



**Northside College Preparatory High School**  
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John Ceisel  
*Chair*

Vicki McMannon  
*Vice Chair*

Cathy Quigley  
*Secretary*

**Local School Council Minutes**  
**June 14, 2011**

**Commencement**

The meeting was called to order at 7:13 p.m. by John Ceisel.

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

**Absent:** Vicky Andrews, Cesar Monarrez

**Guests:** Mrs. Franke (parent), Mr. Howenstine (parent), Mr. Pineda (parent), Mrs. Broderick (parent), Mrs. Randleman (parent), Mrs. Bologna (parent), Cecile Franke (student), Allie Martinez (student), Lauren Antosz (student), Zobia Chunara (student), Dr. Murphy (Assistant Principal)

**Communications**

Mr. Ceisel reported on an LSC advisory meeting on Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup>.

**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 May 10, 2011, with one clarification (see **Motion #2**)

**Student's Report**

[none]

**Principal's Report**

- Mr. Rodgers had just returned from budget talks with CPS downtown.
- The current state of affairs is that Northside stands to lose 10 positions, including 6 teachers, the dean of students, and 3 support staff, plus the facilities manager.
- At the meeting, Mr. Rodgers discussed the importance of our school and its programs with the CEO's team, and they pledged to work with Mr. Rodgers to make some movement to restore some of what we have lost. Other selective enrollment schools are in similar situations.
- The \$700 million deficit, even including the latest cuts, has created a dire budget situation, a difficult situation for Northside and for other schools.

- The 4% teacher raise was not factored into these discussions – the board will vote on the raise tomorrow. Insofar as our approved budget is concerned, the raise would only affect positions purchased with SGSA funds.
- Mr. Rodgers described some of the highlights of the graduation ceremony for the Northside College Prep High School Class of 2011 (Mr. Rodgers' first freshman class).
- The administration, faculty, staff, and students are poised for Field Day and other end-of-the-year activities, wrapping things up for the summer and in preparation for next year.
- Mrs. Melto asked if there was anything the LSC could do to express their opinion regarding impending budget cuts to the board; Mr. Rodgers responded that for now he would try to work with the new CEO's team to see if together they could make any headway to restore some of these planned cuts.
- If anyone is interested, Ms. Monnich has information on how to contact individual state representatives about education budget concerns.

## Public comment

- Several questions were posed to Mr. Rodgers:
  - Question: How does Mr. Rodgers decide how to cut costs and which teachers to let go?  
Response: Everything presented today is brand-new information, so nothing has been decided at this point, but the first priority is honoring graduation programming requirements; Northside is a union school, so human resources will verify teachers' credentials and provide a layoff list. Seniority also results in some movement among teachers in the district.
  - Question: Is it likely that we will not have this situation resolved until August?  
Response: The CEO's team indicated that they would like to turn this around quickly, and not wait until August.
  - Question: Which criterion is used to make decisions regarding teacher retention: seniority or performance?  
Response: Currently seniority is used as the primary criterion, but pending legislation may mandate performance standards. Currently teachers undergo two reviews per year following a scripted checklist; the final evaluation of teachers must be done by the principal.
  - Question: Has there ever been a fundraising drive (by the school or by Friends of Northside) to pay for a particular teaching position that has been lost?  
Response: This practice has been avoided in the past in order to not set a precedent of funding positions. Mrs. McMannon indicated that Friends already funds tutoring, the Wellness Center, and other essential programs. To date there has not been a campaign intended specifically to finance a teaching position. Another parent described the process at her children's grade school, and referred to it as a "hard sell" – Mrs. Andrade mentioned the fact that the current state of the economy makes the idea difficult to implement at this time.
  - Question: Who is the "special events person" at Northside?  
Response: Susan Spillane is the Director of Special Programs, including tutoring and academic support programs.
  - Question: Should the students have a voice in choosing teachers to be cut?  
Response: In view of the fact that there is a rigorous process in place for this decision, student choice is not going to be a factor at this time.
- Mr. Rodgers suggested that we have always had financial obstacles, and we will have to pull together again to face and meet the current challenges.

## Teachers' Report

- Ms. Flores coordinated a successful event for Senior Prom at the Shedd Aquarium.
- The Senior Luncheon, hosted by Mr. Pagani and Mr. Devine, was held on a boat on Lake Michigan.

- The Chicago Teachers Union is rallying the troops in anticipation of the board's vote on teachers' raises tomorrow; important issues include the raise and teachers' pensions.
- The snow days we enjoyed in the winter are being made up by teachers on Monday and Tuesday: the administration is hosting an all-school event on Monday, departmentalized activities will take place on Tuesday, and department retreats are scheduled for Thursday.
- Ms. Volesky was named Environmental Educator of the Year by the National Biology Teachers Association in California (she will travel there with Ms. Ortiz in the fall). Ms. Volesky is a very effective teacher who connects well with her students: she formed a partnership with the EPA and her classes this year through which students travelled to a lake to do research; she is a leading grant writer for teachers working on professional development in environmental education.
- As noted at a previous meeting, Mr. Yanek was named CTE Exemplary Teacher of the Year: he spearheaded several initiatives, including the Exploring Computers class running next year at Northside; he is president of the Illinois chapter of the Computer Science Teachers Association.
- The Music Awards and Appreciation Dinner was held at Northside in the school gym – 270 people enjoyed the dinner, and awards were presented to several students in each musical ensemble.
- In response to a question about teacher morale, the teacher representatives responded that speculation has been ongoing only since last week, when the budget was released. The higher number of eliminated staff positions announced today will be disturbing to some teachers.
- A parent wondered if the teachers' union would ask the teachers if they would forgo the 4% raise to save positions. That language has not been used by the union to date. Last year the teachers stood their ground and received their raises. The new board has not made their decision yet. The raise is part of the current contract; if the raise is not given, then the teachers have the right to strike.

## Committee Reports

### ➤ Finance Committee

The committee's last meeting did not produce a final decision on what is to be proposed for next year's school fees; given the current economic situation, the committee is considering not increasing the fees for next year. The vote has been tabled until more budget information is received. The final vote on fees for next year will probably be in July, and there may have to be a meeting in August. The Finance Committee will meet again before July LSC meeting.

### ➤ Friends of Northside

Friends of Northside is winding down their activities for this school year. The committee sent a report to parents indicating how much money was raised this year, and how that money was spent.

### ➤ The Northside Parent Network

- The Northside Parents Network completed all of their volunteer events for the year with graduation, for which there were lots of volunteers. The parent board for next year is in place, except for incoming freshman parents. The potluck and final meeting will be on June 17<sup>th</sup>. This has been a good year for parents, and the committee is looking forward to next year and increasing parent involvement.
- The Parent Network meets on Thursdays – everyone is welcome. A parent asked if meetings can be floated to be on different days every month. She proposed that more availability might increase parent involvement. Mrs. Melto indicated that she will speak to the Parent Network about that option.

### ➤ Community Relations

- There has been no meeting since last LSC meeting, but the committee continues to try to get more information out in the EPIC, seeking people to write articles for inclusion in the parent newspaper, and trying to determine how many parents actually read the EPIC – apparently one-third of our parents do not

receive our e-mails. EPIC is only produced quarterly; the committee would like to improve on that, and to include more school and teacher information.

- Both the Parent Network and also Friends of Northside need more, and current, parent e-mails. Friends has already sent out a request for e-mails; Mrs. McMannon will see how many responses come back. Parent e-mails are requested at freshman orientation, but this year yielded only 127 addresses.

➤ Principal Selection and Evaluation Committee

Mrs. Andrade and Mr. Ceisel will meet with Mr. Rodgers on July 6<sup>th</sup>.

## Old Business

[none]

## New Business

- To approve July 12<sup>th</sup> as the date for the July LSC organizational meeting (see **Motion #3**)
- To approve the Northside SIPAAA (School Improvement Plan for Advancing Academic Achievement) for 2011-2012 (see **Motion #4**)
- Discussion: Since this will be the second year covered by the two-year plan, this is considered to be an update year, and there are no wholesale changes in the document from last year. Some modifications include financial goals and action items, more specificity in professional development and differentiated instruction, PLCs focused on purposeful communication about instructional practices, and strategies for meeting CPS's new RTI (Response to Intervention) requirements. These items prompted further discussion on how to serve struggling students, including meeting their cultural as well as academic needs.
- Discussion ensued about the process of drafting the SIPAAA, including parent and LSC involvement. John Ceisel was a parent on the SIPAAA committee, representing both parents and also the LSC. The LSC weighs in on the goals and desired outcomes as listed in the SIPAAA. The process is not public, but the final document is. The SIPAAA drives all of the activities in the school, including academic planning, meeting agendas, curriculum development, etc. A new team will be created next year to generate the next report. In response to a question about where SGSA allocations approved by the LSC appear in the SIPAAA, Mr. Rodgers indicated that he would e-mail those references in the document.
- Mr. Rodgers brought up the issue of approval of the solicitation of interest in paying a \$250 opt-in fee for a one-to-one computing program for incoming freshman students, a discussion that was initiated at last month's regular LSC meeting. Currently, there are enough students to at least one section; more students are expected to be eligible and to apply for the program.
- CPS CEO Brizard visited Northside and later commented on the wonderful teachers and the great job the principal is doing. He was particularly interested in instructional technology, and Northside was lauded as a forerunner in this area. The question for the cohort is whether or not to simply maintain the current program or to forge ahead. LSC members asked about the number of students who would ultimately be enrolled in the program and about the teachers and technology personnel who would implement and support the program.
- Revised motion: To approve the immediate purchase of computers for one section of incoming freshman students accepted into the one-to-one computing program, including subsequent approval for a second section when sufficient student demand has been reached (see **Motion #5**)
- Other new business: Mr. Ceisel communicated with parents from other selective enrollment schools regarding the admissions process; principals will meet with the board regarding their concerns about the process.

## Upcoming Meetings

- Finance Committee: sometime before July 12<sup>th</sup>

- Friends of Northside: Monday, June 20<sup>th</sup>
- Parent Network: June 17<sup>th</sup>
- Principal Selection and Evaluation: meeting with Mr. Rodgers on July 6<sup>th</sup>
- LSC: July 12<sup>th</sup>

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m. (see **Motion #6**).

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the LSC will be on Tuesday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. in the faculty lunchroom. Public participation is welcome.

**Motion #:** 1  
**Motion made by:** Crystal Melto  
**Seconded by:** Kathleen Andrade  
**Motion:** To approve the standard 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
Vicky Andrews (staff)				X
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>

**Motion #:** 2  
**Motion made by:** Gail Myers Jaffe  
**Seconded by:** Robert Albritton  
**Motion:** To approve the minutes from last month's meeting (May 10, 2011)

**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
Vicky Andrews (staff)				X
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>

**Motion #:** 3  
**Motion made by:** Vicki McMannon  
**Seconded by:** Meredith O'Connor  
**Motion:** To approve July 12<sup>th</sup> as the date for the July LSC organizational 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
Vicky Andrews (staff)				X
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>

**Motion #:** 4  
**Motion made by:** Vicki McMannon  
**Seconded by:** Cathy Quigley  
**Motion:** To approve the Northside SIPAAA for 2011-2012

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
Vicky Andrews (staff)				X
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>

**Motion #:** 5  
**Motion made by:** Kathleen Andrade  
**Seconded by:** Gail Myers Jaffe  
**Motion:** To approve the immediate purchase of computers for one section of incoming freshman students accepted into the one-to-one computing program, including subsequent approval for a second section when sufficient student demand has been reached

**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
Vicky Andrews (staff)				X
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>

**Motion #:** 6  
**Motion made by:** Gail Myers Jaffe  
**Seconded by:** Nicole Flores  
**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
Vicky Andrews (staff)				X
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>