



Northside College Preparatory High School

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John Ceisel
Chair

Vicki McMannon
Vice Chair

Cathy Quigley
Secretary

Local School Council Minutes

April 12, 2011

Commencement

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

Present: John Ceisel, Vicki McMannon, Barry Rodgers, Kathleen Andrade, Gail Myers Jaffe, Diane Monnich, Cathy Quigley, Robert Albritton, Nicole Flores, Vicky Andrews, Cesar Monarrez

Absent: Crystal Melto, Meredith O'Connor

Guests: Mr. McVane (parent), Mr. Howenstine (parent), Mrs. Gupta (parent), Mrs. Mellon (parent of an incoming freshman), Zobia Chunara (student), George McMurray (parent and CPD liaison)

Approval of Agenda

To approve the standard agenda for tonight's meeting (see **Motion #1**)

Approval of Minutes

To approve the minutes from the previous month's meeting on March 1, 2011 (see **Motion #2**)

Communications

Mr. Ceisel reminded council members that he had forwarded LSC training updates via e-mail.

Student's Report

- The musical *Oklahoma* was performed at Northside on March 17-20; the shows were well attended and enjoyed by all. LSC student representative Cesar Monarrez was a member of the cast.
- The jazz band and concert band performed on March 31st; the choir performed last week; the advanced orchestra, including the concert orchestra and chamber strings, will perform tomorrow.
- The Cubby Walk kick-off included a pep rally with entertainment by faculty members and students.
- Spring break begins this Friday. Students will be travelling abroad on school-sponsored trips, going on college visits, and preparing for AP and college testing.

Principal's Report

- Mr. Rodgers introduced Sergeant George McMurray, Northside parent and liaison between the Chicago Police Department and several Chicago Public Schools in the area, including Northside. Mr. McMurray addressed the LSC on the subject of parking lot traffic flow and safety. He discussed the current situation in the parking lot during student drop off and pick up and presented alternative plans for establishing driving routes to alleviate congestion and enhance safety. One plan has been selected: parents will receive information well before the changes are implemented, and initially police officers will be present to direct drivers in the parking lot; later, the officers may be replaced by parent volunteers.

- Friends of Northside has published a booklet containing information to help families navigate through their children's high school education at Northside College Prep. The information in the booklet can be accessed through the Friends of Northside website.
- To date, no information has been forthcoming from CPS regarding next year's budget.
- An all-school colloquium focused on issues of alcohol intoxication, including guest speakers, faculty discussions, and a special session with seniors regarding behavior during the prom season.
- Mr. Rodgers presented information about college acceptances of Northside seniors. Numbers are self-reported, so the data are incomplete. Cesar Monarrez was lauded for his acceptance to Harvard, Yale, and Stanford Universities. There were increases in the number of acceptances of Northside students to Brown University and some Big Ten schools (including the University of Michigan and the University of Wisconsin).
- A new school clerk, Ms. McCreedy, has been hired; she is a part-time professor and parent of a Northside alumnus.
- Ms. Medina, the head of the counseling department at Northside, has been honored as a master counselor who will mentor other counselors and provide feedback regarding education initiatives.
- Northside received the ACT Red Quill Award recognizing the school's dedication and commitment to improving and supporting student achievement.
- Northside will host an Arbor Day celebration, including tree planting, a visit by Mayor Daley and other dignitaries, and the participation of Urban Habitat and corporate sponsors.
- Construction of the Celestial Garden is progressing.
- The following motions were made in response to funding requests by Mr. Rodgers:
 - To approve disbursement of Friends of Northside funds in the amount of \$825 allocated for fencing (restricted donation) (see **Motion #3**)
 - To approve disbursement of Friends of Northside funds in the amount of \$9400 for Celestial Garden landscaping and tile setting (part of a previous funding request) (see **Motion #4**)
- Mr. Rodgers reported that Northside was fortunate enough to receive rollover funds from CPS; he proposed a SIPAAA amendment so that these monies could be used to fund immediate technology needs. Mrs. Andrews, director of systems and technology at Northside, reported on the recent history of technology at the school and current requirements for updates and upgrades.
 - The language lab has 8-year-old computers which cannot support the software required for language testing.
 - The science department laptop cart contains computers from 2006 which cannot support instructional uses in physics and biology classes (probes and sensors have already been purchased, but cannot be used with the current technology).
 - Classrooms have only 1-2 computers; computers in the computer science laboratory use an outdated operating system which cannot adequately support the level of digital testing which will be implemented over the next several years.
 - Other immediate technology needs include software updates, upgraded print management software, printers, and wireless infrastructure installation (federal e-rate funding has been cut).
 - Potential funding resources include
 - possible donations from CNA or Underwriters Laboratories (funds or hardware)
 - Technology fee: \$120 (approximately 67% of students pay this fee)
 - Mr. Yonek has applied to the Association for Career and Technology Education for hardware upgrades in the computer science lab.
 - Friends of Northside provides annual support, including the maintenance of the lease of the teachers' tablets.
 - To modify SIPAAA under school culture and climate to enhance the use of technology to increase teaching and learning with a budget of \$22,969 for new computers for the language lab and \$3,615 for installation of software (see **Motion #5**)
 - Discussion
 - Mr. Albritton asked if the rollover funds could be put into the SUCCESS program to benefit at-risk students, or otherwise used to close the achievement gap

between low-performing students and high-achieving students at Northside. Mr. Rodgers responded that a great deal of money has already been invested in these programs, and that the solutions to these problems lie in individualized and targeted educational practices, instructional adjustments and fair assessments, and increased opportunities for success, rather than additional monetary investment at this time.

- Investing in technology at this time is necessary for Northside to be able to support standardized testing programs in language and other areas, and to support instruction in the science department.
- Investing in technology at this time will benefit all students at Northside.

Public comment

- A parent commented on Northside's recent hosting of a Latin team certamen competition, which was a very positive experience for volunteers, visitors, and competitors; also, Northside won first place in the competition.
- A parent asked about a follow up to the presentation of the movie, *Race to Nowhere*. Dr. Murphy responded that some feedback had been received, but more information was still being gathered by the Parent Network committee. Eventually, people will be brought back together to analyze the feedback.
- Another parent asked Mr. Rodgers if it was true that he had asked teachers to refrain, to whatever degree possible, from assigning homework over spring break. Mr. Rodgers responded that he had made that request to teachers. Mrs. Myers Jaffe praised Mr. Rodgers' action, and other parents assented.
- A parent asked about the availability of minutes of past LSC meetings. LSC meeting minutes, after they have been approved, can be accessed on the LSC page of the school's website. A hard copy is also available in a binder in the main office.
- There was some discussion regarding the behavior of some students at junior prom. Some students were consuming alcohol at a party in a room in the hotel where the prom was held. All students involved were disciplined equally, consistent with the uniform discipline code and approved by the law department. The parent who reserved the hotel room was cited for contributing to the delinquency of a minor.
- Mr. Rodgers has made it clear to Northside students that there are consequences for participating in bad behavior, and for being around bad behavior.
- No disciplinary action by Northside has ever been overturned when appealed to CPS.

Teachers' Report

- Ms. Mulligan, Ms. Cirrincione and other faculty members coordinated the all-school alcohol abuse colloquium.
- Ms. Cirrincione and Ms. Runkel supervised junior prom.
- Ms. Cirrincione obtained some new exercise equipment for the school.
- Senor Blease has coordinated community outreach programs with the Spanish Honor Society and foreign exchange student programs with students from Japan, Korea, and other countries.
- Ms. Sullivan is Northside's math team coach – our team placed 3rd in the city finals behind Payton and Whitney Young; students earning first place included Fermi Ma in precalculus and David Jaffe in algebra 2; Northside earned the school's best finish in IML competition: 3rd place behind Naperville and Payton; 2 of only 3 students to achieve perfect scores on math competitions were from Northside.
- Joann Minyo coordinated the successful Elephants with Riders exhibit at Northside.
- Information night for incoming freshman for the fine arts department was extremely well attended.
- Faculty visitors from Payton were amazed that art could be displayed "everywhere" at Northside.
- The world languages department coordinated the participation by our students in national Spanish, Japanese, and French tests, potentially bringing monetary and other awards to the school.

- Regarding the battle of the budget between the teachers' union and CPS: the rhetoric is a bit contentious at this time; the teachers' perspective is, "we didn't create this mess, so why are you holding us accountable?"
- Teachers are conducting mock AP exams and other preparations to help students perform well on upcoming AP tests in the first two weeks of May.
- Mrs. Myers Jaffe would like to see the math department support the math team by having math tables on different days after school as compared with math team practice days, encouraging more students to participate on the math team; Mr. Albritton agrees, and they have attempted to reconcile this schedule.
- Mrs. Myers Jaffe wondered if a "buddy" program might be developed for students in the SUCCESS program with NHS and math team students. The SUCCESS program already utilizes student buddies and peer tutoring, so that program is already in place. Student mentoring is one of the successes of the NCLB assistance programs. The program directors asked teachers and coaches to recommend students to be student tutors.

Committee Reports

- Finance Committee/Friends of Northside
 - The Finance Committee will be meeting later this month to discuss school fees for 2011-2012, the CPS budget (if there is one to discuss), and monthly budget reporting to the LSC.
 - Friends of Northside has met their financial goal for the annual appeal; the net profit from the Gala is up about \$15,000 from last year.
 - The Cubby Walk pep rally was held last Friday. Students received packets in their advisory. Payment is due on April 28th (please make checks payable to Friends of Northside). Cubby Walk is Friday, May 13th.
 - We have received our first of two payments from the city for the Celestial Gardens project grant.
 - *Navigating Northside*, a booklet for parents of Northside students, was distributed to incoming freshman families. Mrs. Monnich suggested that the Parent Network should publicize this information for all Northside families.
- Parent Network
 - Due to Mrs. Melto's absence, there was nothing to report at this time.
- Community Relations
 - The committee met on March 16th.
 - They discussed issues with alumni regarding better communication, possibly via an e-mail blast to parents looking for more alumni.
 - For now the committee is focused on communicating with current Northside families and will expand from there.
 - There is a need for a common parent database that all parent organizations can share, contribute to, and use to coordinate communications and volunteer requests; it was suggested that Vicky Andrews might participate in this project.
- Principal Selection and Evaluation Committee
 - The committee met on April 4th to finalize the annual principal evaluation.
 - To approve the annual principal evaluation, including comments and numerical ratings as distributed to LSC members on April 7th (see **Motion #6**)
 - Meredith O'Connor, absent from tonight's meeting, previously indicated her support of the evaluation.
 - Mr. Ceisel will communicate with Mr. Rodgers to go over the points of the evaluation.
 - During the next month, Mr. Ceisel is seeking feedback on the principal evaluation process to be consolidated at next month's LSC meeting.

Old Business

[none]

New Business

[none]

Upcoming Meetings

- Finance Committee: April 29th
- Friends of Northside: April 26th at 7:00 PM in the main office conference room
- Parent Network: Thursday, May 5th at 7:00 PM
- LSC: May 10th

Agenda

To approve the standard agenda for next month's meeting (see **Motion #7**)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. (see **Motion #8**).

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the LSC will be on Tuesday, May 10th, at 7:00 p.m. in the faculty lunchroom. Public participation is welcome.

Motion #: 1
Motion made by: Robert Albritton
Seconded by: Vicky Andrews
Motion: To approve the standard agenda for tonight's meeting

Record of Votes on Motion

Council Members	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
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			
Vicky Andrews (staff)	X			
Total	11	0	0	2

Motion #: 2
Motion made by: Gail Myers Jaffe
Seconded by: Vicki McMannon
Motion: To approve the minutes from last month's meeting (March 1, 2011)

Record of Votes on Motion

Council Members	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
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			
Vicky Andrews (staff)	X			
Total	11	0	0	2

Motion #: 3
Motion made by: Gail Myers Jaffe
Seconded by: Vicki McMannon
Motion: To approve disbursement of Friends of Northside funds in the amount of \$825 allocated for fencing (restricted donation)

Record of Votes on Motion

Council Members	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
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			
Vicky Andrews (staff)	X			
Total	11	0	0	2

Motion #: 4
Motion made by: Kathleen Andrade
Seconded by: Gail Myers Jaffe
Motion: To approve disbursement of Friends of Northside funds in the amount of \$9400 for Celestial Garden landscaping and tile setting (part of a previous funding request)

Record of Votes on Motion

Council Members	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
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			
Vicky Andrews (staff)	X			
Total	11	0	0	2

Motion #: 5
Motion made by: Kathleen Andrade
Seconded by: Diane Monnich
Motion: To modify SIPAAA under school culture and climate to enhance the use of technology to increase teaching and learning with a budget of \$22,969 for new computers for the language lab and \$3,615 for installation of software

Record of Votes on Motion

Council Members	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
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
Vicky Andrews (staff)	X			
Total	8	0	2	3

Motion #: 6
Motion made by: Vicki McMannon
Seconded by: Robert Albritton
Motion: To approve the annual principal evaluation, including comments and numerical ratings as distributed to LSC members on April 7th

Record of Votes on Motion

Council Members	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
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)				
Vicky Andrews (staff)	X			
Total	10	0	0	2

Motion #: 7
Motion made by: Nicole Flores
Seconded by: Gail Myers Jaffe
Motion: To approve the standard agenda for next month's LSC meeting on May 10th

Record of Votes on Motion

Council Members	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
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
Vicky Andrews (staff)	X			
Total	10	0	0	3

Motion #: 8
Motion made by: Nicole Flores
Seconded by: Gail Myers Jaffe
Motion: To adjourn the LSC meeting

Record of Votes on Motion

Council Members	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
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
Vicky Andrews (staff)	X			
Total	10	0	0	3