified.
  - NCLB students are expected to participate in the Freshman Connection program.

- The numbers don't tell the whole story about any student, so these children's needs will need to be ascertained after they arrive; currently, different metrics yield different pictures of each student.
- These students will benefit from being part of a supportive community, not segregated.
- Other selective enrollment schools are also using these monies to fund positions, with at least two funding more positions than Northside with this money.
- Children accepting our invitation have made a commitment to Northside – we were the only school to invite the students to visit the school.
- Discussion centered around whether all \$250,000 should be spent directly and only on the 25 children coming to Northside through the NCLB process, or the money should be allocated to programs which will benefit all Northside students, and especially at-risk students.
- Conclusion: the money is being spent in the best possible way to help the NCLB students and all students at Northside. Existing programs already assist approximately 5% of the student population, students who have been identified as being at risk for failure for various reasons, including poor grades, poor test scores, or unusual circumstances. There are currently many opportunities to focus assistance based on the individual needs of students. The LSC expressed confidence that all of the incoming freshmen, as well as all Northside students, will have every opportunity for success.
  - To approve the SIPAAA (see **Motion #7**)
- To certify the LSC election results (see **Motion #8**)
- Regarding ONEstock: an event sponsored by the ONE colloquium
  - Mr. Feiger expressed the opinion that the student-led effort to raise money for international charities, featuring student bands from Northside and other schools, was hampered in its ability to raise money because of a disagreement between the administration and the students which led to the event being held at another site. Mr. Feiger noted that there were chaperones, there were no security issues, and no one was turned away. Turnout was not what the students had hoped for, and proceeds from the event were \$450.
  - The bases of the disagreement were certain conditions (e.g., permission slips, student attendance and participation from schools other than Northside, the type and content of music being performed) which the administration expressed were not appropriate for an event held in the school building.
  - Mr. Rodgers responded that he was proud that the students succeeded in holding their event and raising money for a worthy cause; they were not doing anything wrong – there was just a disagreement about guidelines. The students made the decision to host the event elsewhere, and Mr. Rodgers commended them for their accomplishment.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

- Friends of Northside: May 18<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m., in the faculty lunchroom
- Parent Network: May 20<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m., in the faculty lunchroom
- LSC: June 17<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 #9**)

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m. (see **Motion #10**).

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the LSC will be on June 17<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:** Petrina La Faire  
**Seconded by:** Vicki McMannon  
**Motion:** To approve Minutes from the previous meeting (April 8, 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:** Scott Baskin  
**Seconded by:** Mary Lou Schmidt  
**Motion:** To approve the amount of school fees to be charged to each student for the 2010-2011 school year in the amount of \$495 (includes \$260 for student activities, \$110 for technology, and \$125 for departmental fees)

**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:** Scott Baskin  
**Seconded by:** Vicki McMannon  
**Motion:** To approve an increase in the Advanced Placement exam fee to \$100 (\$7 for students receiving free and reduced lunch)

**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 #:** 5  
**Motion made by:** Scott Baskin  
**Seconded by:** Mary Lou Schmidt  
**Motion:** To approve an increase in the price of a school yearbook to \$40

**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:** Scott Baskin  
**Seconded by:** Vicki McMannon  
**Motion:** To approve a decrease in the fee for a student parking permit to \$175

**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 #:** 7  
**Motion made by:** Vicki McMannon  
**Seconded by:** Cathy Quigley  
**Motion:** To approve the SIPAAA as presented by Mr. Rodgers, with minor form corrections and updated data

**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 #:** 8  
**Motion made by:** Cathy Quigley  
**Seconded by:** Petrina La Faire  
**Motion:** To certify the LSC election results

**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 #:** 9  
**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 #:** 10  
**Motion made by:** Vicki McMannon  
**Seconded by:** Petrina La Faire  
**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>