

**Northgate Parent Faculty Club  
Minutes  
Thursday, November 20, 2008**

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

**Present:** Monica Fitzgerald, Donna Warnken-Brill, Kathy Frattini, Dianne Urhausen, Ann Sussman, Margaret Vercammen, Linda Locke, Michael Weinberger, Lisa Stackpole, and Jane Erdiakoff

**Guests:** Drew Nollsch, Jenny Crosthwaite, Jane Sondel, Spalding Ashley, Debbie Mazzora, Ruth Carver, Rachel Cohen, Mohamed Eisa, James Wright, Janet Sheehy.

**Approval of Minutes:** There was a motion to approve the minutes of October 16, 2008. The **motion passed** with the correct spelling of Spalding's name, PAC notes "will be" placed on the PFC website, and that the ASB offices, not officers, were painted.

**Guest Speaker---Rachel Cohen of World Strides**

- Rachel spoke briefly on a 6 day trip to Costa Rica that World Strides is offering to Northgate students. They need a minimum of 15 students to attend. Students completing the trip and an online course afterwards can earn elective science credit. Fundraising efforts are available for students who want to participate. Interested parents should contact Rachel Cohen or Mr. Wright.
- Mr. Wright thanked the PFC for all their contributions for the atrium, particularly for all the Clean-Up Day work.

**Leadership Report – Drew Nollsch**

- Drew reported the Canned Food Drive ends tomorrow (11/21).
- The Leadership class is in the process of re-organizing the ASB space—once this is complete, they will begin selling Northgate apparel.
- The Fall Sports Rally is scheduled for this Friday, 11/21 with captains and seniors playing "Frozen Turkey" among other activities.
- Bronco Man (in a new costume) will be appearing at basketball games this year.
- A new display class is being ordered for the Honor Roll.

**Crisis Counselors – Jane Sondel**

- Jane indicated the Crisis Counselors are very busy. Students are being impacted by the poor economy with parents facing unemployment.
- 75 referrals from Challenge Day have been prioritized.
- More family involvement is occurring—parents are coming in directly to speak with the counselor which is a very good thing.
- There will be a Parent Ed Night on Teen Depression in the Little Theatre, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM.

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

- The budget news is not good. At least \$6 million will have to be cut, possibly as much as \$10 to 13 million from the district budget—we should know by January. California spends \$5,800 per pupil; New York spends \$14,800 per student. Everything is being looked at including, but not limited, to librarians, 9<sup>th</sup> grade class reduction and athletics. The cold hard facts are not good, but character is built in tough times and the budget situation will bring plenty of character testing.

- The Art Department has a 5 year plan for Art at Northgate—they are looking at offering an AP Art class next year.
- The Math Department is looking at expanding to include business math and professional math.
- The focus is on the next 5 years, building and improving the school. All the principals in the district would like to have 9<sup>th</sup> grade CORE to include World Geography. The class could be built to include career and college counseling so that students are thinking and preparing from the beginning of high school.
- The teachers have been reviewing the test data from the STAR testing and are working with the Leadership class on a new campaign to encourage the students to do well overall.

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

- Kathy distributed the budget report for the month. Gift Cards will be moving into the black.

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

- Monica commended Mr. McMorris on the positive attitude and the change that is occurring throughout the school.
- Congratulations to Spalding and Debbie on an outstanding Challenge Days!
- We had almost 900 responses to the on line survey about Northgate—many thanks to those who took the time to offer their opinions.
- All the Parent Clubs at Northgate are sponsoring a Holiday Party in the Forum on December 17<sup>th</sup> from 7 to 9 PM. All are welcome to attend; there will be food, drink, and raffle gifts. The Madrigals and the Jazz Band will be performing.
- Always check the online calendar for updates on what is happening on campus. Please support E-Scrip and Gift Cards for your Holiday shopping.
- The PFC has an open position for a Grant Writer and the district has a class to assist with your training. If you are interested in helping to fill this valuable position, please contact Monica at [mldfitzgerald@gmail.com](mailto:mldfitzgerald@gmail.com)
- Thank you all for your dedication to Northgate!

### **Committee Reports**

- **Northgate Pride – Jane Erdiakoff:** The Northgate Pride website is undergoing renovation. A letter will be going out at the end of the year requesting donations as 2008 closes.
- **Music Boosters—Margaret Vercammen:** The Marching Band has won numerous awards this year. Six Northgate students have been selected to be in the Honor Jazz Band. Winter Concerts are upcoming on December 2, 9, and 11. A question was asked about Pep Band and having them play at more than football games.
- **Athletic Boosters—Janet Sheehy:** Use of Bleachers post Football has become an issue as the bleachers were removed. This leaves the spring sports without sufficient seating for hosting meets and games (track and lacrosse). Crab Feed tickets are available—the event is January 24<sup>th</sup> at the Concord Centre at 6 PM.
- **PAC Meeting—Linda Locke:** All items that were not cut last year are on deck for cutting this year including sports, music, clerical and classified maintenance. Input is always welcome on where cuts should/should not occur or any suggestions to increase revenue are always welcome. There are multiple budget meetings scheduled; check the district website at [www.mdusd.k12.ca.us](http://www.mdusd.k12.ca.us)
- **Challenge Days– Spalding Ashley:** The goal of Challenge Days going forward is to be able to support full participation. They would like to have the event at least once a year (only 100 students can go through the program on a given day). Spalding and Debbie are continuing to fundraise for next year, but would possibly like to have Challenge Days be considered as a line item in the budget next year. **Be the Change** club has started on campus as a result of the November Challenge Days.

- **RevTrak---Patty Proctor & Margaret Vercammen:** Many high schools in the area (Clayton Valley, Las Lomas, and Monte Vista) use this product to enable parents to use a credit card to pay for Northgate related items. Many parents have expressed an interest to be able to pay with a credit card at Walk though. RevTrak would also allow parents to pay for items from home (dance tickets, parking spaces, etc). Patty and Margaret are working with the Northgate Treasurer, Linda De La Rosa, to bring this product to Northgate.
- **Teacher Priority List—Donna Warnken-Brill:** After Donna met with the Department Chairs, it was determined that 19 teachers needed white boards. PFC funds of \$5,000 were matched by the school in support of this request.

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

- Jenny gave a presentation on the results of the survey. A few highlights are listed below, if you have additional questions, please contact Jenny at [jenniferc@yahoo.com](mailto:jenniferc@yahoo.com)
- Areas which need improvement: facilities, school spirit, API Score is too low, AP class offerings too few, more resource counselors are needed and increased communication.
- In the area of curriculum, the survey results indicated strength in English, Math, Science, PE and Music, but want more Foreign Language classes, more AP classes, Life Skills classes and Science and Social Studies classes for freshman.
- There is a need to engage more Parents, to invest in more sections, spend more on campus beautification, more fundraising, and more social events to build community.
- College counselors are needed at **each** grade level.
- The Climate Committee will be evaluating the responses in detail and brainstorming how to address the concerns. They plan to develop action teams for critical long and short term planning.

**Next PFC Meeting Thursday, January 15, 2009 at 7:00 PM at the Northgate High School library.**

**Meeting adjourned 9:00 PM**

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