

**Northgate Parent Faculty Club
Minutes
Thursday April 23, 2009**

9:06 AM – Meeting called to order by Monica Fitzgerald. Monica welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a big thanks to the Spring Fling Committee Co-Chairs, Jenny Crosthwaite, Margot Chafetz, and Cindy Lentz for their very successful event. She also reminded all that Measure D voting is less than a month away.

Present: Monica Fitzgerald, Kathy Frattini, Dianne Urhausen, Ann Sussman, Cindy Lentz, Margot Chafetz, Linda Locke, Linda Middleton, Margaret Vercammen, John McMorris, Lisa Whittington, Danielle Voorhees

Guests: Linda Loza, Kara Navolio, Jenny Crosthwaite, Ruth Carver, Jane Sondel, Susan Blumer, Patty Proctor

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

2009-2010 PFC Board – Cindy Lentz

- There will be a meeting on April 30th at 9 AM At the Lentz home to finalize Board positions for the coming year. Right now, there are approximately 15 open positions to fill. E-News will be used to communicate open positions.

Leadership Report –

- Monica reported there will be a rally to announce all athletes who signed to play NCAA sports in college.
- Student Leadership is evaluating an update to the existing marquee vs. a new perhaps more computerized type marquee.
- Leadership is working on an Admin Appreciation Day as well as a teacher talent show. In the coming year, they are also hoping to organize a 5K fundraiser for the school.

Crisis Counselors – Jane Sondel

- Jane indicated that many children are struggling with depression and stress this year due to the economic and family issues. Our crisis counselors have confirmed with other counselors in the area and they are seeing the same type of spike.
- Every 15 Minutes (E15M) was a very powerful event at the school.
- Seniors are having difficulties getting into some schools; some schools have a 10% higher decline rate this year
- Monica again reminded everyone 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 was attended by 240 people including parents, teachers, administrators and coaches. Both the Madrigals and the String Quartet gave outstanding performances. Approximately \$30,000 was raised. There was good feedback on the low ticket prices. Some space remains in some of the buy in parties; if interested contact Jenny Crosthwaite.

Principal's Report---Mr. McMorris

- Mr. McMorris thanked all who worked on both the Spring Fling and Campus Clean-Up as wonderful examples on how parents can make a difference at Northgate.
- He also thanked Linda Loza for all her hard work on Measure D.
- We need to be supportive of our students who may not get into the 1st or 2nd college choice; may not be a reflection on their work but rather cutbacks at the college in terms of admissions.
- Mr. McMorris reported on a week long conference he is attending this summer at Harvard—he will be bringing a draft of his school reform program and will spend the week reviewing the draft with experts in the field to evaluate and improve the plan. This is working toward his goal of spending the first year learning about Northgate and creating an action plan and then in Year 2 working on a 5 year vision for the school.
- There will be department chair elections. Those interested in being chairs need to be knowledgeable about **everything** in the department and willing to visit and learn from other schools.
- Several teachers are retiring so there will be openings in multiple departments. They are working on the Master Schedule to identify teachers and scheduling for the coming school year.
- Concerns were raised from the audience regarding subs and whether they do more than babysitting. The Master Teacher program could assist with this to ensure subs have a planned lesson and are following it.
- Mr. McMorris met with the Northgate feeder pattern school principals (both elementary and middle) and they would like to have a full K -12 feeder pattern survey followed by fish bowl discussions to talk about the data from the survey regarding perception from parent, students, and teachers. The survey would be similar to the one done at Northgate last fall.
- School visits are planned for both Los Lomas and Athenian to learn about program and strategic planning at their sites.

Treasurer's Report – Kathy Frattini

- Kathy distributed the budget report for the month as well as the 2009-2010 budget. We are in good shape for this year's budget in terms of meeting our income projections. Spring Fling was "extra" money not in plan. The district has begun to bill out expenses.
- Kathy answered questions on the proposed budget. Some questions were around the number of sections being offered this year vs. last year, Library funding, and the increase in the PAT reserve due to a risk in the City contribution to the Crisis counselors. Anyone with additional questions should email Kathy at kfrattini@sbcglobal.net.
- The proposed 2009-2010 budget will be voted on at the May 21st meeting.

President's Report – Monica Fitzgerald

- Monica thanked all who were involved in Campus Beautification, Spring Fling, and Measure D for all the hard work put into these efforts.
- Monica reported on Climate Committee (as part of PFC), Site Council and the department Chairs all working together with Mr. McMorris on a strategic plan for the next 3 to 5 years. We need to develop a way to spend funds wisely as a team instead of separate groups.
- Next year the PFC meeting will split between evening and morning meetings in an attempt to give the most people the opportunity to participate in the meetings.

Committee Reports

- **Northgate Pride – Kara Navolio:** The Poker tournament planned for the beginning of May was postponed to October due to a lack of response. The environmental report for the lights will be published in May followed by a 45 public comment period. Fundraising is tough right now and there is a need for a Transition team of parents with younger students to take over leadership roles.
- **Music Boosters—Margaret Vercammen:** The Jazz Band had a wonderful time attending the Monterey Jazz Festival the first weekend in April. They were pleased with the support of Mr. McMorris who attended the event. They will be performing at Yoshii's on May 19th. The Spring Concert will be at the Leshner Theatre on May 26th.
- **Athletic Boosters—Ann Sussman:** Athletic Boosters endorsed Measure D and gave a financial donation as well. Boosters are looking for team reps as well as a Crab Feed Chair for the coming year.
- **PAC Meeting—Linda Locke:** Cyber Bullying can be addressed with school principals because it does impact what goes on during the school day, although the bullying itself occurs off campus. Any feedback regarding teachers returning test or not returning test should be emailed to Mr. McMorris. Homework policy and specific site recommendations or feedback should also be shared with Linda and/or Mr. McMorris. Always check the district website at www.mdusd.k12.ca.us for the most recent information as well as the Monday memos.

Measure D—Linda Loza

- Linda thanked all who have done phone banking and precinct walking so far. At the City Council meeting all of the members spoke on the urgency of the passage of Measure D and endorsed the Measure.
- Linda indicated the weekend pattern of shifts as well as the Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday night activities would continue until the May 19th election.
- Kara Navolio has been working to ensure those seniors who are 18 register and vote.
- Rocco has generously offered to host a fundraising effort April 28, 29 and 30th with a % of sales going to the campaign.

Campus Clean-Up ----Donna Warnken-Brill

- Donna thanked all 550 volunteers (460 students and 90 adults) who worked the day of the event. It was the largest response to date. There was some financial support as well and an incredible array of donated food and drinks from parents and the community to feed the workers.
- The Landscape Committee did a great job on the mulching and will be planting at the Fall Campus Clean-Up. We are also looking to do more painting in the fall as well.
- Donna is still working with Mr. Aloo on various repairs around campus (water faucets, door frames, etc).
- She has received approval for the benches (15) and trash cans (10) and is looking for some additional parent donations.

Northgate Education Fund—Dianne Urhausen

- Dianne mentioned **Rev Trak**, a new online system that allows parents to pay for items on line as well as make monthly donations. The Student ID will be critical to ensure proper credit goes to your student.

Walk Through Days for 2009-2010 School Year—Patty Proctor

- Patty reported that the Walk Through website will be available on August 1st. Walk through Days are scheduled for **Friday, August 21st** (9th and 11th graders) and **Monday, August 24th** (10th and

12th graders). Students and parents may attend either day. The sessions will be **8 to 11 AM** and **1 to 4 PM** with a 5 to 7 PM session only on the 24th.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 AM.

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

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