



Northside College Preparatory High School
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John Ceisel
Chair

Kathleen Andrade
Vice Chair

Cathy Quigley
Secretary

Local School Council Minutes
July 12, 2011

Commencement

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Mr. Rodgers.

Present: John Ceisel, Kathleen Andrade, Barry Rodgers, Crystal Melto, Gail Myers Jaffe, Vicki McMannon, Cathy Quigley, Robert Albritton, Meredith O'Connor, Diane Monnich

Absent: Nicole Flores, Vicky Andrews, Zobia Chunara

Guest: Mrs. Biancalana-Kerstein (parent)

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

To approve the minutes from the previous month's meetings on June 10 and June 14, 2011 (see **Motion #2**)

Nomination of Officers

Chairperson: John Ceisel (nominated by Vicki McMannon, seconded by Cathy Quigley)

Mr. Ceisel was unanimously elected and assumed the responsibility of presiding over the remainder of the LSC organizational meeting.

Vice Chairperson: Kathleen Andrade (nominated by John Ceisel, seconded by Meredith O'Connor)

Mrs. Andrade was unanimously elected by the council.

Secretary: Cathy Quigley

Mrs. Quigley was unanimously elected by the council.

LSC Meetings Scheduled for the 2011-2012 School Year

Monthly LSC meetings are normally scheduled on the second Tuesday of each month during the school year, with some exceptions due to conflicts with holidays or other school events. The meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. and are conducted in the faculty lunchroom.

Proposed dates:

August 2nd
September 6th
October 11th
November 8th
December 13th
January 10th
February 21st
March 13th
April 10th
May 8th
June 12th

Student's Report

[none]

Public Comment

Several sad events had occurred recently, including the deaths of a Northside graduate from the class of 2010, Sarah Jose, who tragically drowned while trying to save her younger cousin in a river in India, and the mother of a 2008 graduate who was killed in a car accident in Wisconsin.

Communications

Mr. Ceisel received a note expressing concern regarding impending budget cuts and limited financial support for the school. There are revised provisions governing one's eligibility to serve on the LSC regarding the membership of a council member or spouse in a non-profit organization.

Principal's Report

- Position updates: several support personnel positions have been secured, including technology director (and staff) and business manager; six other positions have been eliminated, including the dean of students. Two teachers are moving on to other schools. Northside's department chairpersons have agreed to give up release time to teach classes. One of the consequences of the loss of faculty members is that class sizes will increase. The administrative team at CPS has not responded to the appeal made by Mr. Rodgers; although CPS listened to his concerns, he has not been encouraged to be hopeful. Discretionary money which might have been used to finance the position of the dean and another teacher has been eliminated. Four teachers will receive release letters this week.
- Two teachers in the social studies department are moving on. Two sections of AP Government have been reinstated at this time.
- Currently, the beginning level of German has been eliminated from the academic program. Sections will be maintained for students who have already completed one or two years in the program. Frau Appel tutored all of the students currently in German 2 so that there could be a combined course at a higher level.
- Hopefully, Friends of Northside will be able to help fund some program deficits. Some students may not get the AP class of their choice, but they will be offered another AP class. Mr. Rodgers will be able to confirm information more precisely in August. At this point in time, there is still the potential of retaining one or two of the teaching positions that have been lost.

- One-to-one cohort: over sixty students signed up. Mr. Rodgers has been in communication with Vicky Andrews, and orders are in the process of being placed. Seven students applied for a fee waiver, and most of that money is in place thanks to parent donations. So, all of the students who have applied will be accepted, and a couple more students might be picked up during or after the tech camp.
- Northside was ranked #24 in the nation by *Newsweek*. This is a significant improvement over last year. The magazine employed a more robust rating system with multiple variables included in calculating the number used to rank the schools. Payton and Whitney were not on the list, but Lane Tech was (but not as highly ranked as Northside).
- Mr. Rodgers will attend an institute in Aspen with twenty members of Congress and ten educational leaders, including Mr. Rodgers.
- This past week, students from Northside were featured on television in China, answering questions about what American students are doing during the summertime: working in the garden, playing soccer, taking a precalculus class, etc.
- This Friday a delegation from Chico State University will visit Northside.
- The administration continues to work on putting together a curriculum which meets the challenges faced by our school and maintains our strong academic program.

Teachers' Report

- Mr. Albritton had no information to report regarding any discussions between CPS and the Chicago Teachers Union.

Old Business

[none]

New Business

- The Finance Committee met to set school fees, maintaining the same activity / technology / department fees; there is a slight increase in PSAT fees and AP fees, necessary to cover increased costs for administering these exams.
- To maintain the school fees at \$495 per student, raise the PSAT fee to \$20, and raise the AP exam fee to \$110 (see **Motion #3**).
- Discussion: last year, Northside's population was 1074 students; this year, 1070 students are expected. Approximately 33% of our students will qualify for free or reduced lunch and are exempt from paying at least some portion of the school fees, and temporary situations requiring a delay in payment of fees are also considered. Council members expressed their opinions that parents would be willing to pay higher fees because they are so excited to have their children at Northside, and that other parents are grateful to have little or no increase in fees due to the current deplorable state of the economy and how it has affected their families. Mr. Rodgers reminded everyone that every family should complete an application for free or reduced lunch.
- Mrs. Kato took a medical leave of absence at the end of the year, but she has been cleared to come back next year, (thank goodness!)
- Update on the principal evaluation process: John Ceisel and Kathleen Andrade met with Mr. Rodgers and discussed trying to streamline the form used with teachers and staff to increase response rate and expanding the meeting to discuss the principal's portfolio and what is happening at Northside to include key issues currently facing the school. Mr. Ceisel has checked with CPS, and Mr. Rodgers will check with other principals, to verify what is allowed and to see what is working well.

Committees

- Finance Committee: Vicki McMannon and John Ceisel, co-chairs
- Community Relations: Diane Monnich and Crystal Melto, co-chairs; Meredith O'Connor will also serve on this committee
- Principal Selection and Evaluation Committee: Kathleen Andrade and John Ceisel, co-chairs (all LSC members serve on this committee)

Upcoming Meetings

- Friends of Northside: sometime in August
- Parent Network: September 8th
- LSC: August 2nd (This meeting is tentatively scheduled and will be canceled unless needed.)

Approval of Agenda

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

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. (see **Motion #5**).

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the LSC is currently scheduled for Tuesday, August 2nd, at 7:00 p.m. in the faculty lunchroom. Public participation is welcome.

Motion #: 1
Motion made by: Vicki McMannon
Seconded by: John Ceisel
Motion: To approve the agenda for tonight's annual organizational meeting

Record of Votes on Motion

Council Members	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
John Ceisel (parent)	X			
Kathleen Andrade (parent)	X			
Gail Myers Jaffe (parent)	X			
Crystal Melto (parent)	X			
Vicki McMannon (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			
Vicky Andrews (staff)				X
Zobia Chunara (student)				X
Total	10	0	0	3

Motion #: 2
Motion made by: John Ceisel
Seconded by: Vicki McMannon
Motion: To approve the minutes from last month's meetings (June 10th and 14th, 2011)

Record of Votes on Motion

Council Members	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
John Ceisel (parent)	X			
Kathleen Andrade (parent)	X			
Gail Myers Jaffe (parent)	X			
Crystal Melto (parent)	X			
Vicki McMannon (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			
Vicky Andrews (staff)				X
Zobia Chunara (student)				X
Total	10	0	0	3

Motion #: 3
Motion made by: Vicki McMannon
Seconded by: Kathleen Andrade
Motion: To maintain the school fees at \$495 per student, raise the PSAT fee to \$20, and raise the AP exam fee to \$110

Record of Votes on Motion

Council Members	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
John Ceisel (parent)	X			
Kathleen Andrade (parent)	X			
Gail Myers Jaffe (parent)	X			
Crystal Melto (parent)	X			
Vicki McMannon (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			
Vicky Andrews (staff)				X
Zobia Chunara (student)				X
Total	10	0	0	3

Motion #: 4
Motion made by: Robert Albritton
Seconded by: Gail Myers Jaffe
Motion: To approve the standard agenda for the LSC's next meeting in August

Record of Votes on Motion

Council Members	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
John Ceisel (parent)	X			
Kathleen Andrade (parent)	X			
Gail Myers Jaffe (parent)	X			
Crystal Melto (parent)	X			
Vicki McMannon (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			
Vicky Andrews (staff)				X
Zobia Chunara (student)				X
Total	10	0	0	3

Motion #: 5
Motion made by: Gail Myers Jaffe
Seconded by: Meredith O'Connor
Motion: To adjourn the LSC meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Record of Votes on Motion

Council Members	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
John Ceisel (parent)	X			
Kathleen Andrade (parent)	X			
Gail Myers Jaffe (parent)	X			
Crystal Melto (parent)	X			
Vicki McMannon (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			
Vicky Andrews (staff)				X
Zobia Chunara (student)				X
Total	10	0	0	3