

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

7:00 p.m. – Meeting called to order by Monica Fitzgerald.

**Present:** Monica Fitzgerald, Donna Warnken-Brill, Kathy Frattini, Dianne Urhausen, Ann Sussman, Cindy Lentz, Margot Chafetz, Margaret Vercammen, Linda Locke, Lisa Stackpole, John McMorris, Heather Stover, Lisa Whittington and Jane Erdiakoff

**Guests:** Drew Nollsch, Jenny Crosthwaite, Alisa MacCormac, Ruth Carver, Caron Weeks, Jane Sondel, Patty Proctor.

**Approval of Minutes:** Cindy Lentz made a motion to approve the minutes of January 15, 2009. The motion passed.

**Leadership Report – Drew Nollsch**

- Drew reported that for the Rally this month, they have had senior and teacher events, plus underclass events in the Forum with very good attendance.
- Upcoming events include the Senior Fashion Show, Teen Health Week and Multicultural Week. The sophomores and freshman are also exploring the possibility of hosting a dance for the underclassmen.

**Spring Fling – Margot Chafetz**

- The Spring Fling is coming up on Saturday April 4<sup>th</sup> from 7 to 10:30 PM at the Marriott in Walnut Creek. Tickets are on sale now. Donations are needed. There will be a live auction as well as Buy In parties. Balloon Thrills is donating decorations. If interested in volunteering, contact Margot at [chafe97@aol.com](mailto:chafe97@aol.com)

**Crisis Counselors – Jane Sondel**

- Jane indicated this year is extremely busy, in fact the busiest year of the past 25 years.
- Every 15 Minutes (E15M) planning is underway. Events Days are March 31<sup>st</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Groups are underway for students who have lost a parent or sibling in the past year as well as for children of alcoholics or divorced parents.

**Principal's Report---Mr. McMorris**

- Mr. McMorris mentioned there was a district wide email problem due to a virus. He apologized if there has been a delay in receiving emails from him.
- Apple came to Northgate and did a presentation on I Touch and apps available to assist with lectures, syllabuses, and other educational materials. He is looking at a pilot program for next year.
- Many thanks to Ben Campopiano and Margaret Vercammen for all their efforts on the new Northgate High School website.
- The Master Teacher Program is being looked at to determine how to incorporate into Northgate— if the teachers are good, everything else follows. We need to invest in the program have “superstar” teachers work with other teachers to improve all teachers at a school.

- If there is enough student interest, the following classes will be added for the next school year; AP Art History, AP Chemistry, AP European History, AP Economics, AP Psychology. The Art department will offer new “cafeteria” style offerings in art with a focus on sculpture.
- Work is being done with 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. Common assessments allow the students to see where they are doing well. Lynda Hayes is heading a team of teachers.
- Tech offerings at Northgate are weak. Mr. McMorris wants to push for a full time tech teacher.
- McMorris met with VP Baker at DVC to explore opportunities for concurrent enrollment. This would allow students exposure to more class opportunities.
- Teachers are excited by the support of the community and are having a 2 day brainstorming session on how to make Northgate a better school.
- On March 3<sup>rd</sup> there will be a parent and student evening (6:30 to 8:30 PM) to go over Fall 2009 class offerings. Students will have their schedule info that week and it will be due the following week.
- An Ames class was added for the Spring 2008 semester. Parent questions were asked around placing more priority on students who are not doing well; Mr. McMorris indicated RTI and the Master Teacher program will both help in addressing those concerns.
- Incoming freshman student and parent meetings are March 18 and 19<sup>th</sup> in the Gym. Ms Hayes will visit Foothill on March 23<sup>rd</sup> to obtain schedules from students.

#### **President’s Report – Monica Fitzgerald**

- Thank you to the Athletic Boosters for a wonderful Crab Feed this year!
- Thank you to the Teacher Appreciation Committee for all the wonderful events they have done this year for the teachers!
- Thank you to Margaret Vercammen and Mike Benson for their assistance on the new Northgate High School website.
- Thanks to all the volunteers who are helping in the office by answering phones and greeting guests.
- We are still looking for a grant writer and/or a resource that would be willing to work with Walnut Creek businesses or corporations. If we could add more classroom space we could offer more classes. Ideally we would like to add 3 wings with each wing housing 3 classrooms.
- Musical America is coming up the beginning of March. The Jazz Band will be performing at the Monterey Jazz Festival for the first time in 10 years.
- Campus Clean Up is Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup> from 9 AM to 12 PM. Please volunteer and wear work clothes—make a difference at Northgate!

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

- Kathy distributed the budget report for the month.

#### **Committee Reports**

- **Northgate Pride – Jane Erdiakoff:** There are several fundraising events underway with dates in May; a Poker Tournament and a dinner party. Check the website for details.
- **Music Boosters—Margaret Vercammen:** The Jazz Band is sponsoring Bobby Shew at the Little Theatre the evening of April 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Northgate Area Band Festival is March 24<sup>th</sup>. Greg Brown was presented the CMEA Lifetime Achievement Award at a district meeting on February 24<sup>th</sup>. Erik Hughes and Josh Bhak were chosen for the All State Band.
- **Athletic Boosters—Janet Sheehy:** Winter sports teams are doing well including Boys and Girls Basketball, Girls and Boys Soccer and Wrestling.
- **PAC Meeting—Linda Locke:** Gary McHenry resigned as Superintendent on February 10<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Nicoll is serving as interim Superintendent. The MDUSD Board approved placing a \$99 Parcel

tax on the ballot. Always check the district website at [www.mdusd.k12.ca.us](http://www.mdusd.k12.ca.us) for the most recent information.

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

- Donna reported that adult supervisors are needed for the morning of March 21<sup>st</sup>. Landscaping efforts as well as interior building projects will be going on based on the numbers of students and parents who come to work. The spring clean-up day is scheduled for March 21<sup>st</sup> from 9 AM to 12 PM. Snacks and other food donations are welcome as well. Contact Patty Proctor [patricia\\_proctor@yahoo.com](mailto:patricia_proctor@yahoo.com) to donate. Contact Donna [rhinojwb@astound.net](mailto:rhinojwb@astound.net) to volunteer to work.

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

- Jenny reported that the Committee is visiting other schools in the area to see what types of class offerings exist and what type of teach mentoring is offered.

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

- Dianne reminded parents that the state funding continues to be dismal for schools. State wide there will probably be additional cuts of \$8.6 billion. Critical to the success of the school will be the parents donating more money.
- Escrip received a 10% bonus of \$3,000 for being one of the top 250 schools in the country. If you are not signed up for Escrip for Northgate, please do so now at the link on the Northgate PFC website [www.northgatehs-pfc.com](http://www.northgatehs-pfc.com)

**Next PFC Meeting Thursday, March 19, 2009 at 9:00 AM at the Northgate High School library.**

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