



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
October 11, 2011

Commencement

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by John Ceisel.

Present: John Ceisel, Kathleen Andrade, Vicki McMannon, Barry Rodgers, Crystal Melto, Cathy Quigley, Robert Albritton, Nicole Flores, Vicky Andrews, Zobia Chunara

Absent: Diane Monnich, Gail Myers Jaffe

Guests: Ed Cook, Denise Illing, Leona Bernauer, Erik Howenstine, Gloria Gupta, Dr. Murphy

Approval of Agenda

- The agenda was modified to include discussion about a new LSC community representative under New Business.
- **To approve the modified agenda for tonight's meeting (see Motion #1)**

Approval of Minutes

To approve the minutes from the previous meeting on September 6, 2011 (see Motion #2)

Communications

- Mr. Ceisel reported that there were no communications other than LSC advisory board information included in council members' packets.

Student's Report

- Several Northside seniors are part of the Chicago Scholars program; there was a rush to submit essays and applications by the October deadline.
- I-nite practices and auditions by various dance groups, as well as conditioning and tryouts for winter sports teams, are ongoing
- The school paper is covering the presentation of the Blue Ribbon Award to Northside. October 27th tickets to the Blue Man Group have been given to the school by CPS: there will be a raffle to choose individual ticket winners.
- NHS members will be volunteering at Northside's Open House on October 23rd.
- The Hallowe'en music concert, featuring members of the orchestra and choir, will be held on October 27th.

- Students are looking forward to upcoming visits from college representatives, and to the approaching 3-day weeks.

Principal's Report

- Northside will upgrade the school's security cameras under a sealed bid process (which has already begun); this will be an expensive undertaking that will occur as a process over an extended period of time.
- The Celestial Garden was opened with a wonderful ceremony attended by former administrators, teachers, the alderman, and others. Mr. Rodgers included a brochure from the ceremony in the council members' packets.
- The theme for this year's Colloquium is the Celestial Garden. This will be represented in some all-school events, including workshops and storytelling to give students an understanding and appreciation of cultural astronomy on October 19th, and a visit to the Planetarium in March to learn and apply scientific astronomy.
- The extended school day is a hot issue in the media and in the schools: on Friday a letter was distributed to students in which schools chief Jean-Claude Brizzard set forth a rationale for an extended school day, recommending an extended school day and requesting parent input. Mr. Rodgers encouraged parents to provide input; he indicated that the new administration is listening to the school community's opinions and concerns.
- The Student Council proposed some ideas on how to proceed when the new, longer school day is mandated; some feel that students are already working to their limits, suggesting an extended colloquium, flex time, or study time. Ultimately there will be a contract which will be binding, but with input we can hopefully make it work for Northside.
- The letter from Mr. Brizzard is also posted on the school website; the focus on an extended day for the high schools is for next school year, not this school year. To date, there is no agreed-upon definition of the extended day. The current proposal 8-3:30 for elementary schools is a school day from 8:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m., including recess and enrichment activities.
- Requests from Friends of Northside total \$27,494 including a utility vehicle, or \$12,050 without a utility vehicle. The vehicle is a Gator which Mick uses to attach a plow for snow removal and to move the irrigation system and other equipment around the school grounds.
- Vicki says that Friends has the funds to meet these requests.
- **To approve the expenditure of \$27,494, with funds obtained from Friends of Northside (see Motion #3)**
- A new staff member was hired today: Gigi Santil. She will be a child welfare attendant in Special Ed replacing Eva Yates, who is leaving for medical reasons.
- 100 free tickets for the Blue Man Group were given to the Blue Ribbon school (Northside!); there will be a raffle with equal numbers of tickets awarded per grade level to students.
- Nordstrom's presented a \$10,000 scholarship to a Northside student to use at any school he chooses; he also received a brand new MacBook Air. His parents were present when the award was presented in his chemistry class.
- Mr. Rodgers is continually proud of the service of our students and community, referring to work done behind the school, including garden cultivation. The food depository reported that over 70 pounds of fresh produce and leafy greens were donated by Northside last month.
- Representatives from Prague (in the Czech Republic), including high school principals, will be visiting Northside tomorrow afternoon. They are seeking a better understanding of American schools, and are

visiting one school in addition to Northside. This visit is evidence of Northside's continuing global community outreach.

Public comment

- Mrs. Bernauer reported on some of the activities of the Parent Network. The group recently hosted an international potluck which had over 70 people in attendance, including many freshman parents.
- The e-mail blasting system is working well: there has been better meeting attendance this year.
- Communications and data base work is continuing, and concerns have been raised about the cost of printing the parent directory: in the future, should the cost be added to student fees, or should the directory be posted online, password protected? If the directory was posted online, it would have to be housed separately, not on the school website, and then linked. Another option would be to e-mail a pdf through an e-mail blast to both parents and also students, and print some copies for those parents who require a hard copy – privacy issues, and other concerns about accessibility were raised. Another suggestion was to solicit parents to see if anyone has access to a printing company which might donate its services. Finally, a suggestion was made to ask parents to make a voluntary donation when they pick up a copy of the directory at report card pickup.

Teachers' Report

- Mr. Yanek received a \$750,000 grant for computer science curriculum development throughout the city; Mr. Yanek is the co-principal investigator, working with university professors. This is the first time NSF has awarded a grant for a teacher-led program.
- Last week, the faculty attended a presentation about homeless students and learned how to recognize the signs of homelessness, what to look for in students and how to help. Teachers gained a new awareness and understanding about services available for these students at Northside.
- Tutoring programs have all started up (for example, in math, science, and the writing center).
- Teachers are meeting deadlines for writing college recommendations for seniors; freshmen teachers are working to focus the energy of their new high school students.
- Ms. Volesky turned an animal rescue into a learning opportunity for students, modeling environmentally friendly ways to deal with wildlife. Some bunnies were stranded around the school, and Ms. Volesky found an organization called Red Door to find "foster" homes for the animals.
- Northside teachers are very involved with student teachers and other observers from universities.
- Homelessness is an issue citywide, and every school has some number of students from the homeless population.
- When asked about the pulse of the CTU, Mr. Albritton responded that he had no idea....
- In response to a question about the Common Core Standards – an attempt to "all speak the same language" and unify curriculum throughout the country, Mr. Albritton responded that the math curriculum very well positioned to meet these standards, providing another opportunity for leadership at Northside.
- Ms. Volesky and Dr. Vites have left to receive a science education award in California; more information will be forthcoming next month, after they have accepted the award.

Committee Reports

- Finance Committee / Friends of Northside
 - The annual appeal mail has been delivered, with a very nice response so far.
 - The phone-a-thon is scheduled for the 25th and 26th of October and the 1st and 2nd of November; help is requested – a script, phone numbers, and names are provided; callers also confirm data base information. The hours are 6:00-8:30 p.m.; the phones are in the main office.
 - The data base seems to be very current, only missing 10 freshmen e-mail addresses, and there has been no returned mail from annual appeal.
 - Ray Ritter is the new vice president of Friends (the succession plan is in motion!)
 - Mrs. McMannon presented the Finance Committee's goals to the council.
- The Northside Parent Network
 - The printing of the directory and the Open House event are imminent. Approximately 70 volunteers are needed for Open House, and about half this number has already signed up. Parking for volunteers may be available at Jamieson School or on Kedzie.
 - At report card pickup, a question-and-answer period for parents of college-bound students will be conducted during the evening, and possibly again on College Night.
- Community Relations
 - The committee's goals have been printed, and are very similar to last year's goals. The committee will meet before next LSC meeting to see if additional goals are required.
 - E-mail blast requests must be submitted no later than Thursday evening before the week they are to be forwarded.
 - Mrs. Melto will meet with Ms. Kato to make arrangements to publicize the LSC elections to reach the goal of a fully contested election (not a stated goal of the committee at this time). Mr. Ceisel did mention the upcoming LSC election at a Parent Network meeting.
- Principal Selection and Evaluation Committee
 - The committee has not met, and a timeline needs to be distributed soon.
 - Mrs. Andrade and Mr. Ceisel will communicate via e-mail before the next LSC meeting.

Old Business: none

New Business

- The LSC must use \$200 provided by CPS to defray educational or material costs related to LSC meetings or activities.
- **To give the \$200 provided by CPS to the school to pay for photocopies for meetings, etc. (see Motion #4)**
- A new Northside LSC community member is needed – Meredith O'Connor has tendered her resignation. The council has the option to fill the position or not. In the past, candidates were solicited for vacancies, and, if there was more than one candidate, they were given the opportunity to present their positions at an open meeting. Then, a public vote was conducted to choose a candidate to appoint to the council.
- Northside parents and CPS employees are not eligible. Mrs. Melto has nomination forms; these must be completed, even if they were filled out previously.
- Some discussion ensued about how to publicize the vacancy: local newspapers, the alderman's office, the school website, and/or an e-mail blast to parents and alumni.

- **To actively seek candidates to fill the vacant LSC community representative position** (see **Motion #5**)
- Mrs. Melto will send an e-mail blast and check paperwork to see what comes in, with the goal of selecting a new member at our next meeting on November 8th. Submissions must be received by Ms. Kato by November 1st. If required, the candidates' forum will be held at the LSC's November 8th meeting. Each candidate will be given 3 minutes to speak.
- **To approve the procedures described above for the appointment of a community representative to the Northside LSC** (see **Motion #6**)
- This item will be added to the November agenda under OLD business.

Upcoming Meetings

- Finance Committee: to be determined
- Friends of Northside: October 17th at 6:30 p.m. in the faculty lounge
- Parent Network: November 3rd at 7:00 p.m. in the faculty lounge
- Principal Selection and Evaluation: not scheduled
- LSC: November 8th

Agenda

To approve the pro forma agenda, with the addition of one item under Old Business (the appointment of a new LSC community representative), for next month's meeting (see **Motion #7**)

Adjournment

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

Next Meeting

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

Motion #: 1
Motion made by: Kathleen Andrade
Seconded by: Nicole Flores
Motion: To approve the modified 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: Kathleen Andrade
Seconded by: Vicki McMannon
Motion: To approve the minutes from last month's meeting (September 6, 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	10	0	0	2

Motion #: 3
Motion made by: Vicki McMannon
Seconded by: Crystal Melto
Motion: To approve the expenditure of \$27,494, with funds obtained from Friends of Northside

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: Vicki McMannon
Seconded by: Vicky Andrews
Motion: To give the \$200 provided by CPS to the school to pay for photocopies for meetings, etc.

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: Cathy Quigley
Seconded by: Robert Albritton
Motion: To actively seek candidates to fill the vacant LSC community representative position

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 #: 6
Motion made by: Vicki McMannon
Seconded by: Nicole Flores
Motion: To approve the procedures described in the minutes for the appointment of a community representative to the Northside LSC

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 #: 7
Motion made by: Nicole Flores
Seconded by: Vicki McMannon
Motion: To approve the pro forma agenda, with the addition of one item under Old Business (the appointment of a new LSC community representative), 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 #: 8
Motion made by: Kathleen Andrade
Seconded by: Nicole Flores
Motion: To adjourn the LSC meeting at 8:30 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