



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

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John Ceisel  
*Chair*

Kathleen Andrade  
*Vice Chair*

Cathy Quigley  
*Secretary*

**Local School Council Minutes**  
**September 6, 2011**

**Commencement**

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

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

**Guests:** Ed Cook, Leona Bernauer, Mary Alice Strzalka, Eric Moulton, Faith Spencer, Pam Rule, Carlos Pineda, Sue Mellin, Denise Illing, Tony Casella, Millie Rey, Jim Deloye, Lydia Bologna, Maggie O'Brien, Dr. Murphy

**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 meeting on July 12, 2011 (**see Motion #2**)

**Communications**

- Mr. Ceisel reported that the liaison between CPS and the Local School Councils has been diligently e-mailing information to the Chairperson, which he has been disseminating to the council, also via e-mail.
- The LSC has received a Request for Funding Proposal to be visited later in the meeting.

**Student's Report**

- There is not much to report, since it is the first day of school.
- The first issue of the school paper came out today.
- Upcoming events include Back to School Night and Explore testing.
- Some disappointment has been expressed by students about various classes not being held this year due to budget and personnel cuts.

**Principal's Report**

- Mr. Rodgers presented Northside AP data, including AP scores for the last two years; our school is doing well in terms of both numbers of students participating and also scores earned.

- Question: Will changes in programming impact AP testing results? There is a smaller senior class compared to last year, but there should not really be a major difference in the number of students taking AP tests (approximately 1300, with students taking multiple tests).
- ACT data for the school was released very recently; the report includes national / state / school trends; this year Northside students earned an average composite score of 29.2; there was a slight decrease in English and some improvement in math and science scores.
- Programming changes implemented this year include department chairs giving up some prep time to teach classes; 11 academic sections were lost, including 5 in physical education.
- Programs lost this year include physical education electives, the SEED class, and some German language courses (this year's classes are only for continuing students).
- There has been an increase in average class size this year from 23 per class to 26-27 per class, but class sizes vary according to subject: music (31), physical education (40), math / science (28).
- The impact of budget and personnel cuts and programming changes has been minimal, but there is some additional stress for the school and staff with larger class sizes and less prep time; everyone is adjusting to the "new normal" – still looking forward to a great year at Northside College Prep.
- A \$6500 grant was received from Google to start a technology team; two colloquia will compete by building robots; there will be an opportunity to compete locally and at the national level if successful.
- There is a new CPS Chief Educational Officer, Noemi Donoso, and a new area chief for the north – northwest side network – Leslie Boozer (we are no longer an AMPS school); the network includes Walter Payton, Mather, Lane, Senn, Taft, Von Steuben, and Roosevelt.
- A change in philosophy at CPS seeks to make schools more autonomous, accountable, and supported.
- There are currently 19 area offices, down from 24.
- Mr. Rodgers has attended meetings with network officers, with all schools and the new CEO, and with a smaller cohort of schools.
- The Celestial Garden is nearing completion; there will be a ribbon-cutting event on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. This project has been ongoing for the past 10 years and can serve as an outdoor classroom with benches covered with tile mosaics created by students from every graduating class of Northside in the school's history. Dr. Lalley and Alderman O'Connor will be present at the ceremony at 9:04 p.m. on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, the autumnal equinox.
- Extended Day: CPS proposes currently adding 90 minutes to the school day at elementary schools (45 minutes lunch or recess, additional arts and technology programming). \$75,000 per semester is being awarded to schools who adopt the program. One sticking point is the need to work with the Chicago Teachers Union to reach an agreement. The ultimate goal is to increase the school day for both elementary and high schools. In the past, the disposition of the district has been to encourage more independent work (not more hours in school) as students matriculate through elementary and secondary education.
- Mr. Rodgers presented his Friends of Northside requests for the 2011-2012 school year, with anticipated disbursements to be requested at different times throughout the year.
- To approve requests for disbursements from Friends of Northside funds for the 2011-2012 school year (**see Motion #3**)
- Funds requested for Athletics are for officials' fees and equipment, not for transportation.
- The irrigation system is needed to improve the back of the school, including gardening and other green initiatives, such as the prairie and the celestial garden. Irrigation is required from Bryn Mawr to the bus terminal, including the soccer field.
- The facilities position refers to a person who helps book events in the school, generating over \$100,000 in receipts from other organizations which use the pool and theater. Bill Miller is still in that position. In addition to his salary, an estimate of costs for other personnel required on outside event days totals \$25,000 for engineers, cleaning staff, and security.
- The operations budget allocated by CPS to Northside has not changed since 1999; this money will run out by the end of September and is intended for the purchase of cleaning supplies and broken machine parts and the replacement of machines or equipment. Preventive costs must be subsidized to minimize more costly repairs or replacement; the total amount requested is just under \$30,000 for the year.
- The Wellness Center includes a social worker to help students who are injured or who are in need (suffering from stress, for example); private counseling is provided, free of charge, to students.
- The request for funding for the Celestial Garden covers the costs for various plantings around the garden.
- Some funding requests have been put off for a few months because of cash flow concerns before Friends completes their fundraising drive.

- The Celestial Garden costs will be reimbursed by the city because of a grant awarded to Northside last year with a total of about \$180,000 coming from the city's river beautification program.
- Northside's academic curriculum must be shown to meet the common core standards adopted for English and mathematics. 45 out of 50 states have adopted educational standards, not prescriptive methods of teaching, to insure that students are college and career ready. Mr. Albritton states that there will not be a great change to Northside's math curriculum at all because the foundation of the standards remains closely aligned to IMP standards.
- Mr. Rodgers represented Northside in Banff Canada at a summit on education in America and the global economy. The meeting included members of Congress and other leaders and reaffirmed the important work that is done in selective enrollment schools.
- Everything went smoothly for the first day of school, including counseling, technology, drop off, teaching, and programming.
- The current freshman class enrollment is 273 (4 no-shows today) – 1 student chose to attend Willows Academy.
- The total school enrollment is currently at 1060; the desired enrollment is 1075. No additional students are expected; one student transferred into Northside from St. Louis.

### **Public comment**

- A parent asked Mr. Rodgers to specify the number of the positions that were cut in each department: 4 teaching positions were lost, with one each in world languages, physical education, social studies, and English.
- Mr. Devine and Mr. Belcaster moved to Walter Payton, and Mr. Good was retained in the social studies department, maintaining two sections of AP government and introducing three sections of AP human geography. Mr. Sliwicki is teaching AP microeconomics and one section of Spanish.

### **Teachers' Report**

- Last week there was a 3-day transition into the new year hosted by Mr. Rodgers and Dr. Murphy. The theme was Journey to the Stars and included activities in the celestial garden, a visit to the Adler Planetarium, individual curriculum meetings considering the common core standards and their impact on courses here at Northside, department meetings, PLC's, and goal-setting activities.
- The Latin team has had continued phenomenal success under the guidance of sponsor Mr. Niphong. Northside fall sports teams are practicing, including girls' swimming, girls' volleyball, and boys' soccer.
- Many teachers attended Snake Road.
- Teachers spent the summer preparing for new courses (students received different schedules throughout the summer).
- Mrs. Flanagan worked on Northside's entry in the poetry competition, Louder than a Bomb (Northside is the only high school team).
- The Chicago Teachers Union is not particularly happy with pressure from CPS; the union is letting teachers know what their rights are, encouraging them to vote "no" on increasing the length of the school day. Three schools have broken ranks to vote to increase instructional time; other teachers feel they have been pushed to their limits already. Media interviews with Brizzard and Lewis reflect very political battle that is taking place. Teachers are angry, but many are not sure if it is worthwhile to re-open the contract. After the recent passage of a law in Springfield, 75% of CTU membership must approve a strike.
- In response to a question about the tablet cohort, there are 61 students participating. The school purchased new netbook-like tablets and conducted training during the last two weeks of August. There was a positive response today from teachers and students.

## Committee Reports

- Committees should be in place before the next LSC meeting.
- Finance Committee / Friends of Northside
  - There are no updates from the Finance Committee.
  - The first Friends meeting is next week (September 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m., same evening as Back to School Night) – some new parents have joined the Board, but one more freshman parent is still needed.
  - The fall appeal kickoff will take place around the first of October; the letter is being written; LSC members and Parent Network board members are encouraged to participate in the phone campaign.
- The Northside Parent Network
  - The first NPN meeting is this Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
  - There is a new leadership structure this year, with a president and vice president and secretary; a new committee has been formed to involve more people and delegate more responsibility.
  - The committee will work with the LSC Community Relations Committee to update data bases: attempt to coordinate data bases of the school, the Parent Network, and Friends; input incoming freshman updates with help from Dr. Murphy; reconcile 30 families currently without e-mails (they are being contacted to see if e-mails can be obtained); establish a process to incorporate new data as it comes in.
  - A new parent is handling the e-blast system this year; the committee is still looking for more tech-savvy parent volunteers.
- Community Relations
  - It was suggested that the Community Relations Committee can deliver e-mail blast information regarding LSC meetings and activities, and work toward the goal for a contested LSC election in all areas in the spring.
- Principal Selection and Evaluation Committee
  - The committee is streamlining the process for this year.
  - There are no meetings scheduled at this time.

## New Business

- The LSC must discuss alternatives for the use of \$200 allocated for the council for training materials or any reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in performance of LSC duties. This item will be included on the LSC meeting agenda for next month under New Business, at which time a Request for Proposal will be solicited.

## Upcoming Meetings

- Finance Committee: not scheduled (sometime in October)
- Friends of Northside: September 13<sup>th</sup>
- Parent Network: September 8<sup>th</sup>
- Principal Selection and Evaluation: not scheduled
- LSC: October 11<sup>th</sup>

## **Agenda**

To approve the standard agenda, with the addition of one item under New Business, for next month's meeting (see **Motion #4**)

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. (see **Motion #5**).

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the LSC will be on Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. in the faculty lunchroom. Public participation is welcome.

**Motion #:** 1  
**Motion made by:** Vicki McMannon  
**Seconded by:** Gail Myers Jaffe  
**Motion:** To approve the agenda for tonight's 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			
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			
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

**Motion #:** 2  
**Motion made by:** Robert Albritton  
**Seconded by:** Meredith O'Connor  
**Motion:** To approve the minutes from last month's meeting (July 12, 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			
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	
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>

**Motion #:** 3  
**Motion made by:** Vicki McMannon  
**Seconded by:** Crystal Melto  
**Motion:** To approve disbursement requests to Friends of Northside for the 2011-2012 school year

**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			
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			
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Motion #:** 4  
**Motion made by:** Gail Myers Jaffe  
**Seconded by:** Kathleen Andrade  
**Motion:** To approve the standard agenda, with the addition of one New Business item, for the LSC's next meeting in October

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			
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			
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Motion #:** 5  
**Motion made by:** Gail Myers Jaffe  
**Seconded by:** Robert Albritton and Nicole Flores  
**Motion:** To adjourn the LSC meeting at 8:15 p.m.

**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			
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			
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>