

**Northgate Parent Faculty Club
Minutes
Thursday October 15, 2009**

7:02 PM – Meeting called to order by Monica Fitzgerald.

Present: Monica Fitzgerald, Kathy Frattini, Cathy Escobar, Jenny Crosthwaite, Donna Warnken-Brill, Ann Sussman, Cindy Lentz, Margot Chafetz, Michael Weinberger, Heather Stover, Jane Erdiakoff, Linda Locke, John McMorris, and Lisa Weaver.

Guests: Lisa Whittington, Anna Meniktas-Edwards, Spalding Ashley, Lisa Broughton, Char Hamilton, Vikki Bearman Arganek, Stefanie Corrales, Sheri Nodder, Janet Sheehy and Betsy Henderson

President's Report – Monica Fitzgerald

- Monica welcomed everyone to the meeting. She requested that all reports given at the meeting try and stick with a length of 3 minutes to give all an opportunity to present.
- Monica Thanked Donna Warnken Brill and Linda Middleton for all their hard work on the Campus Clean-Up. She also thanked Linda for the Memorial Rock and Plaque in memory of Michael Gaines.
- Monica announced Teresa Kaplan as the Crisis Counselor. She is currently working 2 days a week which move into a 3 day work week. Monica also reported the Crisis Counselors are planning a Parent Education night. She also thanked Char Hamilton for the donation of a conference room table for their area.
- We are again, having a School Wide Social Event on December 26th sponsored by the parent groups. The Jazz Band and Madrigals will perform.
- A reminder that the 5 K run is on this coming Sunday. Be sure to make your voices heard on educational concerns be emailing your state representatives.

Treasurer's Report – Kathy Frattini

- Kathy reported that the Education Fund numbers are approximately \$40,000 short of the budgeted amount. The first batch of bills should be coming in from the district in the next few weeks. Kathy thanked Lisa Weaver and Janine Leyrer for all their efforts on Gift Cards.

Committee Reports

- **Education Fund—Cathy Escobar:** As mentioned, donations are lower than budget. \$144,765 has been collected to date with almost equal amounts given between checks and web store. The number of donors is down from last year.
- **MDUAF—Kent Caldwell:** Kent spoke about the athletic foundation which was started last April when Mt Diablo district cut funding for sports. The goal is to raise \$1.2 million; to date \$440,000 has been raised. Fall sports are the only approved season. The District Board is voting on October 27th on whether or not Winter sports will occur. Northgate has raised \$76,000 toward the Fall Sport contributions; approximately \$7,000 still needs to be raised before October 27th.
- **ASB Leadership---**No student representative assigned yet—no report.
- **Northgate Education Council—**The Council meets monthly with district, city representatives and members of the executive boards from all the feeder schools (Northgate, Foothill, Bancroft, Valle Verde, Walnut Acres) to work on communication between the schools and the city as well as a more cohesive approach toward education within the feeder pattern. The next meeting is October 26th at Bancroft at 7 PM.

- **Northgate Pride—Jane Erdiakoff:** The public meeting on the bleacher and lights was very well attended. The ASB President gave the District over 700 signatures of students supporting the lights and bleachers. All comments are due to the Board by October 22nd. The Poker Tournament raised \$4,000. Pride is sponsoring a survey on school needs so be sure to respond.
- **Music Boosters—Vikki Bearman Arganek:** The March-a-thon was very successful; more money was raised than in the previous year. The marching band took first place in the Antioch competition and the drum majors took 2nd. The Music Boosters have contributed to the rental of the bleachers for this coming year. There is a scheduling conflict for the Marching Band and Homecoming since the band is in a competition in Santa Cruz. The Boosters are selling See's candies—please check out their website for dates and order information.
- **Athletic Boosters—Janet Sheehy—**The Athletic Boosters were commended for bringing all groups together on the bleacher rental for this year. The Boosters and ASB will be hosting a joint BBQ for Homecoming to help raise more money for the bleachers. The Boosters paid 3 scholarships for Northgate students on free/reduced lunch program so they could play Fall Sports. Students trying out for Winter Sports will be asked for donations prior to tryouts.
- **PAC Meeting—Linda Locke:** Hiring a new Superintendent is a top priority for the district; a search company is looking at candidates and hopes to pick a candidate in December to have them on board in January. A draft of a technology plan is also in progress. Always check the district website at www.mdusd.k12.ca.us for the most recent information as well as the Monday memos. Interviewing proceeds on a consultant for the parcel tax. There will be a poll to determine what the voters think and whether June 2010 would be a possible ballot.
- **Challenge Days---Spalding Ashley:** Challenge Days are scheduled for October 26, 27, and 28th at St. Matthew's. Currently 200 students are signed up; still have room for more. They are considering scheduling another date in the spring.
- **Campus Clean-Up—Donna Warnken-Brill—**the Clean-up Day was very successful with over 500 people (400 students, 100 adults) attending. The focus was on outside work this year as well as the atrium. Two garden areas in the back were completed as well as mulching projects along the front and side of the school. The Spring Clean-up Day is scheduled for March 27th. The 16 benches and 10 trash can sleeves will hopefully be installed soon. There was a mix-up over the summer and they were not ordered.

Principal's Report---Mr. McMorris

- Mr. McMorris reported that we are fully staffed. Several wonderful teachers have joined the Foreign Language Department including the new German teacher, Ms. Marek and for Spanish, Mr. Tubio, who is working on pacing guides for the Spanish teachers. Smart Boards are also being added as a teaching tool. On-line learning centers are also being explored.
- We need more AP Science classes although interest was not high for AP Chemistry or Physics.
- The focus needs to be on technology and Green Technology to help our students move forward in the 21st Century.
- Department Chairs are meeting regularly on the Learning Initiative so that all teachers are working toward a common vision.
- There was a discussion with several parents voicing concern over the planning of Homecoming this year. The dance was scheduled for the night before the game and this caused frustration among students and parents. There are also concerns about some of the senior class events scheduling. The biggest concern expressed though was a lack of a centralized calendar where all groups could go to see all the activities going on in a given period of time. Mr. McMorris took all comments and concerns under advisement and agreed to see if a centralized calendar could alleviate communication concerns.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 PM.

Next PFC Meeting will be Thursday, November 19th at 7:00 PM in the Northgate High School library.

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