



Northside College Preparatory High School

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John Ceisel
Chair

Vicki McMannon
Vice Chair

Cathy Quigley
Secretary

Local School Council Minutes January 11, 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, Crystal Melto, Cathy Quigley, Meredith O'Connor, Robert Albritton, Cesar Monarrez

Absent: Nicole Flores, Diane Monnich

Guests: Mrs. Andrews (Technology Director), Mr. McVane (parent), Mr. Feiger (parent), Mrs. DiDomenico (parent), Mrs. Machado (Lane Tech parent)

Communications

[none]

Approval of Minutes

To approve the minutes from the previous month's meeting on December 14, 2010 (**see Motion #1**)

Approval of Agenda

To approve the standard agenda for tonight's meeting (**see Motion #2**)

Student's Report

- Students had a great winter break; Spirit Week during the first week back helped the transition; homecoming dance was a great success: ~ 700 people attended.
- Beginning ensembles concert held this week – orchestra, choir, band.
- Semester final exams will be administered during the week of January 25th.
- Students thinking about scheduling for next year; some new courses in the curriculum, especially in social studies.
- 20-Hour Art Show will be held on February 24th.
- Northside families are hosting students from the KSA (Korea Science Academy) school in Korea.

Principal's Report

- There is no new information from CPS regarding selective enrollment admissions.
- In addition to student visitors from our sister school in Korea, Northside will host a group of educators from Shanghai.
- Plans are being made to show the documentary "Race to Nowhere" to Northside teachers; another showing may be coordinated with the Northside Parent Network.
- There have been some tweaks to academic programming process – making the process smoother and easier, adding adult eyes: teacher, advisor, counselor, and parents, fixing things on the front end to make the process easier at the back end.
- Approval requested for disbursements:
 - Athletic director: \$4000
 - Printer contract: \$11,030
 - Movie screen: \$6,150

- Building operations: \$9,900
- Installation and rigging for theater: \$6,200
- Total = \$37,280
- To approve the disbursements as requested by Mr. Rodgers (**see Motion #3**)
- Mr. Rodgers will attend a meeting with CPS on February 2nd – NCLB program students are on agenda.
- Updates on at-risk students: a special course is being added to next year's colloquium program providing opportunities for individual and small-group tutoring and studying; some students will drop one class at the beginning of 2nd semester. At Northside, every student will not necessarily graduate with 28 credits (due to special situations like failed courses and special education programs) – so these students would still be ahead of schedule as far as CPS requirements are concerned.
- Dr. Murphy described the new colloquium class: it will be taught by Mrs. Flanagan (English) and Ms. Mulligan (mathematics); placement will be based on teacher recommendation, test scores, and course grades. The ultimate goal is the students' success and being able to pass all of their classes; Mrs. Tomasiewicz has been providing intensive math tutoring to help the students and to better ascertain their actual needs.
- Mr. Albritton suggested that these efforts be communicated to the faculty, and Dr. Murphy responded that they were in the process of communicating these ideas to parents and families and would also talk to the teachers.

Public Comment

- Mr. Feiger asked Mr. Rodgers if he had communicated the challenges of the at-risk students admitted under the NCLB program to CPS. Mr. Rodgers responded that he and other principals have already brought this issue to the attention of CPS, and he doesn't know the extent to which CPS has evaluated this program, since it was only instituted for one year. He also indicated that Northside is now the home school for these children.
- Mrs. Machado (parent of a Lane Tech student) expressed to Mr. Rodgers that her daughter had tried to attend Saturday evening's homecoming dance at Northside, and she was not treated properly by the adults at the door.
- Mr. Rodgers clarified the school policy by responding that there is no policy in place mandating a cross-reference with police records, but there was a guest list of students from other schools who had brought in guest forms. A signed form from a school administrator had to already have been submitted to Northside school officials; teacher sponsors supervised this process. Students who came to the dance without a form submitted in advance were not allowed into the dance.
- Mr. Rodgers indicated that he strongly supports the school's policy but felt badly about the fact that Mrs. Machado's daughter was disappointed and upset with her experience at Northside on Saturday.

Teachers' Report

- Teachers in the science department are helping 3-5 students prepare for regional competition. They are working on projects resulting from American Cancer Society internships over the summer. Mrs. Ortiz is hopeful that these students will go on to state competition.
- Ms. Minyo, Ms. Caplice, and Mr. Santiago helping students prepare for the 20-Hour Art Show and the construction of snow sculptures at Navy Pier with the theme of Harry Potter and the Death of Disney.
- Mr. Lill, Mrs. Martinez, and Mr. Park are preparing their beginning ensembles for their concert on Thursday. The advanced band, choir, and orchestra performed in December.
- Mrs. Flanagan (English) is preparing for Louder than a Bomb in February.
- Ms. Malueg, Evan Rogers, and the yearbook staff were honored when the 2010 Stampede received recognition as a GOLD medalist publication from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association. This is the first time the Northside yearbook has received this prestigious award.
- New courses in the social studies department, including anthropology and AP human geography, are generating a great deal of excitement.
- The News Literacy Group is enabling Northside students and the staff of the Hoofbeat newspaper to create a partnership with reporters around the world.

- The foreign language department is coordinating the Korean students' visits.
- Ms. Torres is resurrecting a program enabling students to travel to Spain to work with college professors there.
- Students are participating in skype conferences with children in Honduras, in Mexico, and at Westinghouse High School in Chicago through the Global Initiative EPALS program.
- The Math Team, sponsored by Mrs. Sullivan, was tied for 2nd place in the state halfway through the competition rounds; Northside and Payton were the only two CPS schools in the top 20 in Illinois at this state of the competition, and Northside was ahead.
- Math tutoring continues to expand with "informal sessions" hosted by Mrs. Tomasiewicz and a calculus table coordinated by Mrs. Runkel.
- The volleyball team, coached by Ms. Flores, raised \$5,600 for Children's Memorial Hospital's Pediatric Brain Cancer Research Center.
- Mr. Yanek and Mr. Belcaster honored as teachers who influenced their lives by students at MIT.
- Mr. Mayer (athletic director) helped organize a successful homecoming version of pack-the-gym and our pep rally.
- Ms. Volesky and Ms. Hetler organized a successful homecoming dance with a record number of students in attendance.
- Mr. Good organized a fantastic alumni event at Lincoln Hall. The band Bon Mots, led by science teacher Mike Coy, performed.
- Mr. Keane (special education department) earned his B.S. degree.
- Mrs. Myers Jaffe suggested bringing the film Louder than a Bomb to our newly equipped auditorium theater.
- In response to a question, Mr. Albritton suggested that teachers who have students admitted under the NCLB program need to know that something is being done to help these students; the teachers are feeling stress, so the new strategies in place should alleviate some of this anxiety. But it is not a panacea. The students are embracing the opportunity, but they still need help. Mr. McVane suggested that teachers and others who are involved in the process document with great particularity the difficulties they are encountering with this situation.

Committee Reports

- Finance Committee
[nothing to report]
- Friends of Northside
 - Awaiting invitation from the Chicago Cubs organization to purchase reduced price tickets for Cubbie Walk
 - Successful month of fundraising in December: raised \$30,000; currently at \$185,000; annual goal of \$200,000.
- Northside Parent Network
 - Committee meetings and planning for the Reach for the Stars gala are ongoing. The committee is mailing letters requesting donations.
 - Other upcoming events include a spring forum at report card pick up featuring speakers on the topic of college planning and application, MADD dinner, Cubbie Walk, and Junior Book Awards.
- Community Relations
 - A meeting will be scheduled before the next LSC meeting.
- Principal Selection and Evaluation Committee
 - Mr. Ceisel received the necessary addresses and has delivered the original signed principal contracts. The retention of Mr. Rodgers as principal of Northside will be recorded by CPS, and Mr. Rodgers will receive his copy of the approved contract to complete the cycle.
 - Mr. Ceisel distributed a timeline for February via e-mail to insure that forms are distributed in a timely manner to obtain feedback from parents, teachers, staff, and to meet with Mr. Rodgers. There will also be a couple of meetings in March.
 - The goal is to approve the evaluation by the April LSC meeting and send the document to CPS to meet the May deadline.
 - We may consider using Google docs or some other technology to input data.

- We will consider input from student and parent leadership (people with most significant points of contact), although any parent can provide feedback to any or all of the members of the LSC.
- Important dates in February: the 15th and the 22nd

New Business

- The Illinois legislature enacted a law adding a new member to the LSC representing the school staff. The election will be coordinated by Mrs. Kato on the 27th of January. The “election” is actually a nonbinding advisory poll, although as such it is typically ratified.

Upcoming Meetings

- Finance Committee: TBD (meeting to be scheduled with Mr. Rodgers in February)
- Friends of Northside: January 24th
- Parent Network: February 3rd
- Principal Selection and Evaluation: February 15th
- LSC: February 8th
- Community Relations: TBD

Agenda

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

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. (see **Motion #5**).

Next Meeting

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

Motion #: 1
Motion made by: Gail Myers Jaffe
Seconded by: Crystal Melto
Motion: To approve the minutes from last month's meeting (December 14, 2010)

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			
Total	10	0	0	2

Motion #: 2
Motion made by: Vicki McMannon
Seconded by: Robert Albritton
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			
Total	10	0	0	2

Motion #: 3
Motion made by: Cathy Quigley
Seconded by: Gail Myers Jaffe
➤ Motion: To approve disbursements requested by Mr. Rodgers: athletic director: \$4,000; printer contract: \$11,030; movie screen: \$6,150; building operations: \$9,900; installation and rigging for theater: \$6,200; Total = \$37,280

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			
Total	10	0	0	2

Motion #: 4
Motion made by: Gail Myers Jaffe
Seconded by: Meredith O'Connor
Motion: To approve standard agenda for February 8th 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			
Total	10	0	0	2

Motion #: 5
Motion made by: Gail Myers Jaffe
Seconded by: Kathleen Andrade
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			
Total	10	0	0	2