

Northgate Parent Faculty Club
Minutes
Thursday, April 17, 2008

7:00 p.m. – Meeting called to order by Vicki Fraser.

Present: Vicki Fraser, Donna Warnken-Brill, Linda Campbell, Margaret Vercammen, Linda Locke, Mark Foletta, Mary Privitera, Melanie English, Jane Erdiakoff, Monica Fitzgerald, Carl Toliver.

Guests: Cindy Perryman, Ann Sussman, Stefanie Corrales, Antoinette Valla.

Motion to approve meeting minutes from March 20, 2008. Motion passed.

Crisis Counselor – Cindy Perryman

- Students are stressed regarding the end of school. Have seen more eating disorder issues.
- There was a fight last week and the new surveillance system proved to be very helpful. They were able to retrieve a tape of the incident immediately.
- Cindy won't be returning to Northgate next year because she is going to be focusing on her private practice.

Principal's Report – Carl Toliver

- Star testing starts next week – parents and students will be notified. API scores will be released in the fall. Northgate has had score of 834 (highest in Mt. Diablo School District) but this score has been stagnant and should be improved. Talked to teachers about Northgate's performance as compared to higher scores of Acalanes district high schools. Also stressed the importance of everyone taking the Star testing seriously.
- Baseball team has been winning many of their games. Girl's softball – not doing as well but girls are clearly having fun. Varsity La Crosse won against College Park but lost against Las Lomas.
- Held meeting with Aquatic team consisting of architects and district business superintendent to make sure that everyone is working together in their efforts towards building the new Aquatic Center. District will work to make its contribution as well as Northgate Pride. Track should be completed this August, 2008.
- Performance Arts will put on "Twelfth Night" beginning 4/30/08 in the Little Theater.
- Sr. Fashion was held last week. Very impressed how senior students put on the entire show by themselves. Students gave an abbreviated performance at staff meeting. Wanted teachers to see what the kids had put together since shows are after school and staff are rarely able to attend students' evening productions – Very proud of these kids! "Music America" production was also great!
- On 5/19/08 the Jazz band will perform at Yoshi's in Oakland. Mr. Toliver will be there at 6:00 and anticipates a great evening!
- Leadership – Student Health Week was a success. Olympic Gold Medalist, Eddy Hart came and talked to the kids about getting ready over the course of ten years to go to the Olympics. Students were very well behaved and for the most part very attentive.
- Jr. Prom was a success. Sr. Ball is scheduled to be held on 5/17/08 at the Mark Hopkins Hotel in San Francisco. Eric Kapral and Ingrid have the Baccalaureate ceremony under control.
- Principal Interviews – Hopefully by Mid-May Northgate should have a new principal.
- Held very successful Staff Retreat over weekend. Included teachers from each dept., two parents and administration. Linda Hayes did a great job coordinating with facilitator. Began exploring how to get better teamwork, respect for each other and communication. Goal is to improve the culture of the school. Plans to follow up with staff and wants to regroup to address questions, to put systems in place. Plans August retreat to work towards those ends.
- Initiated Employee and Parent of the Month – (1) certified employee, (1) credentialed employee. Will add Student of the Month as well.
- Will be reviewing need for additional AP classes. Also will review sustained reading program – is that a waste of time?

- Registration – Intra-district transfers will be considered first.
- Margaret Vercammen noted that there was no administration presence at the recent 4/3/08 Jazz concert held at Northgate High School. Administration should be showing support of music programs.

Parliamentarian Report – Donna Warnken-Brill

- Monica Fitzgerald has agreed to serve as PFC President and Donna Warnken-Brill will serve as V.P. There are a lot of new people coming onto the PFC board. Still needs people to serve as auditor, grad night chair, 'Every 15 minutes' chair. Attended Retreat – Felt it was very important to include parents voice and concerns.
- Served on selection of the new principal panel – felt that it was a very successful process. It is now in the 2nd phase in which the district meets with the panel's choices and goes through their references. All of the panel's choices have jobs elsewhere and would be unable to start immediately.
- Will head Walk-Thru registration with Patty Proctor – will be meeting with Mr. Heyer and Linda Hayes about plans. Will be changing some things from previous years such as holding the event inside the school, not the gym.

President's Report – Vicki Fraser for Thea Sorscher

- Thea absent from meeting due to Passover celebration and Dianne Urhausen, treasurer, absent due to daughter's birthday.
- Retirement party for PFC President, Thea Sorscher will be held on June 5, 2008 from 4:00 – 7:00 at Vicki Fraser's house. Dianne will be sending out evites. Party will include all three schools and administration.
- Proposed Budget – Very lean. Lots of cuts had to be made because of less money coming in from Ed. Fund. Proposed budget discussed line by line. Important to attend May meeting where budget will be discussed further and voted on.

Committee Reports

- **Northgate Pride – Jane Erdiakoff** - The field is still on hold due to the moisture content in the soil. We are monitoring it weekly and everyone involved is anxious to get back to work. In the meantime, we are doing a lot of behind the scenes work so the turf and track work goes as quickly as possible. Also beginning to raise money for lights at the field. Will rent bleachers at first.
- **PAT – Monica Fitzgerald** – Started working on Every 15 Minutes program for next year. Trying to schedule it so as not to conflict with Band trip to Disneyland. Securing funds for next year.
- **Superintendent Meeting – Linda Locke** – Discussed issues raised by 'Petition To Transfer' out of District including what would happen to teachers. PE exemption discussed insofar as current 9th and 10th graders are required to take PE. Possible plan would allow 10th graders to defer PE so long as they pass a fitness test. Trying to add exemptions to meet the requirements of the education code. Ongoing Community Meetings discussed. Linda Locke will put message out on the PFC Website inviting parents with questions for the Superintendents to contact her so she can adequately represent the parents at Northgate.

Donna Warnken-Brill reminded everyone of the importance of attending the next meeting insofar as the Budget for 2008/2009 will be voted on.

Next Meeting will be held Thursday, May 15 at 7:00 PM at Northgate High School library.

9:00 PM – Meeting adjourned

**Respectfully submitted,
Linda Campbell, Secretary
Northgate Parent Faculty Club**