

Northgate Parent Faculty Club
Minutes
Thursday, September 11, 2008

7:03 p.m. – Meeting called to order by Monica Fitzgerald.

Present: Monica Fitzgerald, Donna Warnken-Brill, John McMorris, Kathy Frattini, Cindy Lentz, Dianne Urhausen, Margaret Vercammen, Antoinette Valla, Nannette Cutliff, Lisa Stackpole, Linda Locke, Linda Campbell, Michael Weinberger, Susan Donatelli, Tammy Nguyen, Mark Wilson, Heather Stover, Janine Leyrer, Hilles Smith, Jane Erdiakoff, Margo Chafetz.

Guests: Mohamed Eisa, Stefanie Corrales, Julie Sullivan, Gila Mearefi, Karen Jenkins, Monica Maddern, Drew Nollsch, Jenny Crosthwaite, Linda Loza, Phillip Prince, Audrey Slaughter, Jane Sondel, Michelle Dooner.

Introduction of PFC Board members and guests attending meeting

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve minutes of May 15, 2008 PFC meeting as written.

Motion passed.

Crisis Counselors – Michelle Dooner and Jane Sondel

- Michelle is seeing students who met with Cindy Perryman last year. Lance and Jane are checking in with students seen last year. Jane working on re-structuring support groups. Students are taking advantage of counseling services. Explained monthly CARE Team meetings which focus on high-risk students and monthly meeting with other Walnut Creek schools and WCPD.

Leadership Report – Drew Nollsch

- Sophomores are holding Rocco's night fundraiser and selling t-shirts; Juniors are looking into have Jr. Prom on Treasure Island, working on float and winter ball planning; Seniors sold pizza at Saturday's football game, will have Domino's booth at Walnut Festival; Senior Service planning gift wrap fundraiser, canned food and blood drives.
- ASB officers organized 9/11 tribute.
- Freshman elections will be held soon.

President's Report – Monica Fitzgerald

- "Exciting" start to the school year. Thanks to Patty Proctor and Donna Warnken-Brill for a very successful walk-through and Margaret Vercammen for e-newsletter and registration forms on-line. New strategic planning committee will be formed. Fundraising drive to add more class periods. Will have on-line survey for parent feedback.
- Every 15 Minutes will be put on by Parent Action Team this spring.
- Donate \$10 gift cards to Principal McMorris for "Bronco of the Month" which will be give to a parent, student, faculty and staff member each month.
- Eight parents attended staff retreat the week before school, focus on building morale and better communication.
- Events and meeting dates should be posted on master calendar and sent to webmaster – don't schedule on religious holidays.
- College & Career night will be held by Pat Brands on September 25th; open to all parents and students, but focus is on Freshmen and Sophomores.
- Looking into social event jointly sponsored by PFC, Northgate Pride and Athletic Boosters.
- Researching Rev-Trak which would allow school to take credit card payments for walk-through registration, dances, transportation fees, etc.
- E-mail or call with ideas and suggestions.

Parliamentarian – Cindy Lentz

Motion to approve \$1000.00 to fund My Gradebook.

Motion passed.

Mrs. Maddern noted that 50 teachers are currently signed up to use My Gradebook and that new ABI program is not ready for teachers to use as an on-line grade book yet. ABI will be rolled out Monday for attendance.

Motion to nominate Maggie Wood to serve as Freshman Orientation Co-Chair.

Motion passed.

Faculty Report – Karen Jenkins and Monica Maddern

- Mrs. Jenkins reported that she is teaching new ROP journalism class. School lost systems management teacher, photography and dance positions filled. Shifting and balancing number of students in some classes. Adding math support class. Excited to be at Northgate and many teachers have local roots in our community. Teachers are enthusiastic and up-beat and feel tremendous support from parents and administration.
- Mrs. Maddern reported Site Council yearly plan for student achievement to be submitted to school board by beginning of November. Everyone is welcome to attend Site Council meetings held the first Monday of the month.

Treasurer's Report – Kathy Frattini

- Reviewed 08-09 budget. Good news – Ed Fund is \$7000 over budget this year. Other income items should be on track for the year. Unused funds of \$28,541.11 from 07-08 that were carried over to cover any shortfall in the Ed Fund will not be needed for that purpose.

Motion to add funding for two more class periods (sections) to the budget for 08-09 not to exceed \$35,000.00.

Motion passed.

Discussion ensued regarding how sections to be funded are chosen and whether funds are needed to purchase equipment, material or supplies. Mr. McMorris explained that funds for sections are used to manipulate the master schedule to create a schedule that accommodates the greatest numbers of students. One priority is to reduce class size that by contract cannot be over 37 students. This year the school has added AP classes, math tutorial classes, and international relations. All students will have a final schedule by back-to-school night. Discussion also regarding security and stolen items. Some equipment stolen over the summer by someone who may have had a key to the school and knew location of surveillance cameras. Equipment not covered by insurance since the district is self-insured for the first \$250,000 of loss. Investigating card system for entry into the school building.

Committee Reports

- **Directory Advertisements – Mark Wilson:** deadline to submit an ad has been extended to next week, \$2775 so far in firm commitments; hope to exceed last year's amount.
- **Directory – Susan Donatelli:** working on finalizing student and teacher contact information, hoping to get to district print shop by end of the month. Art Department is submitting several works of art to choose from.
- **Education Fund – Dianne Urhausen:** Ed Fund is over budget for the year. Trend over the past three years has been down. Working on increasing participation by all families. Less than 50% of the families at the school donate.
- **Northgate Pride – Jane Erdiakoff:** Field opening with new all-weather track and artificial turf field on Saturday was a great day. Looking forward to seeing the field used by all teams at Northgate. Walk-through registration was successful. Saturday September 13th from 10:00am – 3:00pm there will be a Kitchen Tour of six local custom kitchens. Tickets are on sale at Ace Hardware and Kitchen Table.
- **Music Boosters – Margaret Vercammen:** three upcoming events – marching band will be performing at the Walnut Acres' Ice Cream Social September 12th, marching in Walnut Festival Parade and will hold annual neighborhood march-a-thon September 20th.
- **PAC Meeting – Linda Locke:** New district wide policy requires teachers to return certain tests to students. Opt out form for no contact by military recruiters in district handbook. District is looking into formulating guidelines for homework standards that will be consistent throughout the district. Parents should e-mail Linda with topics they would like to see addressed at meetings. District has a commitment that parent inquires be responded to by school site within 24-28 hours. If no response, contact Alan Young at the district office. Mr. McMorris added that e-mail is the best way to reach him.
- **Go Green Go Clean – Donna Warnken-Brill:** Last year's clean up day was a huge success. First clean-up day this year will be October 4th. Will be walking through school and grounds on Monday with head of district maintenance

and Mr. McMorris. May have new front windows soon. Looking into replacing lockers and steam cleaning cement on the outside of the school building.

- **Challenge Day:** Spalding Ashley is bringing new program to Northgate – more info to come.
- **Feeder Schools:** Foothill Pasta feed October 11th. Tree dedication on September 12th for Mrs. Sullivan, a long-time teacher at WA, who recently passed away. Good-bye party for Rose Lock September 25th at WA.

Next PFC Meeting Thursday, October 16, 2008 at 7:00 PM at the Northgate High School library.

Meeting adjourned 8:20 PM

Following adjournment, Mr. McMorris gave power point presentation that was given to staff at the beginning of school year on the vision for Northgate High School in the future.

**Respectfully submitted,
Dianne Urhausen, Secretary pro tem
Northgate Parent Faculty Club**