



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

Kathleen Andrade  
*Vice Chair*

Cathy Quigley  
*Secretary*

**Local School Council Minutes**  
**February 21, 2012**

**Commencement**

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

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

**Absent:** Vicki McMannon, Vicky Andrews

**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 January 10, 2012 (see Motion #2)**

**Communications**

Announcement: still seeking new candidates for LSC; applications are available from Mrs. Kato in the counseling office and are due for submission by March 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Student's Report**

- International Day and Night events were very successful and well attended; there was a full house in the auditorium for I-nite.
- The Black Student Union showcase will be featured on an upcoming colloquium day.
- LSC applications for a student representative are also available; they must be submitted to Mrs. Kato by March 8<sup>th</sup>.
- The annual NHS 3-on-3 basketball tournament will take place on March 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Sports teams: boys swim team took 2nd place at the city conference championships; the chess team earned 5th place at the IHSA state tournament.
- Juniors are currently registering for courses and looking for internships and scholarships.
- The current journalism staff is looking for juniors to continue work on the school newspaper through next year.
- The musical will be performed next month.

- The student council is looking into the possibility of having a coffee dispenser for students at Northside next year.

## Principal's Report

- **To approve expenditures from Friends of Northside funds in the amount of \$9,000 for athletics** as anticipated in budget previously presented to the LSC (see **Motion #3**)
- Updates from CPS at a meeting today
  - There will be added assessments administered beginning this year in March: common core assessments will yield baseline data to assess alignment to Illinois Common Core standards, at least for freshmen through juniors.
  - Tests will be administered electronically; Northside's hardware availability is better than some schools which will face challenges during the process of administering these assessments.
  - The added assessments are intended to evaluate where the students of each school are in terms of development in specific academic areas, and to support goal setting. CPS students' progress will be measured throughout the year, three times per year. One advantage is the generation, receipt, and analysis of data more times in a year. Logistically, students will probably take these tests during math, English, and science classes. This year these tests will be considered "transitional assessment" in English, reading, math, and science.
  - EPAS (Educational Planning and Assessment System, including Prairie State and ACT exams) will be administered at the beginning of the year and at the end of the year
- Admissions
  - Mr. Rodgers has not yet received information from CPS regarding admissions statistics.
  - Northside will be participating once again in an NCLB process, as we did two years ago.
  - The tier process remains in practice; special education admission policies and principal discretion remain unchanged from last year.
  - Approximately 14 NCLB students are expected, but with no additional funding provided as before. Annual yearly progress schools are participating in this program: 5 schools, all selective enrollment. Students do not know the results of the admission process as yet: they did not receive their letters.
  - The NCLB students all sat for the exam. 15 students were originally admitted to Northside through the NCLB program two years ago; now 12 of these students remain at Northside.
- The system map changed because the census changed – that is a CPS decision.
- 270 students are expected for next year's incoming freshman class at Northside (more than some previous years, less than others).
- Next month: the Shooting for the Stars gala will take place on Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Students will visit the Adler Planetarium for presentations on scientific aspects of astronomy, continuing the celestial garden colloquium theme (breaking down walls of classroom, using the city as a resource during colloquium).
- A state grant for \$25,000 for capital improvements will be used to resurface and reline the parking lot. Ira Silverstein is the state senator who initiated this grant on our behalf, with the support of other local officials.
- Northside is currently researching a new program to be implemented potentially at our school and other schools.

- The research compares Advanced Placement courses to a college bridge program in cooperation with some of the city colleges.
  - This program is being considered for implementation not next school year, but the following school year (2013-2014).
  - Students would receive college credit for these classes. Either one or the other for each subject would be offered: AP or college credit, not both.
  - Northside continues to research and investigate to determine the benefits and disadvantages of either option. CPS has already implemented this program, and some schools have already signed on for next year. The option was offered to all North side schools in our network.
  - There is also the possibility of establishing partnerships with other institutions of higher learning in addition to the Chicago City Colleges (for example, IIT, through Mr. Yanek).
- Calendar for next year: there is no calendar for next year as yet, but it is expected in the next couple of weeks. Mr. Rodgers has no comment on rumors about adding school days next year.
  - New proposal for extended school day: a handout distributed by Mr. Rodgers outlines an 8:00-3:30 school day (7.5 hours as mandated, including 276 minutes teaching and 368 minutes of instruction for all students). A newly created academic advisory counts as instructional time because of the informational content.
  - Academic advisory discussion: what will the new advisory period be like? Current advisors will be responsible for distributing information to students. Students will be in their advisories only one period per week, but it will be for a longer duration than the current advisory period
  - X-Y-Z discussion
    - Students can have choices, but the administration will need to be creative to insure that students are accounted for and supervised.
    - Math tables will still be offered after school.
    - The load needs to be balanced for teachers and students alike.
    - Students can learn scheduling skills through this new Wednesday schedule. Time management skills can be gained through this process, as students choose activities versus study halls and make difficult choices. Personal wellness activities are an option (physical education teachers will supervise); coaches may be allowed to start practices early during the Z block. The Student Council approves of the new proposal, given the CPS constraints.
  - Northside will submit the proposed schedule on February 24. It should be approved by the network on March 15, and then it must be approved by CPS at the May board meeting (CPS will approve proposals on a school-by-school basis). The process will be more challenging for schools who have never utilized creative scheduling
  - Northside applied to the Green Schools Initiative, sponsored by Arne Duncan, to become an Exemplary Green School; Ms. Volesky, Mr. Tabora, and representatives from Urban Habitat put together the application.

## **Public Comment**

- A Northside student (Nick, Co-President of German Club and current German student) spoke to the LSC about the issue of discontinuing the German program at Northside. Current students would like to continue the German program for next year. Options discussed include trying to secure funding and a teacher to come in for one class, or providing an opportunity for students to learn German, but not for credit. Students might be willing to pay for a teacher; other options might be independent study for students or an online German class.

- Nick and other students are seeking an open dialogue about the future of the program. Financial constraints and budget cuts have necessitated a combined class of German 3, 4, and AP students, compromising the learning process: none of the groups get all of the attention they need. According to Nick, there is a 100% interest in continuing to the next level. Frau Appel is retiring at the end of this year. Incoming freshmen students and others are trying to assemble 28 students to continue the program. They have explored self study or an online (virtual) course, and are asking for help with fundraisers or re-allocation of discretionary funds. Questions for the LSC: what is the most feasible option? Do you have other suggestions?
- Response: there has been and continues to be a good dialogue, but regretfully, the facts are the facts. 7 staff member cuts necessitate ramifications. The German class is a vestige of the way things used to be, when a school budget could sustain a class of 10 students. Mr. Rodgers agrees that the current students are at a disadvantage; he had discussed this with Frau Appel as soon as he knew the situation, and the current process was her suggestion (bringing students up, combining levels). The plan for next year was to cut the program, but a virtual high school class is an option. There is some trepidation on the part of students faced with learning without a teacher and also not feeling prepared for the AP exam or for college. Financially, sustaining the program is not feasible at this time; a half-time teacher costs \$40,000 with benefits. Other options, including a virtual class plus tutor, are possible (we have other Illinois Virtual School classes), but we still need staffing and funding for staffing. All 24 students are current sophomores or juniors in German 3 or 4 and would be continuing with German 4 and AP; LSC response: we cannot commit until we know the real cuts (budget and staffing) that are going to take place, so right now students should just explore options that would fit into the current schedule. Note: if something was arranged for coursework in another school building during colloquium or after school, students would have to arrange their own transportation
- Mrs. Melto suggested that losing the German program could also affect the exchange student program at Northside. It was noted that there are several cooperative relationships in place with other countries at this time, including the Czech Republic and Korea. Northside families could still host German students, even if the language is no longer taught at Northside, through a German club or colloquium.
- Another parent commented that, simply stated, there are not enough students to support the program.
- Parent comment: the German program really needs to be continued for the next two years, and we should do it. Mr. Rodgers responded that he just cannot make that work financially at this time. He indicated that he has heard no negative fallout from students applying to college after the Korean program was cut.
- Question: will students get credit for taking German 2 over the summer to prepare for German 3? Students thought they were getting credit, but that was not Mr. Rodgers' understanding – he will check with Frau Appel.
- The Chicago City Colleges program described by Mr. Rodgers would be offered free of charge to students.
- Mrs. Bernauer reported that the Parent Network will be delivering the petition protesting the longer school day at the CPS board meeting tomorrow. Two other schools also support an exemption: Taft and Whitney Young. Other schools support the longer school day (e.g., Jones).
- There are 2254 signatures on the petition. The petition was written to explain the reasoning behind the request for an exemption, asking CPS to keep and maintain Northside's program in its current form.
- The Reach for the Stars gala is on March 9th; the invitations have been sent. More invitations are available. Donations are being accepted until February 24 (this Friday).

## Teachers' Report

- The last couple of weeks have been focused on discussion and concern about the new schedule; teachers are committed to finding the best fit by meeting requirements while still achieving balance for teachers and students alike. Time spent by teachers on instructional planning will be compromised by the current proposals. From the teachers' perspective, CPS is asking for major change, but not providing support for the change, so far.
- Several Northside faculty families have had children in the last month.

## Committee Reports

➤ **Friends:** next meeting on Thursday, February 23rd

➤ **Parent Network:**

- Mrs. Bernauer is trying to get bilingual families to volunteer at Northside – she tried to get additional recruits at I-Nite. The Parent Network received positive feedback from parents about the translations provided at I-Nite.
- As mentioned previously, the petition requesting an exemption to the longer school day mandate will be presented tomorrow morning at CPS.
- The Reach for the Stars gala is next month.
- College Fair Night is on April 16th.
- There are many events this year, and the Parent Network has a good board.
- Students made origami flowers for each locker for Staff Appreciation Day. (Dr. Murphy mentioned how grateful the staff was for the Staff Appreciation activities.)

➤ **Community Relations**

- The Parent Network and Friends ordered a bulletin board where meeting agendas and other communications can be posted. Parent and community groups have been working on this for a long time. Postings will be allowed by any Northside organization other than the school itself.
- Regarding I-nite and getting more volunteers... The Community Relations committee asked for more materials to be translated in a variety of languages, including information about Friends, Parent Network, LSC, chaperoning, and other volunteer opportunities. Mrs. Monnich directly approached parents at I-Nite, but more students and friends were in attendance than parents (75-100 parents present, about 4 signed up, even with translations)
- Disturbing data regarding the number of people who receive e-mail blasts as compared to those who actually look at them: sadly, 500 out of 900 even open the e-mail. Next year, will the Parent Network have a parent editor to do the EPIC – if no one cares to read it, then is it worth the effort to produce it? Weekly blasts already require a great deal of effort: perhaps they should be published less frequently.
- Dr. Murphy's weekly blast is only for faculty and staff – another parent has been going through them to choose what could be disseminated to the parents, as well. There are multiple sources of information, but limited resources. Teachers have really helped by forwarding information that they would like to share.
- Shortage of candidates for upcoming LSC election: according to Mrs. Kato, as of one week ago only 2 people had picked up papers to apply for next year; we need to get the word out, between Parent Network, Community Relations, and Friends to solicit parents to run; Mrs. Melto would like to post a notice in the school building to publicize the opportunity to run for the LSC.
- The candidates' forum is on Thursday, March 22nd, which is also the first day of the play: should we change the date to the Monday before or the Monday after? Can we put the candidates' statements online, in addition to hosting the public forum? People coming to see the candidates might be conflicted if they want to attend the musical. Decision: since the forum date has already been published, no change will be made. The forum will be in the school library to avoid any disturbance with the school play.

### **Principal Selection and Evaluation:**

- The next Principal Selection and Evaluation committee meeting will be in faculty lunchroom on February 28, one week from today, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Committee members should review, internalize, and be ready to discuss information e-mailed by Mr. Ceisel. The committee thanked Mr. Rodgers for his presentation last week

### **Old Business:**

[none]

### **New Business**

[none]

### **Upcoming Meetings**

- Finance committee: [none]
- Friends of Northside: February 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Parent Network: March 1<sup>st</sup>
- Principal Selection and Evaluation: February 28<sup>th</sup>
- LSC: March 13<sup>th</sup>

### **Agenda**

**To approve the standard agenda (see Motion #4)**

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m. (see **Motion #5**).

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the LSC will be on Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> 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 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
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>0</b>	<b>3</b>

**Motion #:** 2  
**Motion made by:** Gail Myers Jaffe  
**Seconded by:** Crystal Melto  
**Motion:** To approve the minutes from last month's meeting (January 10, 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			
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			
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>

**Motion #:** 3  
**Motion made by:** Crystal Melto  
**Seconded by:** Cathy Quigley  
**Motion:** To approve expenditures from Friends of Northside funds in the amount of \$9,000 for athletics

**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
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>0</b>	<b>3</b>

**Motion #:** 4  
**Motion made by:** Nicole Flores  
**Seconded by:** Kathleen Andrade  
**Motion:** To approve the standard agenda for next month'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			
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			
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>

**Motion #:** 5  
**Motion made by:** Kathleen Andrade  
**Seconded by:** Crystal Melto  
**Motion:** To adjourn the LSC meeting at 8:49 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			
Robert Albritton (teacher)	X			
Nicole Flores (teacher)	X			
Barry Rodgers (principal)	X			
Vicky Andrews (staff)				X
Zobia Chunara (student)	X			
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>