

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

7:05 p.m. – Meeting called to order by Donna Warnken-Brill.

**Present:** Donna Warnken-Brill, Kathy Frattini, Dianne Urhausen, Ann Sussman, Cindy Lentz, Linda Middleton, Margot Chafetz, Margaret Vercammen, Linda Locke, Michael Weinberger, Lisa Stackpole, and Jane Erdiakoff

**Guests:** Drew Nollsch, Jenny Crosthwaite, Alisa MacCormac, Linda Campbell, Linda Loza, Ruth Carver, Janet Sheehy, Lynda Hayes, Ben Campopiano, Michelle Dooner, Patty Proctor.

**Principal's Report---Ms. Hayes**

- Ms. Hayes reported on numerous examples of team work going on at Northgate and within the feeder patterns. Efforts include:
- 9<sup>th</sup> grade Parent night for at risk students—meeting with the parents of underperforming students to determine appropriate intervention.
- Planning for finals for the week of January 20<sup>th</sup> to ensure a successful week for students.
- Department Chair Meeting conducted—one item of consideration: community building with the staff.
- Northgate administrators are meeting with Foothill administrators to plan for the incoming class of 9<sup>th</sup> graders. New this year, a joint student and parent meeting will be held at Northgate over the course of 2 nights (alpha split—but you are welcome either night). The meetings are scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> in the Gym at 6:30 PM. The week following the parent/student meeting, Ms. Hayes will meet individually with the students at Foothill to gather their schedules.
- Fourteen adults were trained in December on the “Response to Intervention” model. The RTI model focuses on short term vs. long term interventions, how to do them and incorporates some of the best practices from across the state.

**Faculty Report---Mr. Campopiano**

- Mr. Campopiano reported on a new Northgate website that has a target launch of the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the second semester. Items to be included on the website are: rules, calendar, bell schedule, bios, pictures and videos. He has been reviewing Bay Area high school websites and college ones as well to determine what type of information to put on the website. Please let him know of any additional information.
- The A period technology section taught the first semester has been dropped for the second semester due to a lack of ROP funds. It is hoped that the class will be reinstated next year.
- Mr. Campopiano expressed interest in working on a technology Committee effort to review the state of computers at Northgate including labs, classrooms, and bandwidth issues.

**Leadership Report – Drew Nollsch**

- Drew reported that for the Rally next month, they are considering a teacher vs. senior competition.
- The Northgate Service Group is organizing a Blood Drive for later this semester
- Publicity Committee is painting horseshoes around campus. Teachers are wearing student's jerseys on game day to support athletics and spirit.
- Winter Ball is January 30<sup>th</sup>. Junior Class is running the event. Parent chaperones are needed.

### **Crisis Counselors – Michelle Dooner**

- Michelle mentioned the article in the Contra Costa Times on teen depression and crisis Counselors.
- Every 15 Minutes (E15M) planning is underway. Events Days are March 31<sup>st</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 75 referrals from Challenge Day have been prioritized.
- Larger number of parent calls coming in asking questions which is very good.

**Approval of Minutes:** Cindy Lentz made a motion to approve the minutes of November 20, 2008. The motion passed.

### **Career Day – Patty Proctor**

- Patty brought to everyone's attention the fact that Northgate does not have a Career Day (Los Lomas does as well as Foothill). Los Lomas sponsors Career Day every other year (probably in a rotating schedule with E15M). The Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce has a speaker bureau which could be utilized as well as contacts within the Northgate community. Patty asked would the PFC would be interested in sponsoring such an event for the students and the response was positive. Patty will pursue with Mr. McMorris and student reps to determine interest levels there as well.

### **Spring Fling – Margot Chafetz**

- Margot indicated that a committee has been formed to have a fundraiser this spring for the Northgate Education Fund. The survey results indicated parents felt there should be fundraisers to increase the amount of money available for academic programs. The event is also hoping to build a stronger sense of community at the high school level. The committee is in need of volunteers and donations. If interested contact Margot at [chafe97@aol.com](mailto:chafe97@aol.com)

### **Treasurer's Report – Kathy Frattini**

- Kathy distributed the budget report for the month.

### **Committee Reports**

- **Northgate Pride – Jane Erdiakoff:** The Northgate Pride donations have been impacted by the tough economic times. Currently there is \$200,000 received from Foundations toward the lights and bleachers (total cost \$1.25 million). Approximately \$ 37,000 is in the Aquatic fund against a planned expenditure of \$4 million. Nets are being placed behind the goals for soccer and lacrosse usage. The Landscaping Committee will work with Jane to understand Pride's plan for landscaping efforts around the football field.
- **Music Boosters—Margaret Vercammen:** The Jazz Band is recording at Fantasy Records. They will be attending a Jazz competition in Folsom and are sponsoring Bobby Shew at the Little Theatre the evening of April 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- **Communications—Margaret Vercammen:** A senior page has been added to the website to keep parents informed about upcoming events—hopefully senior parents are finding it helpful. Margaret will be working closely with Ben Campopiano on what should be on the school website vs. the PFC website. The newsletter is in desperate need of an editor for next year.
- **Athletic Boosters—Janet Sheehy:** Crab Feed is coming up on January 24<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM. The Live Auction will be conducted by Dan Ashley of KGO-News. There will be team baskets and many items in the silent auction.
- **PAC Meeting—Linda Locke:** Budget reductions continue to be of great concern as California is still without a state budget and the impact to education is not fully determined. School Board

meetings are available online now, so even if you cannot attend the meetings, you can still watch them to stay informed on a first hand basis. Always check the district website at [www.mdusd.k12.ca.us](http://www.mdusd.k12.ca.us) for the most recent information. Parcel tax meetings have started as well; information about those meetings is available on the website for interested parents.

### **Campus Beautification—Donna Warnken-Brill**

- Donna reported that Mr. Aloo has done a great job with getting work orders submitted and items fixed around the campus. They did an extensive walk around campus and submitting work orders based on the results of that effort.
- The spring clean-up day is scheduled for March 21<sup>st</sup> from 9 AM to 1 PM. One of the focus areas will be painting.
- Donna is working on an effort to install benches and garbage cans with sleeves on the campus. More details on this effort will follow in February.

### **Climate Committee—Jenny Crosthwaite**

- Jenny explained that the Climate Committee is focusing on the overall quality of academic programs, adequate facilities, and generating fundraising to support these efforts.
- In the academic area, they are focusing on more class sections, more AP classes and electives and more rigors to the freshman level program.
- They are looking at more professional development for teachers including the Master Teach Peer Review Program where mentors assist newer teachers.
- A request was made to get more information about this committee and its efforts on the PFC website.

### **Northgate Education Fund—Dianne Urhausen**

- Dianne reminded parents who can get corporate matching funds to be sure that the paperwork is submitted to Dianne for processing—the employee of the company has to do the initiation.
- We are looking at a \$250 donation request next year to combat cuts by the district and to encourage Leadership Circle giving. Most of the schools in this area (Los Lomas, Acalanes, and Campolindo) request much higher donation levels (\$500-\$600/year).
- What the parents provide in donations can make the difference in the performance levels of the school.
- We are also looking at tapping into some business connections within the community. Anyway interested in working on that effort should contact Dianne at [durhausen@gmail.com](mailto:durhausen@gmail.com)

### **Landscaping Committee—Linda Middleton**

- We've held two maintenance days in the Memorial Garden and Atrium and have scheduled the next one for Feb 21<sup>st</sup>. We will schedule others as needed (rain dependant). Ongoing maintenance includes rose pruning and weeding.
- We're in the process of forming a subcommittee to research a sculpture for the front entrance (Bronco). The subcommittee will consist of members of the landscape committee, administration, Campus Beautification committee and ASB. Gila Sagy has offered to meet with a representative of the art department to coordinate the use of student projects in the landscape (ceramic tiles, sculpture, murals etc.) Donna Warnken-Brill (Campus Beautification) has already approached the Department head, Mr. Hevel regarding murals.

- We've begun collecting materials for our large scale project for Spring Campus cleanup which entails sheet mulching the drive thru area. This is a process we intend to continue around the campus on subsequent Cleanup days, particularly in the barren areas. We will also assist with the volunteer effort in weed abatement and trash collection on the hillsides surrounding the football field. We are in the process of creating a preliminary design for the hillside between the tennis courts and the field. This installation is slated for Fall Cleanup Day. Our intention is to sheet mulch areas in spring to ready them for planting in fall. Our goal is to create a more welcoming landscape utilizing bay friendly concepts of installing plants suited to our climate, minimizing water use and chemical use, minimizing maintenance and advocating habitat creation.
- We are looking forward to walking the campus with Stew Winchester, a local Native plant expert and teacher.

**Next PFC Meeting Thursday, February 19, 2009 at 7:00 PM at the Northgate High School library.**

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