



Northside College Preparatory High School

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John Ceisel
Chair

Vicki McMannon
Vice Chair

Cathy Quigley
Secretary

Local School Council Minutes March 1, 2011

Commencement

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by John Ceisel.

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

Absent: Cesar Monarrez

Guests: Mr. McVane (parent), Mrs. Maloney (parent), Mr. Jolstrom (parent), Mrs. Gupta (parent), Carlos (parent)

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

To approve the minutes from the previous month's meeting on February 8, 2011, with changes (**see Motion #2**)

Communications

Mr. Ceisel distributed information and ballots for LSC members to vote for a member of the Local School Council Advisory Board.

Student's Report

[none]

Principal's Report

- Northside Senior and Girls Swim Team Captain and Water Polo Captain Kelly Buchanan was named to the IHSA All-Academic Team.
- "Race to Nowhere" was shown in the school auditorium, followed by discussion sessions with parents in attendance. Northside's administration and faculty are continuing to examine the issues presented in the film.
- There is no news regarding the new CPS budget.
- CPS is planning to use Google Apps; some schools will be piloting the program in the spring for possible implementation for the next school year.

- The selective enrollment process has been evolving since 1999: the original goal was to create a high-performing academic environment to encourage families to invest in the CPS system, and that has been accomplished very successfully; now, the system needs to adapt to this level of success. A wide range of elementary school students are seeking admission to the selective enrollment high schools, and the result has become a rationing of quality education.
 - The average score of all incoming freshman is 882 (out of 900), and there were 58 perfect scores. The spread is larger than ever before because the selective enrollment high schools were not permitted to set a floor level score this year.
 - Tier demographics indicate that most of the city north of Fullerton is Tier 3 and Tier 4, so a significant number of students will be traveling from south of Fullerton; the minimum score admitted from Tier 4 was 891, compared to 792 from Tier 1.
 - Last year's NCLB process for admitting the highest performing students from the lowest performing schools was modified so that all of these students had to apply through the regular application process. A score of 650 was set as the floor for these students, and also for students requesting consideration under principal discretion.
 - As of now, Northside will not have any new students admitted under the NCLB program. This is also the case for most of the selective enrollment high schools this year.
 - In response to a question about whether the selective enrollment process is the "jewel of CPS" or a detriment siphoning off talent from neighborhood schools, Mr. Rodgers responded that there needs to be a balance between the issues of equity and access and academic excellence. One consequence of a less than perfect process is disenfranchisement.
 - Northside sent out 291 acceptance letters; the incoming freshman class is expected to be 270-275 students. Every student who received a letter had selected Northside as his or her first choice.
 - Racial and ethnic background percentages changed in some areas and remained fairly constant in others: Asian = 18.5% (down from typically 28-30% in the past); African-American = 6% (typical, no change from the past); Hispanic = 27% (increase from typical ratio of 22%, also evident in other selective enrollment schools); multiple ethnicities = 4%; white = 43.7%; special education (assigned by the office of special education) = 5%.
 - More information, including cut-off scores for each of the selective enrollment high schools, can be found on the CPS website under the Office of Academic Enhancement.
 - Mr. Albritton brought up the need for differentiated instruction to educate the new population of students at Northside.
- Mr. Rodgers made the following funding requests from Friends of Northside:
 - Labor costs totaling \$7,250 for the installation of lights in the gym
 - Freshman programming costs: \$2,500
 - Athletics: \$9,900
 - Total: \$19,650
- To approve the funding requests made by Mr. Rodgers, with funds coming from the Friends of Northside account (see **Motion #3**)
- Mr. Rodgers requested approval for the transfer of funds from internal accounts to purchase a copier for the counseling department (total cost = \$5,572.71).
- To approve the funds transfer and new copier purchase (see **Motion #4**)
- Total of all funding requests: \$25,222.71

Public comment

- Question: Will there be a second round of acceptances or principal discretion extended to students to attend Northside? Response: If there are 272-275 students who have accepted the invitation to attend Northside by March 4th, then there will not be a second round of invitations; the principal discretion process (a well-defined and centralized process which is described in a handbook available via the Office of Academic Enhancement website) will begin March 4th.

- Admission of special education students is governed by the provisions of the Corey H. settlement; schools must provide adequate services to meet the needs of special education students. An RTI (“Response to Intervention”) model is used to identify students with special needs, and Northside is required to accept a specific number of special education students who will thrive in the program here each year.
- Principal’s discretion has been used sparingly at Northside, with an average of 0 to 5 students per year; it has been used primarily in unusual situations related to students’ special abilities and hardships.
- Principal’s discretion was taken off the table for grammar schools; no principals have been reprimanded for their participation in this process. Currently the policy involves more oversight but is still in place for high schools. This option provides one means of improving the imperfect admissions process.
- The SUCCESS program at Northside was instituted to assist struggling students prior to the acceptance of students under the NCLB mandate last year; the program was expanded this year to include these students. SUCCESS will still be needed for students who have used the program in the past, and others who will need the program in the future. Funding has been requested to support the program.
- Some “Race to Nowhere” follow-up comments were shared: the showing of the film was described as one of the best attended parent events at Northside, including people who stayed very late, and the school continues to await and address feedback from parents. Discussions with faculty have included topics such as better coordination of major assignments and consideration of homework policies. Parents must also be part of the process, helping students make informed and appropriate choices for programming (hard copies of programs will be sent to parents to help them insure that their children are making good choices). Many aspects of Northside are not reflected in that movie: students designing shoes and creating various art projects; the study of Freudian psychology; smiling, engaged, happy students; and manageable homework loads for many students. Pressure can come from teachers, parents, and the students themselves, often unwittingly. One parent brought up the use of incentives and the need for rationality. Mr. Rodgers suggested that students can develop excellent time management skills and participate in many extracurricular activities to lead a balanced life.

Teachers’ Report

- The Art Department is hosting Elephants with Riders this weekend, coordinated and supervised by Ms. Minyo.
- John Belcaster and his Innovation class have taken advantage of a partnership with the University of Michigan Engineering School as four or five students are traveling to Chicago during their spring break to work with Northside’s class and a class from Whitney Young in a competition to see who can design the best shoe.
- Northside’s spring musical, *Oklahoma*, will be performed later this month (March 17th-20th).

Committee Reports

- Finance Committee/Friends of Northside
 - Finance Committee meeting on March 11th at 7:30
 - Friends of Northside currently engaged in the annual appeal, the Gala, and Cubby Walk
- Parent Network
 - meeting on Thursday, March 3rd, to discuss the Gala which will be held on March 12th
 - Mrs. Melto reported on the progress of auction item selection, ad book printing, and ticket sales.
 - Nicole and Robert will send a communication to the teachers about the Gala.
- Community Relations
 - meeting scheduled for March 29th

- Principal Selection and Evaluation Committee
 - held closed session meetings in February
 - upcoming meeting with Mr. Rodgers in March
 - final meetings scheduled for March 22nd and March 29th
 - dates are subject to change
 - To approve agenda for closed session committee meetings on March 22nd and March 29th (see **Motion #5**)

New Business

- An education funding forum sponsored by Mrs. Andrews' colloquium, No Child Left a Dime, and hosted by Northside will discuss the need for sustained funding for education in Chicago and in Illinois, connecting parents, educators, and policy makers. This forum is scheduled for March 24th.
- The new student LSC representative has been chosen for next year: Zobia Chunara.
- An electronic version of the LSC handbook (a .pdf file) is available for a limited time. This document is useful in this form when searching for a specific topic.

Upcoming Meetings

- Finance Committee: March 11th
- Friends of Northside: March 14th at 7:00 PM in the main office conference room
- Parent Network: Thursday, March 3rd at 7:00 PM
- Principal Selection and Evaluation: March 22nd and March 29th
- LSC: April 12th
- Community Relations: TBD (originally scheduled for March 29th)

Agenda

To approve the standard agenda for next month's meeting (see **Motion #6**)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. (see **Motion #7**).

Next Meeting

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

Motion #: 1
Motion made by: Gail Myers Jaffe
Seconded by: Nicole Flores
Motion: To approve the standard agenda for tonight's meeting, with changes

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	12	0	0	1

Motion #: 2
Motion made by: Gail Myers Jaffe
Seconded by: Nicole Flores
Motion: To approve the minutes from last month's meeting (February 8, 2011), with changes

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	12	0	0	1

Motion #: 3
Motion made by: Cathy Quigley
Seconded by: Gail Myers Jaffe

➤ **Motion:** To approve the following funding requests, with funds to come from the Friends of Northside account: gym lights installation (\$7,250); freshman programming (\$2,500); athletics (\$9,900); total = \$19,650

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	12	0	0	1

Motion #: 4
Motion made by: Vicki McMannon
Seconded by: Gail Myers Jaffe

Motion: To approve the transfer of funds from internal accounts to purchase a copier for the counseling department (total cost = \$5,572.71)

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	12	0	0	1

Motion #: 5
Motion made by: Vicki McMannon
Seconded by: Gail Myers Jaffe
Motion: To approve agenda for closed session Principal Selection and Evaluation Committee meetings on March 22nd and March 29th

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	12	0	0	1

Motion #: 6
Motion made by: Crystal Melto
Seconded by: Gail Myers Jaffe
Motion: To approve standard agenda for next month's LSC meeting on April 12, 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	12	0	0	1

Motion #: 7
Motion made by: Crystal Melto
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	12	0	0	1