

**Northgate Parent Faculty Club
Minutes
Thursday November 19, 2009**

7:00 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, Jane Erdiakoff, Linda Locke, John McMorris, Linda Middleton, Lisa Stackpole, and Lisa Weaver.

Guests: Lisa Whittington, Anna Meniktas-Edwards, Spalding Ashley, Char Hamilton, Vikki Bearman Arganek, Janet Sheehy and Ruth Carver

President's Report – Monica Fitzgerald

- Monica welcomed everyone to the meeting. She reminded all to attend the December 16th Holiday Party sponsored by all the parent organizations at Northgate.
- Monica thanked Spalding Ashley and Debbie Mazzora as well as everyone who worked on Challenge Days.
- Monica also thanked Donna Warnken-Brill for the benches and new trash cans which grace our campus.

Principal's Report---Mr. McMorris

- Mr. McMorris gave a power point presentation on **Focus on Learning (FOL)**.
- Two goals were determined for where do we want to be: 1. be a high performing school (STAR) and 2. Have high performing students to engage in college or work after graduation. In any class, any period, a student should be receiving a high level of education.
- All students participate in as many authentic learning experiences as possible following the Harvard Model of standards of excellence.
- The Instructional Core is based on three things that can be controlled: content, student, and teacher. "Task predicts performance". Focus on the task predicts performance. Teachers are currently meeting within departments to establish common knowledge/do lists. More attention is paid to working in teams for the teachers—more thinking outside of the box.
- Mr. McMorris is working with 2 sister schools in China possibly sending students and parents to China and vice versa. Mandarin would be a possible language option next year.
- State issues around education spending continue. Millions are probably going to have to be cut; school closure loom as a possibility in the near future.
- In response to the calendar issue discussed last month, an approach has been decided on for a consolidated calendar which will be maintained on the school website. Training is in progress.

Treasurer's Report – Kathy Frattini

- Kathy reported that the Education Fund numbers are roughly \$38, 000 below budget. Kathy reminded everyone to utilize the Gift Card program for Holiday shopping.

Committee Reports

- **Challenge Days---Spalding Ashley:** Challenge Days ran for 3 very successful days at the end of October at St. Matthew's. Lynda Hayes has been working with JFK University to provide on going counseling. "Be the Change" Club is seeing 40 to 50 kids at luncheon meetings. The spring dates are March 28 and 29. Believe in you and weave it into everything we do.
- **Education Fund—Cathy Escobar:** As mentioned, donations are lower than budget. A school wide email will go out for year end giving as well as recognize those who have given already.
- **ASB Leadership---**No student representative assigned yet—no report.
- **Northgate Pride—Jane Erdiakoff:** The District postponed the vote on the bleacher and lights until all of the public comments can be responded to. Pride received 300 responses to the survey on school needs. The surveys are still being tabulated. There is a meeting tonight with those interested in the dance floor project (\$20,000 effort).
- **Music Boosters—Vikki Bearman Arganek:** 140 band members were at the November 7th football game. Music Boosters is currently selling candy to raise money. They are also having a fundraiser on 12/11 at Sports Basement. Please check out their website <http://www.northgatehs-pfc.com/nimb.html> to stay on top of awards and fundraising activities.
- **Athletic Boosters—Janet Sheehy:** Northgate and Clayton Valley reached 100% in donations for Fall Sports. The approach for winter that Northgate has taken is to collect the donation prior to tryouts. This eases the collection process for all involved; other schools may follow. Congratulations to Girl's Golf, Girl's Tennis Girl's Volleyball, Girl's and Boy's Water Polo for their DVAL League Championships.
- **PAC Meeting—Linda Locke:** The Superintendent vote is tomorrow night. Dick Nicoll (interim Superintendent), Gail Isserman (Assistant Superintendent) and Alan Young (Associate Superintendent) are all retiring. Enrollment in the district is down by 700 students which is a larger number than previous years had indicated. 133 teacher jobs were lost as a result of class size reduction. Budget cuts are also looming. Always check the district website at www.mdusd.k12.ca.us for the most recent information as well as the Monday memos.
- **Spring for Education—Margot Chafetz:** The social event of the spring is set for March 13, 2010. The String Quartet, Jazz Band and the Madrigals will all be performing. They are looking for donations to sporting events, gift cards. Contact Margot at chafe97@aol.com
- **Climate Committee---Jenny Crosthwaite:** The committee is looking at a Strategic Planning session offsite. They would like to add more teachers to the committee and have two immediate goals 1). Academic counselors who could meet with parents and students, 2). Determining an approach to allow all interested parties to collaborate and spend our limited monies in the wisest way possible.
- **Landscaping Committee—Linda Middleton:** the committee's first regular maintenance day was on Saturday, November 7. We weeded and maintained the Memorial Rose and Native Plant Garden and the front sign planter box. We spread new pine mulch in one area of the Drive through. The committee will meet on the first Saturday of each month to continue regular maintenance and carry out long-range projects that include:
 - Planting Valley Oak trees as the first phase of a plan to eventually plant trees along the path from the parking lot along the south side of the baseball field. This plan calls for a fundraising effort to start early next year to have student clubs, parents and community organizations to sponsor a the cost of purchase and maintenance of a tree.
 - Ben Campopiano is leading the effort to mulch the path from the parking lot to the Sports Complex. Mulch should be spread over Thanksgiving break.
 - Plant blue - eyed grass and manzanitas in the drive-through area that was mulched last spring.
 - Continue mulching areas around the grounds.
 - District gardener rejuvenated (hard prune) shrubs at front and sides of school building.
 - We hired a local pond maintenance company to clean and stabilize the atrium pond

and filtration system. They were committed to weekly maintenance from August thru October. Our committee does not have the funds to continue the program. The company graciously agreed to continue the maintenance until the end of the calendar year gratis. I met with Jon Campopiano this morning to discuss alternatives for funding the program until June of next year and beyond.

Preliminary Projects for Cleanup Day Spring, 2010

- Rejuvenate Coyote Brush on hillsides by the football field; use chipper to shred clippings and use to mulch area.
- Prepare plots on Sports Complex hill for fall planting.
- **Career Day---Patty Proctor:** Career Day is scheduled for April 20, 2010. Each student will have access to three 35 minute sessions with one of the over 120 guest speakers we are hoping to have speak at the first ever Northgate Career Day. We are currently looking for speakers and soliciting volunteers for the Career Day Committee.

Next PFC Meeting will be Thursday, January 21st at 9:00 AM in the Northgate High School library.

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