



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
June 12, 2012

Commencement

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by John Ceisel.

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

Absent: Zobia Chunara

Guests: Mr. DiFrancesco, Mrs. Broderick, Mr. Howenstein, Mrs. Joseph, Mr. Baskin, Mrs. Nevin

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

To approve the corrected minutes from the previous regular LSC meeting on May 8th, 2012 (see Motion #2)

Teachers' Report

- The faculty celebrated the careers of Mr. Correa, Mrs. Appel, Mrs. Boeck, and Mrs. Lekkas, who are retiring at the end of this school year.
- During the summer months, some Northside teachers will attend AP and Common Core Standards training sessions; others will teach summer school classes. Teachers are looking forward to spending some time preparing for next year, reading, and relaxing.
- Mr. DiFrancesco, science teacher and delegate of Northside teachers to the Chicago Teachers Union, came to the LSC meeting to discuss the progress and status of ongoing contract negotiations between CPS and the CTU.
 - Teachers voted for the authorization of a strike if contract negotiations break down. Approximately 90% of the union membership voted "yes." 98% of the teachers who voted, voted "yes." 482 teachers (1.98% of the union membership) voted against authorizing a strike.
 - The vote was necessary because of changes in state law last year intended to prevent any kind of strike action by the teachers. The union leadership organized well to unify the membership to give them some leverage at the bargaining table; CPS might not have felt compelled to modify their position if the vote had not been positive. This is the "strongest card" that the teachers can play; it has been played, and the ball is in the mayor's court.

- The teachers at Northside and throughout the district feel very strongly about this issue. 100% of Northside teachers voted. On average, there was less than one “no” vote per school throughout the system. Teachers are feeling disrespected by CPS because the Board will not budge on points that the teachers feel most strongly about. Music, art, physical education, and some form of recess must be restored in the grade schools, and in some high schools as well. Teachers want to make sure that the longer school day is implemented to the benefit of the students. The CPS philosophy seems to propose that students should “go to school longer and take more standardized tests.”
- CPS criticized teachers for holding the strike authorization vote early, but it would have been difficult to get 75% of the teachers to return to school in July merely to cast a vote. The teachers believe that this is really about what is best for the kids. A long strike will not benefit anyone. Some organizations conducted campaigns to encourage teachers to vote against authorizing a strike.
- Mr. Ceisel expressed the hope that all goes well with CPS-teacher contract negotiations and there is no strike. The LSC thanked Mr. DiFrancesco for providing information to the council and answering questions.

Student’s Report

[none]

Principal’s Report

- All positions which had been lost have been restored – teachers and staff positions have been returned in time for programming to proceed. At a meeting attended by Mr. Brizzard and high school principals from the Northwest Network, Mr. Brizzard assured Mr. Rodgers that teacher contract changes would not result in a retraction of funds budgeted to the school this year.
- 2011-2012 has been a banner year at Northside: Cubby Walk, Senior Luncheon, Prom, Graduation, and Field Day this Friday all contribute to a great finish to the school year.
- The 1-1 computing program at Northside is evolving. The school is working with the district and moving to a BYOD (“bring your own device”) program. There have been good conversations so far. The CIO from Underwriters Laboratory is on board with ideas for the 21st century classroom.
- Northside received a \$100,000 innovation grant from CPS. There were fewer than 10 awardees (30 schools were finalists). Innovations will be focused on the extended school day, including a means for students to program themselves on the colloquium day during the X and Y periods so that they are not locked into the same activities each week. Northside will also host an institute day for schools in the network.
- Final exams are going well. Freshmen and sophomores took the PLAN and Explore exams (the same exams that they took in the fall). The students seemed to take the tests seriously. Electronic testing is expected to be implemented throughout the system, but most schools currently do not have the capacity to do this.
- Northside Technology in Education program: with concerns about safety and security, the Northside technology team tested various operating systems and found some software limitations. Teachers will be able to use Macs for instruction. The proposed BYOD program for next year cannot scale up beyond the cohort due to infrastructure limitations, but an e-rate upgrade during the school year might make that more doable in the future. Teachers might be able to structure a lesson around technology with some cooperative scheduling. The bottom line for next year is that there will be more availability for more students. Some teachers’ tablets are being placed into a rental pool for students. The school will be using Lenovo tablets for teachers (fewer problems and greater durability than HP).
- Mr. Rodgers made the following Friends of Northside funding requests:
 - Donation of teacher tablet computers: \$110,884 – 3-year lease. This amount will be paid over three years.

- Alternatives (wellness program): \$15,000
 - Facilities Manager Position: \$46,000
 - College Counseling: \$5,000
 - Total \$176,884
- Discussion: The Facilities Manager generates approximately \$118,000 in income to the school by renting out the auditorium, the gym, and the pool.
 - **To approve the expenditure of \$176,884 for teacher tablet computers, the alternatives (wellness) program, the facilities manager position, and college counseling expenses (see Motion #3)**
 - Four individuals leaving Northside at the end of this school year are Mrs. Lekkas (counselor), Mrs. Appel (world languages), Mrs. Boeck (special education), and Mr. Correa (dean of students).
 - It has not yet been decided whether or not a new dean of students will be hired, or whether these duties will be performed internally.

Public Comment

- In response to a question about the yearbook, Mr. Rodgers reported that everyone can buy a yearbook, and the students will receive their yearbook on Field Day.
- Parents questioned why seniors could not have received their yearbooks at the Senior Luncheon, a great opportunity to get their classmates to sign their yearbooks. Mr. Rodgers replied that he will look into that possibility for next year.

Teachers' Report

- Teachers and students alike are starting to increase their intensity level as evidenced by review sessions for AP exams. The teachers will be adjusting their schedules over the next couple of weeks to accommodate students who will be missing class to take AP exams.
- Everyone see the light at the end of the tunnel; teachers, like their students, are ready for the summer break.

Committee Reports

➤ Finance

- The committee proposed maintaining the school fees at the same level as last year for the following reasons: all positions have been restored and appear to be financially supported, and this affords the principal more flexibility by using Friends of Northside monies as opposed to school fees which are more restricted in how they can be allocated.
- Increasing the suggested Friends minimum donation did not reduce the number of people making donations, and it did result in increased donations during the Annual Appeal.
- If necessary, athletic fees and (field trip) bus fees may be used to raise supplemental income.
- **To maintain the school fees at the same level as last year, with a \$5 increase in the PSAT fee (see Motion #4)**
- The council discussed the implementation of annual fees for participating in the BYOD computing program, with the availability of a cohort computer rental fee if desired. \$50 was suggested as the amount

of the rental fee for students on free and reduced lunch. An access fee is included for all participants in the program. The current insurance policy provides for 4-year accidental damage/protection, and this is explained to parents: theft or loss is not covered by school insurance. \$50 is a “suggested” fee for free and reduced lunch students; situations of hardship can be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. The partnership with a company which provides low-cost wireless internet service is continuing.

- **To approve annual technology fees for participation in the BYOD computing program (see Motion #5)**

➤ **Friends of Northside**

- Cubby Walk was successful, with strong support from the administration and teachers, a great message to be reinforced with Northside students. The senior class gift (a sound system for the cafeteria) also highlights the importance of giving back.

➤ **Parent Network**

- Graduation was the last event hosted by this year’s committee – attendees praised the decorations and refreshments.
- Next year’s officers are co-presidents Stephanie Perlmutter and Janet Joseph; secretary Debra Beinstein, and treasurer Sue Mellin; board members: some are remaining from this year, and others will be filled by incoming freshman parents. The committee is looking for good representation of all of the classes.

➤ **Community Relations**

- Thank you to Gloria Gupta, Debra Beinstein, Ellen Youniss, Diane Monnich, and Crystal Melto for all of their hard work this year.
- The EPIC will continue this year and possibly next year, hopefully with the participation of alumni.
- Mrs. Monnich hopes that everyone in the Northside community will continue to use the bulletin board.
- The MADD (music awards) dinner was arranged at the last minute but still came off very well.

➤ **Principal Selection and Evaluation**

- The final report for this year has been submitted.

Old Business

[none]

New Business

- Mr. Rodgers expressed his thanks to all of the parents who have contributed to the school as members of the LSC and in so many other ways, including a great group of graduating seniors.
- Mr. Ceisel thanked everyone who remains on the LSC, and all who are leaving, always attempting to do the right thing for the students of Northside.
- The LSC thanked Mr. Ceisel for his outstanding leadership of the council.

Upcoming Meetings

- Friends of Northside: June 18th
- Parent Network: in September
- LSC: July 16th

Agenda

To approve the agenda for next month's organizational meeting of the newly elected LSC (see Motion #6)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m. (see Motion #7).

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the LSC will be on Monday, July 16th, 2012.

Motion #: 1
Motion made by: Vicki McMannon
Seconded by: Nicole Flores
Motion: To approve the amended 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	11	0	0	1

Motion #: 2
Motion made by: Diane Monnich
Seconded by: Gail Myers Jaffe
Motion: To approve the corrected minutes from the previous meeting on May 8th, 2012

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	1	1

Motion #: 3
Motion made by: Vicki McMannon
Seconded by: Gail Myers Jaffe
Motion: To approve the expenditure of \$176,884 for teacher tablet computers, the alternatives (wellness) program, the facilities manager position, and college counseling expenses

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	11	0	0	1

Motion #: 4
Motion made by: Gail Myers Jaffe
Seconded by: Cathy Quigley
Motion: To maintain the school fees at the same level as last year, with a \$5 increase in the PSAT fee

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	1	0	1

Motion #: 5
Motion made by: Nicole Flores
Seconded by: Kathleen Andrade
 To approve annual technology fees for participation in the BYOD computing program

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	11	0	0	1

Motion #: 6
Motion made by: Vicki McMannon
Seconded by: Robert Albritton
Motion: To approve the agenda for next month's organizational meeting of the newly elected 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	11	0	0	1

Motion #: 7
Motion made by: Nicole Flores
Seconded by: Vicki McMannon
Motion: To adjourn the LSC meeting at 8:47 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	11	0	0	1