

**Northgate High School PFC Board Meeting
February 18, 2016 9am
Northgate High School Lecture Hall
DRAFT Minutes**

9:02 am – Meeting called to order by President Alisa Mac Cormac.

Present: Alisa Mac Cormac, Julie Chesnutt, Lisa Lamm, Jackie Byrd, Melissa Sunury, Monica Zorman, Katie Pierceall, Holly Hewes, Sally Anderson, Tricia Zucker, Courtney Mizutani, Kanre Sodir, Lya Gomez-Sliva, Kim Harris, Michael McAlister

Minutes: Motion: It was moved and seconded to approve the November minutes.
Motion passed. Motion: It was moved and seconded to approve the January minutes.
Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Lisa Lamm. Revenues coming in close to budget; no unanticipated expenses. Need to boost shopping rewards next year. Working to put information about Amazon Smile program on the PFC website. This program is easy to use and repays as large a percentage as Safeway did.

PLEASE NOTE: A special meeting planning **on next year's PFC budget** will be held at **6:30 Thursday March 17th** in the Library before the regular PFC meeting at 7 PM.

Nominating: Lisa Lamm has been PFC Treasurer for three years and would like to begin training a replacement for next year. This is a critical position, so let people know that a volunteer is needed, ideally to start training with the new budget process. We also need a new PFC president for next year. Many positions will be needed. Let a current board member know if you are interested.

Calendar: Discussed when MDUSD will publish calendar for next school year, and whether rumors are true that it will shift to allow for finals before winter break, as many districts are doing. Mr. McAlister thinks it is unlikely that this change will happen for this coming school year. Front desk staff and the Northgate Help Desk are working to get full Northgate master calendar online. It is difficult to plan events without overlapping with other school activities unless an accurate master calendar is available. Suggested that parents be notified a week in advance of schedule changes such as minimum days.

Reports:

NIMB: Courtney Mizutani. Instrumental music has hosted a jazz festival, attended orchestra festival and competed in several jazz festivals. Jazz 1 is one of 12 bands selected nationally to play at Next Generation Jazz Festival in Monterey and is hoping to do well in this competition again. NIMB fundraiser coming up on February 27, with

dinner, silent auction, and performances by student groups, including combo from Foothill. Spread the word, tickets are available on website.

Site Council: Trisha Zucker, Sally Anderson. Voted on expenditures at last meeting, including helping with credit recovery, but still unsure how much the district's funding formula will make available for these purposes. Expecting less than in the past. Got updates from students on February events.

Spring for Education: Katie Pierceall. Auction and dinner coming up on Saturday, April 23rd. Letters have gone out requesting donations. Please let committee know if you have ideas, connections, or donations.

PEAK – Kim Harris, Melisa Sunbury. PEAK is on track to donate \$20,000 to Northgate feeder pattern schools this year. \$16,750 came from the Turkey Trot, which was a slight increase though the number of runners was down this year. Raised \$1,200 from the Walnut Run, which they hope to grow next year. When received, will be distributing MACY's grand opening celebration grant money to participating student organizations. PEAK has stepped back from Sports Basement's new "Basementeer" program, allowing funds to pass directly to the individual PEAK schools.

Principal's Report: Mr. McAlister.

Professional Development: Ten Northgate staff went to tech conference in San Diego. Vibrant two days of sharing breakout sessions and learning what is possible. Will share knowledge and enthusiasm with all departments. Faculty is focused right now on developing and using common assessments to deliver excellence in every classroom. For example, our Social Studies Department is collaborative and rigorous and has made inspirational progress in one year, which he is sure will start showing up in our test scores. Because of the WASC process, there is one less afternoon each month available for professional development and collaboration.

Technology-- MDUSD committed to improving our WiFi system so that we can support the kinds of technology discussed at the conference. Connectivity is currently poor in many areas of the campus. Hope to have new system installed by March, but September is more realistic. Also evaluating various one to one computing approaches, including possibly installing flatscreen TVs in some classrooms rather than the current projectors, which consume \$300 lightbulbs. Chromebooks are becoming better at innovation and collaboration and not just content delivery, and are about half the price of ipads. Northgate Help Desk is becoming our internal campus consultant for troubleshooting and evaluating various classroom apps.

Math Curriculum—Mr. Cereza is working with Foothill to redesign curriculum. District is enthusiastic about adding Algebra A and Algebra B. Several parents expressed concern

that Geometry might no longer be available to advanced students at Foothill because of Common Core alignment issues. Their students were successful in the class and in their subsequent math coursework, but apparently that has not necessarily been the case for all the advanced 8th grade students. More discussion is needed on how to make curriculum work for all students.

AP and Honors Classes: The English Department has decided to streamline its offerings and offer 1) regular, 2) threaded (combined with history), and 3) AP courses to Juniors and Seniors. AP Literature will now be recommended for Juniors (with a one year transition for next year's seniors who have not yet taken this course) and AP Language for Seniors. The administration will do its best to build the master schedule to offer the courses selected by the students at course registration. The administration will also be responsible for assigning teachers to the courses. Moving towards having students choose the courses that they want based on their interest in the curriculum offered rather than on preferences for particular teachers.

Regarding pressure to take advanced courses for admissions to selective colleges, according to recent TODAY show, colleges feel students have gotten carried away with AP courses and are asking high schools to set limits on the number of advanced courses a student may choose, then will then evaluate them accordingly for admissions. Many colleges are no longer accepting APs for college credit because of proliferation and students not necessarily being prepared for coursework.

An information night on AP Courses will be held at 6:30 tonight in the Little Theater.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Chesnutt,
PFC Secretary