



NORTHGATE

**DRAFT Minutes
PFC General Meeting
January 19, 2017
7pm, Library**

Present: Joanna Sibley, Julie Chesnutt, Lisa Lamm, Holly Hewes, Miriam Casco, Melissa Sunbury, Monica Zorman, Katie Pierceall, Andria Herrera, Julie Stokol, Nicole Padoan, Karen Jenkins, Dee Dee Blankley, Michael McAlister

Meeting Called to order: 7:05 pm

Principal's Report: Michael McAlister.

Facilities—May have noticed shiny new red lockers when entering school. Every student is assigned one and they open and close quietly! Ping pong tables in entry are in constant use. New computer lab set up in library will be available for classes to reserve and for credit recovery. Brand new computers were provided by MDUSD. MDUSD will also be replacing turf field at end of June. Tennis courts might potentially be resurfaced; need coordination with the City.

Staff Development—Held second mindfulness training session with Joy Rosenblatt. We tell students to pay attention but don't teach them how; this gives teachers skills to minimize their own stress which organically spills into the classroom. Ten teachers, most new to the event this year, will be attending the EdTech summit in San Diego. Tech training efforts are starting to show up in the classrooms e.g., this morning 300 chromebooks were online and 3 classrooms are using them for their finals. Northgate Help Desk class is helping teachers get online with Google Classroom.

Course selection—Departments working on potential offerings for next year. Might offer AP European History, AP Government, AP Economics, and still working on Calc BC. The only honors classes will be in the Science Department. School rankings tend to favor schools with only two levels of classes (college preparatory and AP) rather than three levels (grade level, honors and AP) so English and Social Studies Departments have moved away from honors courses.

Finals—Parents be aware: a student snapped a photo of a final and posted it online; this is a brave new world in terms of how fast information can be shared and how to

monitor to prevent cheating. Talk to your student about academic integrity. It would be nice to have finals that include performance tasks, but difficult to develop.

ASB "Legacy Fund"—A reserve of \$130,000 in student-raised money was recently rediscovered by our new Treasurer Ms. Laiho. The goal is to put this money towards purposes that touch the lives of the entire school community, leaving a legacy for the campus. Leadership students will be surveying students and staff and coming up with potential uses for these funds.

CAPS-NUSD proposal—Responding to a parent question at the end of the meeting as to how we could promote better dialog and information sharing on this issue, Mr. McAlister explained sending out his "from the desk of the principal" email as an effort to identify issues he felt were important to consider after personal experience working in similar districts.

He said Northgate teachers feel they have been placed at odds with their own community, and that many would leave if proposal succeeds. He feels the issue is a distraction to current funding organizations and to current efforts to improve the school, and that a public debate or forum on the proposal as suggested would not remain civil. He feels enough discussion is happening on community forums such as Nextdoor. Parents encouraged him to consider other avenues for information sharing and additional constructive discussion to evaluate the pros and cons of the proposal.

Treasure's Report: Miriam Casco (see handout Profit & Loss Budget-vs-Actual, 1/15/17) Expenses--on budget. Revenues--matching funds still coming in for Ed Fund but remain under budget. In planning for next year's PFC budget, will propose carrying only 2 rather than 3 class sections in reserve for planning purposes.

College and Career Advisor: Andria Herrera. Has been working with seniors to finish applications, now working on encouraging them to apply for scholarships. CSU admissions decisions are trickling in; she has been told that they are being considered in batches, though all applicants will hear back by the deadline. Currently planning for administration of District-funded PSAT-10 test for all sophomores in early March. Test gives sophomores chance to try testing process. PSAT does not count for National Merit Scholarships until Junior year. Working with private testing companies to set up a combo SAT/ACT testing opportunity in early March to give students chance to see which testing format works best for them. Will be meeting shortly with all 10th and 11th graders to be sure their Naviance accounts are updated and to let them know what they should be doing at this stage of their academic planning. Considering planning a speaker series or Career Day to expose students to various career opportunities.

Winter Sports Update: Joanna Sibley for Dr. Earle Paynton, Athletic Director. Winter season well underway. All coaches are lined-up for Spring sports. Please support the Crab Feed fundraiser for athletics and Sports Med this coming Saturday.

Teacher Update: Karen Jenkins. Thanks to Joanna for attending staff meeting and letting them know about PFC activities and the Spring for Education event. Karen will be coordinating staff donations and attendance. The Science Department also wanted to thank Joanna for sharing atrium design plans with them. Joanna will be running the atrium renovation proposal past all department heads for feedback.

Senior projects are kicking off in senior English classes. There is a new component this year—an electronic portfolio that can be shared in addition to the research paper, hands-on project, and written portfolio.

A group of teachers gathered at the student drop-off circle last Friday morning to hand out fliers about their support for MDUSD and their concerns about the CAPS district reorganization proposal. They do not believe this is the only way to improve our schools and wanted parents to know that they are excited about the District's turnaround in the past several years. Teachers were not necessarily feeling unappreciated by the District, as was assumed in CAPS' literature, and some wanted to share-out where they were.

Karen gave a thank-you card from her freshman class for Final's Fuel to Katie Pierceall. Freshmen were very excited to come to school for their first finals week and find so many snacks! She also shared that the teachers love the "Smile Award" baskets put together by Marianne Howie and the Teacher Appreciation Committee. The drawing for the basket is an anticipated part of their monthly staff meetings.

New Business:

1. November Minutes-- Motion: It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the November 2016 minutes as submitted.

Committee Reports:

Grad Night—Thursday June 8th after graduation ceremony. Tickets will go on sale next week for \$130. Tickets will go up to \$150 in March and to \$170 in May. Buy them now, it's going to be an amazing event!

Spring for Education—DeeDee Blankley. Spring for Education event will be April 29th at Shadelands with an adult carnival theme. Sponsorship opportunities will be available at several levels. Will have variety of carnival games, silent auction and fund-a-need with sit down dinner. Join the planning committee for this fun event! Tickets will be on sale soon.

Renovation of the Northgate atrium, a visual focal point of our campus, will be the fund-a-need project. Goal is to transform it into low-maintenance outdoor classroom

and a gathering/innovation space based on plans donated by landscape architect. Money raised will begin multi-stage renovation process. Will host a pre-event reception to give potential donors more information about the vision for this space.

Site Council-- Julie Stokol—Council met twice since last PFC report. Of note: -- Administration has done 146 classroom visits on the site. -- Academic counselors are working to decrease number of students not graduating. --WiFi has accommodated up to 700 devices at a time. --On-site Google Classroom training day will be happening next month for all teachers. --The City of Walnut Creek just completed \$175,000 upgrade to Northgate Park adjacent to the school, including sand volleyball courts. -- ASB donated \$6,000 to refreshing emergency backpack supplies. -- Intruder training for staff planned in January. --Many student-led donation drives took place before the holidays.

At the January meeting, a new budget was approved (see handout "Budget by Expenditures", approved by Site Council 1/3/17).

Athletic Boosters-- Crab Feed is this Saturday, Jan 21st. Tickets on sale at \$75 each or \$700/table on Booster's website. Please plan to attend.

Instrumental Music Boosters—Hosting CMEA Jazz East festival at Northgate this weekend. Come see Jazz 1 at 6:10 on Friday and Jazz II at 1:15 on Saturday. Band-on-the-Run fundraiser coming up on Saturday March 4th.

PEAK—Melissa Sunbury. PEAK has raised over \$10,000 for our feeder-pattern schools this Fall! Amazing job! Approximate numbers: the new Safeway at Orchards donated \$2,500; MOD Pizza fundraiser contributed \$1,600, Whole Foods shopping day raised \$3,600; the Walnut Run raised \$500, and the Turkey Trot numbers are still coming in. PEAK just received \$2,000 grant from Macy's and hoping to come up with a prom-related spring event. Elementary and middle school principals have proposed preliminary STEAM oriented K-12 articulated program that PEAK would like to help launch.

Final's Fuel—Katie Pierceall. The students really appreciated Finals' Fuel snacks on the three mornings of finals. Thank you to the over 40 families who donated food and to the volunteers who helped distribute food on those mornings!

Parent Advisory Committee-- Joanna Sibley for Kim Harris. The District will be continuing a community speaker series, with the first speaker at Northgate next week discussing Common Core math. See link: http://www.mdusd.org/search/search_results?d=x&search_term=speaker+seriesMt. Diablo Unified School District: Search Results

Exec Committee Report: Julie Chesnutt. No actions taken, informational only.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Next Meeting (NOTE TIME CHANGE): Thursday, Feb 16th at 5:30 pm in Library. (Earlier time allows for attendance at 10-12th grade parent information night at 7pm)

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Chesnutt
PFC Secretary
1/23/17