



Northside College Preparatory High School
5501 N. Kedzie Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60625
Telephone 773.534.3954 Fax 773.534.3964

John Ceisel
Chair

Kathleen Andrade
Vice Chair

Cathy Quigley
Secretary

**Local School Council Minutes
November 8, 2011**

Commencement

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

Present: John Ceisel, Kathleen Andrade, Barry Rodgers, Crystal Melto, Gail Myers Jaffe, Cathy Quigley, Diane Monnich, Robert Albritton, Vicky Andrews, Zobia Chunara

Absent: Vicki McMannon, Nicole Flores

Guests: Mr. Cook, Ms. Illing, Ms. Bernauer, Mr. Howenstine, Ms. Gupta, Dr. Murphy

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

To approve the minutes from the previous meeting on October 11, 2011 (see Motion #2)

Communications

- Mr. Ceisel reported that a school report card with a revised format and content was released for Northside and would be distributed and discussed at our meeting this evening.

Student's Report

- I-nite preparation continues: students are practicing for tryouts before the I-nite performance selection committee.
- Basketball tryouts are ongoing.
- It is time once again for the annual NHS canned food drive – boxes are being distributed to advisories for contributions to a local food depository.
- A Red Cross blood donation drive will also be held at Northside.
- Report card pickup is next week, on Thursday.
- The school newspaper came out yesterday:
- Newspaper staff visited the office of the Associated Press and proposed writing a story about the longer school day issue, questioning why schools which are already high performing need to have a further extended school day; AP encouraged the students to proceed to write the article.

- Quest Bridge finalists are moving on in the process; Posse interview results have yielded some semifinalists from Northside.
- The counseling office continues to do a great job keeping seniors organized and meeting deadlines for college applications and scholarships.
- Seniors are donating \$20 to a fund to purchase something for the school as a legacy of the Northside Class of 2012.
- Students are excitedly awaiting the upcoming 4-day weekend.

Principal's Report

- Good news reported by Mr. Rodgers: Northside was ranked #1 by both the *Chicago Sun-Times* and also the *Chicago Tribune* this year.
- There is a new national ranking of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) schools: Northside is #16 in the nation, which is our school's highest national ranking in any poll.
- The computer printer contract, in the amount of \$11,287.50, has been paid in the past by Friends of Northside; the contract covers the maintenance and service of 60 printers throughout the school. Friends paid off the lease two years ago, but maintenance is still needed, and 4 high-volume printers will be replaced in the library. The cost of the contract increased from last year by \$100. Mrs. Andrews describes the company as great and very responsive. She is also looking into replacing print management software to be compatible with Windows 7.
- **To approve the payment of the school's computer printer contract in the amount of \$11,287.50 (see Motion #3)**
- Northside hosted an outstanding Open House event, boding well for our school's future. There were almost 200 student volunteers, more than ever before; there was a great deal of interaction between students, teachers, parents, and visitors. There was great feedback from many of the 3800 visitors to the school.
- Northside's athletic teams are doing very well:
 - The girls swim team was in second place at the varsity city championships, only 4 points behind first place.
 - Both the boys and also the girls cross country teams qualified for state and placed 24th.
 - The chess team is doing well.
 - Other sports are currently starting new seasons.
- Mr. Rodgers and Mr. Benincasa are leaving on Sunday to go to Washington, D.C. to accept the Blue Ribbon award on behalf of Northside.
- A whole-school colloquium session was based on celestial garden theme and included storytellers relating tales involving cultural astronomy.
- In March students will visit the Adler Planetarium; all students will participate through a series of colloquium days with an emphasis on the scientific side of astronomy.
- Bid process for security cameras yielded some disappointing news. Originally, the school was looking to spend an amount somewhere in the vicinity of \$20,000; actually, the bid process returned amounts closer to \$60,000. The high cost is related to the conversion of an analog system to a digital system and the replacement of old, broken cameras. The administration is going back to the drawing board, and is trying to work with CPS to secure matching funds.
- The school report card has been received in a first-time process for the new CPS administration. Northside might offer a small forum of school leaders to discuss what the information in the report card means, if people have questions. Metrics considered in the report card include how students perform on

PLAN, EXPLORE, and ACT assessments, as well as the cultural makeup of the school as reported on surveys. Northside's report is positive overall, but also includes areas of potential growth.

- There is no news on the issue of the extended school day for now, other than the fact that an agreement has been reached between CTU and CPS so that CPS will no longer ask schools to voluntarily adopt a longer school day this year with the promise of bonus funding. Perhaps more specific information about CPS expectations will be forthcoming in January. The colloquium project at Northside will be maintained, if at all possible.
- Some parents heard a radio broadcast featuring Jean-Claude Brizzard (schools chief for CPS); he indicated that he does know that funding of selective enrollment schools is not exceptionally high in comparison with other CPS schools.
- There was a question from a parent in the audience: *Do we have to add 90 minutes per day?*
- CPS set up an extended day website and blog for parent feedback; this is a good starting point for parents to provide their input, and Mr. Rodgers encouraged parents to do so.
- There is some understanding that high school is a different animal as compared with the elementary schools because of the number of after-school activities and increased homework expectations.

Public comment

- One parent guest spoke about an event this Saturday which will involve speakers and participants from Northside and other schools. It is a cross-cultural event about moving "from disrespect to respect." Organizers are looking for 16-26 year olds to speak to the topic, "Where are we on the topic of race?" The event is being held at Holy Family from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., next to St. Ignatius (but people of all religions are welcome and will be represented). Participants include students from both south side schools and also suburban schools. The event's sponsors would love to hear more young people's views. The event is being filmed, and service hours are offered.
- A parent thanked Mr. Rodgers for his attendance at the girls swim team's varsity city championship meet; many parents from other schools were impressed that Northside's principal showed his support of the swim team, and the swimmers and their families were very appreciative of his support, as well
- The local sorority of Northside alum is sponsoring a Flag Football tournament this Sunday, at Sheridan Park near the UIC campus, with all proceeds going to the Matt Isenberg Fund (<http://mattisenbergfund.bbnow.org/>). Mr. Isenberg is a former Northside teacher who is recovering from a traumatic brain injury.

Teachers' Report

- Mrs. Irving's students skyped with field reporters as part of a News Literacy event, providing a good opportunity for students to interact with real reporters about current world issues.
- Teachers from the World Language department are bringing two weeks of French culture to the Northside student population through various displays and activities.
- Teachers are working diligently to help students get into college by writing recommendations; they are currently preparing for the second round of college application deadlines.
- Teachers have hosted numerous observers from local colleges, providing guidance for people who want to become teachers.
- Within the school, there has been a movement toward opening up teachers' practices and increasing intercurricular communication and feedback.
- The administration and faculty are keeping an eye on the Common Core state standards, which are mandatory next year for math and English. How does that affect Northside as a school community? Mr. Albritton reiterated

that the math department is already implementing most of these standards and practices and can be a leader in the CPS community in teaching these standards.

- Union talks are moving in small increments from week to week, including the aforementioned agreement about the longer school day. Although the conflict has officially been resolved, CTU continues to use harsh language, e.g., CPS has “stopped their illegal activity....”
- There has been some discussion about the possibility of the need to prepare for a strike.
- There was a union meeting within the school during which teachers spoke about the limited rights on which the union actually can negotiate: the longer school day, for example, is not negotiable. Teachers can negotiate their salaries, but obviously raises can be taken away. There is lots of frustration, with many people wondering how the union can improve their public relations: the general populace does not understand the long hours and relative low pay of teachers. There is also the pension issue, as the current pension is exposed, financially. A pension reform bill allows employees to have 3 options: pay 9% now and get fewer benefits, increase contribution to 12% to get the same benefits, or invest somewhere else on one’s own. There has been some discussion about allowing Mayor Rahm Emanuel to have representatives on the pension board: this would not bode well for teachers.
- The Common Core standards are state driven, designed for college readiness: it’s a “where do we want to be” kind of document, and financial support is needed for these standards to be implemented systemwide or statewide.

Committee Reports

- Finance Committee / Friends of Northside
 - Friends coordinated a very successful annual appeal, one of the best ever: all calls were made successfully, and there were lots of volunteers. Monetarily, the contributions are ahead of last year at this time. Mr. Rodgers expressed his appreciation.
- The Northside Parent Network
 - There will be a report card pickup question-and-answer period for parents from 4:30-5:30 in second floor atrium; parents from any age group are welcome to bring any questions. The atrium is a better central location as compared with auditorium (which was used last year).
 - The NPN was pleased with the Open House. From the parents’ perspective, it was well organized and proceeded without many delays.
 - There is a need for more volunteers to act as college ambassadors.
 - The student directory is being printed tomorrow at the most reasonable price that could be found. It will be ready for presentation and distribution at report card pickup.
 - There is a need for volunteers for the teacher appreciation holiday breakfast.
 - Mrs. Monnich indicated that an imminent issue is a forthcoming request for some small method of funding for the Parent Network. This year, \$800 was required to print the directory, for example. The Parent Network is looking for some means to offset this type of cost.
 - The Parent Network is looking for committee chairs and also volunteers to be reporters for the EPIC parent newsletter. Between the EPIC and the Hoofbeat, the goal is to get more information out to the parents. The Parent Network is also seeking a connection with a Northside alumnus or with a group of alumnae.
- Community Relations
 - The committee met with Mr. Rodgers on Monday, and they are pleased that he is actively looking for a site to put up a bulletin board inside the school to post information to parents; locations near the front door are being considered.
 - The committee is seeking to publish more information related to events at Northside, including the promotion of plays in neighborhood newspapers, junior highs, etc.
 - The committee is seeking volunteers to bring cookies and answer questions at the parent-to-parent event at report card pickup
 - A parent in the audience questioned why information is received so late, so close to the date of an event; the same parent also questioned why the LSC and other parent organizations, including event volunteers and parents in attendance at sporting events, are not more culturally diverse –

various reasons were discussed, including cultural traditions, transportation issues (some families live very far from the school), and the busy lives that many parents lead.

- The committee will focus on the LSC election in January; they are expecting a December update from Mrs. Kato.
- The goals of the Community Relations committee were presented to the council.

➤ **Principal Selection and Evaluation Committee**

- Kathleen, John, and Barry met to devise a schedule with some enhancements to last year's process, including streamlining the form received by teachers and staff and looking at the schedule so that the LSC receives all the information at least a week before meeting to talk about summary points. A rough schedule will be distributed to members. This year we are looking to change the technology of the process via google docs with the intention of distributing forms by the end of January. Vicky and Robert will work on implementing google docs for the teacher survey and will address security and other issues.
- Other feedback: since we are no longer an AMPS school (the program was discontinued), the availability of outside feedback will change.
- The Principal Selection and Evaluation committee consists of entire LSC.

Old Business:

- On the issue of the appointment of an LSC representative to fill our current vacancy, no candidates have come forward. We do not need an additional member from a quorum perspective. Rather than twisting someone's arm to serve for a few months, the LSC will no longer actively seek a new community representative.

New Business

- Mr. Ceisel has more information on training hours available for mandated LSC training. We may host an inservice if council members are short of hours (6 additional hours of training required). Mrs. Myers Jaffe requested information about other options beyond classes that everyone has already taken. Mr. Ceisel suggested the Catalyst website as a source of alternative options for completing the required number of training hours.

Upcoming Meetings

- Finance Committee: tbd
- Friends of Northside: ??? at 6:30 p.m. in the faculty lounge
- Parent Network: December 1st at 7:00 p.m. in the faculty lounge
- Principal Selection and Evaluation: tbd
- LSC: December 13th

Agenda

To approve the standard agenda (see Motion #4)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. (see **Motion #5**).

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the LSC will be on Tuesday, December 13th, 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 agenda for tonight's LSC 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			
Robert Albritton (teacher)	X			
Nicole Flores (teacher)				X
Barry Rodgers (principal)	X			
Vicky Andrews (staff)	X			
Zobia Chunara (student)	X			
Total	10	0	0	2

Motion #: 2
Motion made by: Robert Albritton
Seconded by: Crystal Melto
Motion: To approve the minutes from last month's meeting (October 11, 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			
Robert Albritton (teacher)	X			
Nicole Flores (teacher)				X
Barry Rodgers (principal)	X			
Vicky Andrews (staff)	X			
Zobia Chunara (student)	X			
Total	9	0	1	2

Motion #: 3
Motion made by: Gail Myers Jaffe
Seconded by: Diane Monnich
Motion: To approve the payment of the school's computer printer contract in the amount of \$11,287.50

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			
Robert Albritton (teacher)	X			
Nicole Flores (teacher)				X
Barry Rodgers (principal)	X			
Vicky Andrews (staff)	X			
Zobia Chunara (student)	X			
Total	10	0	0	2

Motion #: 4
Motion made by: Kathleen Andrade
Seconded by: Gail Myers Jaffe
Motion: To approve the standard agenda for next month's 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			
Robert Albritton (teacher)	X			
Nicole Flores (teacher)				X
Barry Rodgers (principal)	X			
Vicky Andrews (staff)	X			
Zobia Chunara (student)	X			
Total	10	0	0	2

Motion #: 5
Motion made by: Crystal Melto
Seconded by: Kathleen Andrade
Motion: To adjourn the LSC meeting at 8:50 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			
Robert Albritton (teacher)	X			
Nicole Flores (teacher)				X
Barry Rodgers (principal)	X			
Vicky Andrews (staff)	X			
Zobia Chunara (student)	X			
Total	10	0	0	2