



# Northside College Preparatory High School

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John Ceisel  
*Chair*

Vicki McMannon  
*Vice Chair*

Cathy Quigley  
*Secretary*

## Local School Council Minutes September 21, 2010

### Commencement

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 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:** Dr. Murphy (Assistant ) Principal), Mrs. Spillane (Northside Director of Special Programs), Mr. McVane (parent), Mrs. Gupta (parent), Mrs. Kerstein (parent), Mr. Goldberg (parent), Mr. Velasco (parent), Mrs. Wadolowska (parent), Mrs. Levine (parent), Mr. Feiger (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 August 17, 2010 (**see Motion #2**)

### Communications

- [none]

### Student's Report

- As a peer mentor for Northside freshmen, Cesar Monarrez reported that the freshman students are becoming involved in the school community and are doing well.
- Fall sports are doing well, including the women's swim team, women's tennis team, golf teams, and men's soccer team.
- "Clubapalooza" is an upcoming (October 6<sup>th</sup>) showcase of all of Northside's clubs.
- On September 29<sup>th</sup> freshmen will take the Explore test, sophomores will take the PLAN test, and juniors will take a practice ACT; seniors will attend a college information session.
- Seniors are currently completing their college applications.
- This month is Spanish heritage month, sponsored by the Latino Club and Spanish Honor Society. There will be a trivia contest related to the cultural images posted in the school library.
- The Back-to-School dance is going to be held on October 1<sup>st</sup> from 7:00 – 10:00 p.m.

### Principal's Report

- Mr. Rodgers reported that while it has been a difficult time for our school in the face of staffing and budget cuts, we were fortunately able to maintain all of our programs.
- CPS restored all but one of our teaching positions.
- Mr. Rodgers thanked Mr. Lim for the long hours he spent programming students as staffing numbers and class sizes changed continually.
- He expressed gratitude to everyone in the Northside community for continuing to uphold the spirit and tradition of our school.
- The following faculty and staff members are new to Northside this year:
  - Mr. Huff, teaching for Mrs. Flanagan in the English department while she is on maternity leave
  - Mr. Nifong, teaching Latin and English
  - Mrs. Spillane, returning to Northside as Director of Special Programs

- The SUCCESS program is off to a great start with a proactive list of students potentially needing assistance, implementing a team approach with teachers who have agreed to be mentors.
- Mr. Albritton and Ms. Huestis led a faculty discussion on ethics in education.
- Northside continues to use data to enhance instruction:
  - Northside's average ACT score last year was 29.3 with gains across the board
  - Explore/Plan/PSAE data: significant gains in reading and math
  - Test data are used to analyze students' progress based on their skill levels upon entering high school and at the end of their high school careers.
- Budget/funding requests from Friends of Northside presented for LSC approval:
  - College Counseling: \$9,900 – provides opportunities for college counselors to meet with seniors and their families
  - Tablet Computers for teachers: \$32,488
  - Facilities Position: partially funded at \$30,000
  - Operations: \$9,900 – basic building maintenance not covered by CPS
  - Special Events (students): \$3,000 – e.g., Science Fair
  - Special Events (teachers): \$2,000 – e.g., professional development opportunities
  - Wellness Center: \$15,000 – a program unique to Northside and also funded with a matching grant from “Alternatives,” servicing about 220 students, helping them negotiate high school and adolescence
  - Art Supplies: \$1,000 – targeted parent donation

Total: \$103,288

To approve the release and expenditure of these funds (**see Motion #3**)
- NCLB funds are currently being used to provide services for all at-risk students
  - 15 students admitted under NCLB program have achieved the goal of feeling comfortable within the school community; 5-week and 10-week progress report grades will be monitored
  - Wireless internet access via CLEAR mobile broadband service provided by Mobile Citizen
  - SUCCESS academic assistance program with student partners and teacher mentors
  - Support team of 14 adults, including administrators, teachers, a parent, and a counselor
  - Weekly meetings to assess readiness skills and progress, technology skills and availability
  - Tracking of student attendance and school contacts to collaborate services efficiently and effectively
  - Tutoring available from the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of school (100 students generally take part; preliminary list of 25 students; will increase with referrals from teachers for struggling students)
  - Special Algebra 1 class to help freshmen become acclimated to the IMP math program
  - Vision and hearing testing: part of a program to assess and enhance the overall health of the individual student, academically, socially, and emotionally

### Public Comment

- In response to a question from a parent about the acceptance and admissions process for selective enrollment schools, Mr. Rodgers reported that the new guidelines are scheduled to be released sometime in October.
- A group of principals, aldermen, and representatives from the civic community and CPS made recommendations to the central office.
- [Mr. Rodgers described the process which was implemented last year.]
- This year's average class size is less than 28 students, although there are some larger classes as class sizes are affected by student course requests. (Mr. Rodgers will give a more detailed report on this data next month.)
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### Teachers' Report

- To describe the pulse of the faculty, Mr. Albritton indicated that, generally stated, everything is fine.
- Some teachers are feeling the strain of class sizes.
- There is some trepidation, especially among younger teachers, due to the events and uncertainty of last year, and the concern that this will happen again.
- Teachers want to be proactive in attempting to prevent a similar crisis this school year.

- Some teachers are taking on extra duties and activities so that all of Northside's programs can continue despite budget cuts.

## Committee Reports

- Each committee reported on their goals for the 2010-2011 school year.
- Finance Committee goals
  - to support funding referenced by SIPAAA, including funding by CPS, Friends of Northside, grants and foundations
  - to seek funding for Northside's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Classroom Computing program
  - to monitor/maintain adherence to the approved budget, work with Mr. Rodgers to establish spending priorities, and sustain successful fundraising efforts
  - to anticipate funding needs for 2011-2012
- Friends of Northside
  - in the process of kicking off the Annual Appeal via regular mail and e-mail
  - Phone-a-thon scheduled for October 26<sup>th</sup>, October 27<sup>th</sup>, and November 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - An updated website includes a means for making an online donation.
- Northside Parent Network
  - First meeting of the school year on September 16<sup>th</sup> was very well attended.
  - Upcoming events include the Foods of the World potluck on October 7<sup>th</sup> and the school's Open House on October 24<sup>th</sup>.
  - Parents can register as volunteers through an online program.
  - A new board was elected and expanded to include four parents of freshmen.
- Community Relations goals
  - to enhance communication with parents, students, and the broader community
  - to expand membership of the committee to include school staff, parents, students, and community members
  - to analyze options for establishing an effective way for community members to learn how and where to obtain Northside information
- Principal Selection and Evaluation Committee
  - Contract changes and evaluation procedures outlined by Aida Montijo
  - In this contract renewal year, the LSC will prepare a cumulative evaluation of Mr. Rodgers by averaging the annual evaluation scores over the past 3 years.
  - The standard contract has been revised; changes to the contract require an addendum and approval by the CPS law department before the contract is signed.
  - Discussion must be done in closed session.
  - Voting on the cumulative evaluation and the contract renewal must be conducted in open session, scheduled to take place at the December LSC meeting.
  - Later in the school year, the LSC will conduct the annual principal evaluation, focusing on the second half of Mr. Rodgers' 4<sup>th</sup> year as principal.

## New Business

- Mrs. Monnich reported on her attendance at a forum featuring the Chicago Forward Education Panel put together by the Chicago Tribune.
  - The panel included people from the Tribune, Ron Huberman, Karen Lewis, and other religious and community leaders.
  - Local School Councils were the object of some criticism for the lack of innovation and underperformance in Chicago Public Schools.
  - Panel members described needs for more motivated teachers, more and fairer funding, bold measures of accountability, increased parent involvement, and early childhood programs.

## Upcoming Meetings

- Friends of Northside: September 29<sup>th</sup>
- Parent Network: October 7<sup>th</sup>
- LSC: October 12<sup>th</sup>

## Agenda

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

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m. (**see Motion #5**).

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the LSC will be on Tuesday, October 12<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:** Crystal Melto  
**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			
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			
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Motion #:** 2  
**Motion made by:** Nicole Flores  
**Seconded by:** Vicki McMannon  
**Motion:** To approve the minutes from the previous meeting (August 17, 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			
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			
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Motion #:** 3  
**Motion made by:** Gail Myers Jaffe  
**Seconded by:** Meredith O'Connor  
**Motion:** To approve the release and expenditure of funds requested from Friends of Northside (total = \$103,288)

**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			
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			
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Motion #:** 4  
**Motion made by:** Vicki McMannon  
**Seconded by:** Robert Albritton  
**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			
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			
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Motion #:** 5  
**Motion made by:** Vicki McMannon  
**Seconded by:** Crystal Melto  
**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			
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			
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>