



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

Kathleen Andrade  
*Vice Chair*

Cathy Quigley  
*Secretary*

**Local School Council Minutes**  
**January 10, 2012**

**Commencement**

The meeting was called to order at 7:13 p.m. by John Ceisel.

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

**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 December 13, 2011 with the following amendment: include the schedule of meetings of the Principal Selection and Evaluation Committee (see Motion #2)**

**Communications**

- The LSC historically has provided a donation to the live auction as part of the Gala event; Mr. Ceisel received correspondence from the event committee inquiring whether the LSC would like to participate again this year.
- CPS forwarded proposed Facility Performance Standards to all LSC members; there will be a public hearing to discuss these standards at CPS (125 S. Clark St.) on March 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.
- All existing members of any public body, including CPS LSC members, must complete online training on the Open Meetings Act. The link to the training for both the OMA and also the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) is on the Illinois Attorney General's website at <http://foia.ilattorneygeneral.net/Default.aspx>.

**Student's Report**

- Seniors: college applications are mostly complete; students are still applying for scholarships.
- Homecoming events this week include the pep rally tomorrow, Pack the Gym Night tomorrow evening, and the Homecoming dance on Friday; Spirit Week includes today's event, "8th grade swag."
- I-day (February 8th) and I-nite (February 10th) take place next month.
- Semester final exams begin later this month on January 24<sup>th</sup>.
- On January 18<sup>th</sup>, there will be an extended school day forum for parents at Northside. The Leadership Committee and the Student Council have already met with Mr. Rodgers. Student Council members have been asked to obtain

student input and will meet with advisories to get feedback. Decisions must be made and proposals must be presented on how to divide up the mandated 7 ½-hour school day for next school year.

## Principal's Report

- Most people reported that they had a great break. In light of the many changes implemented this school year, morale remains good overall; students have been working hard and deserved the much needed break
- Homecoming week events include spirit days, activities organized by the pep club, and the efforts of the dance committee, all contributing to school spirit and a festive atmosphere.
- Academic programming for next year is underway. Counselors have met with juniors and will meet with freshmen and sophomores. The school philosophy is to promote balance: students should be preparing for college but also having a fulfilling high school experience.
- **To approve expenditures from Friends of Northside funds in the amount of \$5,000 for professional development** (see **Motion #3**)
- Discussion about extending the school day: the administration has already met with the Leadership Team, the Student Council, and the faculty, and will meet with parents on January 18<sup>th</sup>. By February 13<sup>th</sup> the school must present a draft proposal to CPS; any decision ultimately made (in May) will also be subject to the collective bargaining agreement between CPS and staff, especially with regard to funding issues.
- CPS parameters:
  - Students will be in school 450 minutes (7 ½ hours) per day:
    - 368 minutes of instruction
    - 46 minutes of lunch
    - 36 minutes of passing and entry
  - Teachers will be on site for 7 hours and 40 minutes per day
    - 46-minute duty-free lunch and 92 minutes of planning time (46 of these minutes will be principal-directed).
    - 36 minutes supervision of student passing and entry
- CPS has enlisted support from the National Center on Time and Learning to help schools creatively and constructively plan the new, longer school day. Their website is [www.timeandlearning.org](http://www.timeandlearning.org).
- The extended school day mandate provides an opportunity for schools to re-examine their practices. Enrichment activities like colloquium are being proposed for other schools. Lengthening the school day is not the key: improving teacher practices is the key.
- Mr. Rodgers distributed a draft schedule to LSC members; later, this will be distributed to parents.
  - Proposal includes a longer colloquium; professional development for teachers preserved on Wednesday mornings
  - Blocks are 108 minutes
  - On Wednesday: extra periods after colloquium for academic teams, drama club, exercise, and other ideas (to be determined): speakers, career days, study groups (including math tables and science labs)

- No more advisory / homeroom every day, according to the current proposal; advisory on Wednesdays for 30 minutes
- Mr. Rodgers will be meeting with selective enrollment leaders, CPS, and network representatives to continue the discussion. He would like to set up a live feed at the parent forum next week so that parents who are unable to attend can have input and ask questions. The Alumni Association would like to participate in getting alumni more involved in visiting Northside and talking to students.
- Question: how to keep track of students' whereabouts on Wednesdays? The logistics are still under discussion: scheduling can be flexible but the school still needs to know where students are in the building at all times.
- Another issue still being considered: what will be the teachers' responsibilities during that large block of time after colloquium, whether or not they are supervising students? This will be determined or affected by the collective bargaining agreement.
- Question: What will be the consequences for activities commonly held in the afternoon after colloquium (sports, events like the Turkey Bowl)? How will these activities be continued?
- Parent opinion: This is a bad idea for Northside. Extracurricular activities are going to suffer because there will not be enough time to keep up with the homework load and get enough rest. Brizzard's arguments for the need for a longer school day (low graduation rates, poor college readiness, low act scores) do not apply to Northside.
- Northside's current school day is 439 minutes, which is only 11 minutes short of the new requirement; colloquium is the only reason why significant time has to be added. Parent voices are extremely important and need to be expressed to CPS (there is a link on the CPS website for submitting input).
- The length of the school day cannot be collectively bargained, but related issues can, including funding and compensation. There are concerns about students' and teachers' workloads: can Northside sustain performance levels with added time and responsibilities?
- What will teachers do for the extra 8 minutes per block? One option is to allow students to work on homework in the classroom with the expert (the teacher) at hand. This is a paradigm shift, or at least a shift in teaching practice: what kind of support can CPS give to facilitate this transition? Transportation to after-school sporting events will be a problem due to traffic and impending darkness for some sports.
- The main issue for Mr. Rodgers is securing support and funding; additional time can provide additional opportunities.
- The current draft proposal satisfies the requirement for instructional minutes, but it is slightly short on total minutes.
- Can there be any exceptions for high-performing schools? The concept of "bounded autonomy" has transformed from the AMPS office to a network with less autonomy and fewer resources. Selective enrollment principals have requested a meeting to address their specific needs. Northside's statistics do not warrant a longer school day.
- Metrics being used to affirm new policies include ACT scores and new tests being implemented next year (how can new tests be used to measure efficacy if there is nothing to compare them to?) Core standards will be tested every 2 ½ months to ascertain improvement. If CPS is clear on what they're looking for, and Northside is already accomplishing these goals, then why should our school day be extended?
- The parent forum on the extended school day will be held next week on January 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the choral room (and then moved to the auditorium if warranted by the number of people in attendance).

### **Public comment**

- Leona Bernauer reported that the Parent Network and the LSC Community Relations Committee have been working cooperatively to improve multilingual communication; e-mail blasts have been translated in several

languages to reach out to families in the community, including Spanish and two Asian languages. Mr. Albritton suggested adding a Polish translation. There will be a short meeting to follow up on the *Race to Nowhere* presentation, including a discussion focused on how to deal with children's stress levels. The meeting starts at 7:00 next Thursday. There will be a table at I-nite with information/flyers/students from ethnic clubs to help get parents to volunteer so that everyone can feel involved in the school community.

- There was less homework over the break. The timing of the break so close to the holiday was also helpful because much of the break occurred after the holiday season. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive about the lack of homework over the break, although teachers pressed the students a little more before the break, but the practice of not assigning homework over breaks will continue with spring break.
- The Lake Shore Symphony will perform in a concert with the Northside concert choir on Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>.
- The "Reach for the Stars" Gala will be held on March 9<sup>th</sup> this year. Mrs. Andrade is co-chairing the event. The committee is looking for business sponsors; many council members expressed the opinion that it would be wonderful to see alumni at the event.
- Information about the 10-year reunion and other alumni news can be included in the EPIC.

### Teachers' Report

- Prior to the break faculty and staff enjoyed the appreciation luncheon hosted by Northside parents (Mr. Rodgers indicated that the appreciation luncheon and dessert was better than ever before); there was a school-sponsored gathering for staff and faculty, as well.
- Faculty and staff also reported enjoying their break and appreciating the timing of the start of the break.
- Today, the stress level has returned to normal: the longer school day issue is on teachers' minds; there will be a meeting of faculty members to discuss concerns next week.
- Union communications: the first round of discussions begins in January; the union has formed committees to address specific issues, including the longer school day, new performance evaluation requirements, and health care costs.

### Committee Reports

- **Finance:** meeting next month
- **Friends:**
  - The annual appeal is going well: we are currently only \$5000 short of our annual goal, and money will continue to come in for the next 6 months, so the Friends committee is cautiously optimistic.
  - The date for Cubby Walk has been confirmed for Wednesday, May 30<sup>th</sup> against San Diego: after AP exams, nice weather, the only date that worked for us, and perhaps fewer conflicts with extra-curricular activities (sports) because of timing late in the year, after Memorial Day weekend.
- **Parent Network:**
  - *Race to Nowhere* follow-up after regular meeting on Thursday
  - I-nite table
  - Gala being promoted
- **Community Relations:** The committee worked with parent volunteers to get the EPIC out before winter break. Debra Beinstein assembled the issue, along with parents of students and alumni. Many people wrote the articles; Anne Huestis pulled together several faculty contributions.

➤ **Principal Selection and Evaluation:**

- The committee meeting schedule was discussed and amended. Forms will be distributed at the end of the month. A Google docs system is being implemented (thank you to Vicky Andrews); tabulation will be immediate. Directions need to be constructed, and distribution logistics are also being worked out.
- **To (further) amend the schedule of meetings of the Principal Selection and Evaluation Committee (see Motion #4)**

**Old Business:**

[none]

**New Business**

[none]

**Upcoming Meetings**

- Finance committee: meeting in February
- Friends of Northside: January 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Parent Network: January 12<sup>th</sup>
- Principal Selection and Evaluation: February 16<sup>th</sup>
- LSC: February 21<sup>st</sup>

**Agenda**

**To approve the standard agenda (see Motion #5)**

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m. (see **Motion #6**).

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the LSC will be on Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</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			
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>0</b>

**Motion #:** 2  
**Motion made by:** Gail Myers Jaffe  
**Seconded by:** Vicki McMannon  
**Motion:** To approve the minutes from last month's meeting (December 13, 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	
Robert Albritton (teacher)	X			
Nicole Flores (teacher)	X			
Barry Rodgers (principal)	X			
Vicky Andrews (staff)	X			
Zobia Chunara (student)	X			
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

**Motion #:** 3  
**Motion made by:** Gail Myers Jaffe  
**Seconded by:** Diane Monnich  
**Motion:** To approve expenditures from Friends of Northside funds in the amount of \$5,000 for professional development

**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>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Motion #:** 4  
**Motion made by:** Vicki McMannon  
**Seconded by:** Kathleen Andrade  
**Motion:** To (further) amend the schedule of meetings of the Principal Selection and Evaluation Committee

**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>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

**Motion #:** 5  
**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**

<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>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

**Motion #:** 6  
**Motion made by:** Kathleen Andrade  
**Seconded by:** Gail Myers Jaffe  
**Motion:** To adjourn the LSC meeting at 8:37 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>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>