

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

9:02 AM – Meeting called to order by Monica Fitzgerald.

**Present:** Monica Fitzgerald, Kathy Frattini, Dianne Urhausen, Ann Sussman, Cindy Lentz, Margot Chafetz, Linda Locke, Lisa Stackpole, John McMorris, Char Hamilton, Lisa Whittington

**Guests:** Linda Loza, Kara Navolio, Janet Sheehy, Jenny Crosthwaite, Ruth Carver, Lance Friis, Nina Barley, Susan Blumer, Danielle Voorhees, Paul Strange, Rudy Ramirez, Kassie Wenzell

**Robotics Club Report – Georg Ristock**

- George Ristock reported on the success of the three year old Robotics Club; they have always qualified for the World Championships. This year they won the top award in San Jose and qualified to go to Denver with a team of only 1 senior and the rest freshman. There is a \$250 entry fee and it will cost approximately \$500 per student. The Club is requesting some financial support from the PFC to go along with the fundraising they have been doing. A motion was made to support the club with the entry fee and teacher trip cost, not to exceed \$1,000.00. In order to secure the funding the motion also calls for the team to make a presentation in front of the MDUSD Board. **Motion Passed.** Monica will also draw up some guidelines for Club Support for next year's budget line item. Mr. Strange volunteered to put on the MDUSD blog and a request was made to place on our website as well.

**Leadership Report – Georg Ristock**

- George reported that Teen Health Week is scheduled for the week of March 30<sup>th</sup>. The Cafeteria will be focusing on healthy lunches. George also requested that the PFC do healthy breakfast (similar to Finals Fuel) on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Monica indicated she would discuss with Mr. Reyes—that is a busy volunteer week at school with **Every 15 Minutes** occurring on March 31<sup>st</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Measure D – Paul Strange and Rudy Ramirez**

- Mr. Strange spoke on the importance of the passage of Measure D to combat the cuts that have been made in the past 2 years (\$30 million with \$16 million this year alone). Librarians, Vice Principals, 4<sup>th</sup> grade music, athletics have been cut and many other programs remain at risk. Measure D will be on the May 19<sup>th</sup> ballot with 5 other statewide measures. The Measure D campaign is looking for both financial donations and volunteer hour donations. Phone banking and Precinct walking are critical to the success of the campaign. All are encouraged to volunteer through the website: [www.northgate.protectourlocalschools.org](http://www.northgate.protectourlocalschools.org)
- Site captains for Northgate High School are Linda Loza and Carla Ludwig. They are working to identify key events within the community and are looking for endorsements from many organizations.
- A motion was made to endorse Measure D. **Motion passed.**
- A motion was made to donate \$1,000.00 to Measure D campaign. **Motion passed.**

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

- Mr. McMorris spoke about how proud he is of the Robotics Club as an example of authentic learning that is occurring at Northgate.

- He also acknowledged the fine seasons both the boys and girls basketball and soccer teams had as well as the Wrestling team.
- Northgate had a 2 day session to develop a Governance Plan. The first day was spent discussing the first 35 years of Northgate, what works, what does not, what are the students like then versus now. The second day was spent discussing 2 or 3 firm goals for the coming years as well as the role of PFC, Site Council, and Department Chairs.
- There is a campaign underway this year to **achieve 850** API on the STAR testing. Last year's score was 835.

### **Crisis Counselors – Lance Friis**

- Lance indicated that many children are struggling with depression and stress this year due to the economic and family issues. Teens are emulating the stress of their parents.
- Every 15 Minutes (E15M) will be March 31<sup>st</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup>. For the first time there will be a community wide event on April 2<sup>nd</sup> for all interested in attending.
- Monica added that we should all write to the Mayor and City Council members to keep the funding for the Crisis Counselors. With City budget cuts, there is a risk to the Counselors, so please be sure to email your support.

### **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 sales are strong. There will be a live auction as well as Buy In parties. Flyers have been distributed at incoming freshman meetings this week. If interested in volunteering, contact Margot at [chafe97@aol.com](mailto:chafe97@aol.com)

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

- Kathy distributed the budget report for the month. The district has been slow to bill so we are gathering interest on cash on hand.

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

- Campus Beautification is this Saturday—hope you are all coming to work. Make a difference at Northgate!
- All the Parent Clubs at Northgate are working hard to improve Northgate despite the budget cuts.

### **Committee Reports**

- **Northgate Pride – Kassie Wenzell:** We are moving forward with the lights and bleachers. There was a neighborhood meeting last week at Northgate on the lights. Pride is halfway to the dollar totals required for the lights. The annual report for Pride will come out in April
- **Music Boosters—:** The Jazz Band is attending the Monterey Jazz Festival the first weekend in April and at Yoshii's on May 19<sup>th</sup>. The Spring Concert will be at the Leshner Theatre on May 26<sup>th</sup>.
- **Athletic Boosters—Janet Sheehy:** Paul Strange spoke at the last Booster meeting regarding the cuts to Athletics. He encouraged boosters and interested parents and students to attend the district meeting on March 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss the cuts.
- **PAC Meeting—Linda Locke:** One vice Principal position has been eliminated at Northgate due to the budget cuts. Always check the district website at [www.mdusd.k12.ca.us](http://www.mdusd.k12.ca.us) for the most recent information.

**Budget Meeting—Monica Fitzgerald**

- Monica invited everyone to the budget planning meeting on March 26<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM in the Library Conference Room. The budget will be presented at the April PFC meeting.

**Northgate Education Fund—Dianne Urhausen**

- Dianne reminded parents that to mention the vice principal cuts at any district meetings that you attend as well as writing emails to Gail Isserman at MDUSD regarding any Northgate or District staff that you would like to support. These emails will gather critical support for staff members.

**Approval of Minutes:** Cindy Lentz made a motion to approve the minutes of February 19, 2009. The motion passed.

**The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM.**

**Next PFC Meeting Thursday, April 23, 2009 at 9:00 AM at the Northgate High School library.**

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