

**Northgate Parent Faculty Club
Minutes
Thursday January 21, 2010**

9:03 AM – Meeting called to order by Monica Fitzgerald.

Present: Monica Fitzgerald, Kathy Frattini, Karen Cramer, Jenny Crosthwaite, Ann Sussman, Cindy Lentz, Margot Chafetz, Linda Locke, John McMorris, Linda Middleton, Lisa Stackpole, Patty Proctor, and Lisa Weaver.

Guests: Janet Sheehy, Betsy Henderson, Karen Krueger, Linda Campbell, and Ruth Carver

Approval of Minutes: Cindy Lentz made a motion to approve the minutes of November 2009. The motion passed.

Student Leadership Report – Kai

- Kai reported the ASB Leadership had contributed \$4,700 from the ASB Improvements budget to a new sound system. They also put \$2,500 towards the projector system for the Little Theatre (total cost of \$12,000 is being sponsored by several groups). ASB has also agreed to pay for the maintenance of the pond in the atrium for the next two years.
- Plans are underway for the Junior Prom and Senior Ball as well as the Senior Banquet.

Crisis Counselors – Monica Fitzgerald

- Monica reported that Teresa Kaplan has decided to step down from her position due to family constraints. Interviews are underway for a replacement. In the interim, the intern program has been set up and more group sessions will be available through the use of the interns. A crisis counselor manual has been completed and the web page will house more articles for parents.

Career Day – Patty Proctor

- The first ever Career Day for Northgate is scheduled for Tuesday, April 20, 2010. There is a link to the Career Day web page from the PFC home page. The site http://www.northgatehs-pfc.com/career_day.html has all the information for presenters to sign up. We are looking for approximately 85 presenters in order to host enough sessions for each student to hear 3 different speakers.
- We are meeting with the Leadership students to engage their input and assistance in coordinating the event. All students will choose approximately 12 speakers so they can be scheduled into 3 - 35 minute sessions.
- A special thank you to Nina Barley for all her work in setting up the web page and Yahoo email account.
- Parent volunteers are also needed. If interested in helping please contact Patty Proctor or Ann Sussman.

Spring for Education – Margot Chafetz

- The Spring for Education Auction and Cocktail Party is scheduled for Saturday, March 13th at the Walnut Creek Marriott. Tickets are \$30 per person. The Jazz Band will be performing as well as the Madrigals and String Quartet.
- The committee is trying to reach out to a broad spectrum of the Northgate community since the fundraising efforts support academic programs at Northgate. **Everyone is encouraged to come to the event to enjoy a wonderful evening and raise funds for Northgate.**

Treasurer's Report – Kathy Frattini

- Kathy reported that money is still trickling in for the Education Fund numbers, but may not make the budget. The gift card program and Escrip are both doing well.
- Kathy discussed the purchase of "COW" Computers on Wheels, in this case 20 laptops on a movable cart. The mobility allows the laptops to be used through the school. The funds would come from the Spring Fling and some carryover money from last year. A motion was made to spend no more than \$20,000 in carryover funds to support the purchase of the COW. **The motion passed.**
- The Little Theatre is in need of an overhead projector and screen for multi-media presentations. The total cost is \$12,000—several groups are funding at \$2,500. A motion was made to pay \$2,500 toward the cost of this effort. **The motion passed.**

President's Report– Monica Fitzgerald

- Monica announced the Athletic booster's Crab Feed is this Saturday night (January 23rd) and the event is sold out.
- She reminded everyone that Finals Fuel is next week; please contact Maggie Wood or Heather Stover if you can help by donating food or drinks on the 3 days of finals.
- Northgate will be undergoing a review by WASC (Western Accreditation of Schools and Colleges). Parents are encouraged to participate as members of the various focus groups. If you are interested in participating, please contact Monica.
- The Climate Committee is having an all day planning session for a strategic 5 year plan.
- A special shout out to junior Emily Nielsen whose Rose Bow float design won Best Fantasy Award in the January 1st Parade of Roses.

Committee Reports

- **Northgate Pride—Karen Krueger:** The Dance Floor project has raised \$17, 000 of the \$20,000 required for the floor so they are moving ahead to purchase and install a portable suspended floor by the end of the first quarter. The bleacher and lights project is at a stand still until all the comments can be addressed by the EIR consultants.
- **Music Boosters—No report.**
- **Athletic Boosters—Janet Sheehy:** Spring Tryouts are rapidly approaching. There was a discussion on transportation fees being paid, but district buses not being used. The discussion was taken offline to include the AD, Mike Ahn.
- **PAC Meeting—Linda Locke:** The new Superintendent, Steve Lawrence begins on February 1st. Enrollment in the district is down by 700 students which is a larger number than previous years had indicated. The district is facing additional cuts which may lead to school closures at the elementary level or perhaps some type of K to 8th combination of schools.
- The cuts made in the school library programs cannot be made up with parent volunteers. Labor laws prohibit volunteers replacing employees who have been laid off.
- Research on the parcel tax indicates a positive spin needs to be put on the purpose of the parcel tax. There will probably not be a parcel tax on the June 2010 ballot.
- Delta View elementary has been recognized for improving their API scores from 500 to 800. They are training other schools in the district to follow their Board Math programs.

- Always check the district website at www.mdusd.k12.ca.us for the most recent information as well as the Monday memos.
- **Education Fund—Cathy Escobar:** Follow-up is occurring on matching funds to ensure that all corporate funds are received.
- **Nominating Committee---Cindy Lentz:** An email will be coming out to all Board members to find out who will be continuing in their positions. There will probably be some new positions added to assist at the grade level events. Now is the time to get involved if you are not already serving in a position. Contact Cindy at clentz@astound.net to volunteer.

Principal's Report---Mr. McMorris

- Mr. McMorris displayed the "JUST FOR KIDS" banner that Northgate was awarded by the California Business for Education Excellence. The award was given for the 20 point improvement in API scores.
- Lynda Hayes is chairing the WASC effort for Northgate.
- The budget situation at the District is dire; at this point it appears to be \$35 million over a 2 year period.
- Face Book issues have surface at school. While free speech is to be respected and some venting is normal, some students have gone above and beyond what should be posted on sites regarding teachers as one example. Parents also expressed concern about some students and partying photos—students do not seem to understand this information is not "erased" and can follow them for many years to come. Mr. McMorris plans to talk to the students and offer other channels for issue resolution.
- One of the goals of FOL is to improve study sessions. Roving students and late students are going to be given a warning first. Continued offenses will result in detention and Saturday school.
- Exploration is underway for some Career Pathways: a sport med and sports psychology one, art pathway and 21st Century skills Lab.

New Business:

- A district wide music foundation has been formed to raise money to save the music program in the elementary schools. Several fundraising efforts are underway. Check out <http://www.mdmusicfoundation.org/> to stay informed on upcoming events.
- PEAK is now a member of the Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce. They are sponsoring a tennis tournament at Valley Vista on May 15th to raise funds. Their website can be found at <http://www.peakwalnutcreek.org/>

Next PFC Meeting will be Thursday, February 18th at 7:00 PM in the Northgate High School library.

**Respectfully submitted,
Ann Sussman, Secretary
Northgate Parent Faculty Club**