



**NORTHGATE**

**DRAFT Minutes  
PFC General Meeting  
March 16, 2017  
7:00 pm, Library**

**Present:** Joanna Sibley, Miriam Casco, Julie Chesnutt, Nicole Padoan, Lisa Lamm, Julie Stokol, Kathy Lawrence, Melissa Sunbury, Michael McAlister

**Meeting Called to order:** 7:05 pm

**Principal's Report:** Michael McAlister.

WASC Visit— Committee visit was very positive. WASC chair said after seeing the campus in action that we were better than what we had written down. They liked that we have two Capstone projects (Mock Congress and Senior Project). Even struggling students told the committee that there is a place for every student on the site to feel connected, and they were impressed that 1,100 of 1,600 students participate in sports. We received 14 comments on strengths and 4 on suggestions, the main suggestions being improving the use of data to guide instruction, improving communication and articulation with feeder pattern schools, and adding rubrics to assess student progress in achieving Northgate's 5'C's. Will receive notice from WASC of final accreditation in July. Mr. Fey and Ms. Honey did a fabulous job leading the effort, and it was appropriate that she was notified of receiving MDUSD "Teacher of the Year" during the visit, because she is a magical teacher that really encourages her students to think.

Course Selection—Underway. Will take student requests and try to build master schedule around them. This is where it's helpful to have PFC monies available for flexibility of extra class sections, especially if total enrollment drops. Believes teaching staff will probably vote to keep same daily bell schedules, as study session seem to be working well this year.

Health Survey—Responding to parent questions, Mr. McAlister said that the health survey administered this week was modeled on a Stanford health assessment tool. Participation was entirely voluntary. Mr. Campopiano conducted it to help get information on how happy and healthy our Northgate students are and what issues they are facing in order to target interventions. Self-reported behavior information has its problems, but will compile the data and see if it is helpful. Looking at how other schools are responding to student stress, e.g., Acalanes is moving to a block schedule.

ASB Monies—Student leadership is discussing how to spend the recently rediscovered "Legacy Fund". This money may not be spent on capital improvements and spending

must be directed by the students. The goal is to touch every student's campus life, and current ideas are hydration stations, a new mural, a new marquee, and seed money for real restrooms and a snack bar at our sports complex.

**College and Career Update:** Joanna Sibley for Andria Herrera. Many scholarships are available, lists are posted on website and in daily bulletin. Held successful job fair at Northgate. Working now to get students signed up for courses for next year. AP testing sign-up deadline coming up. Held workshop on preparing for DVC enrollment and 4-year transfer requirements.

Andria curious about parent interest in a parent-student senior education night on hazing and other life choice issues our students will face as they go off to college. Parents present thought that would be a great way to educate themselves and start discussions on these topics with their students. Might pursue next year as a life skills assembly for all seniors at end of school year. Also discussed programs such as "Every 15 Minutes", and what value they have in teaching students to make safe choices. Mr. McAlister and others felt they create drama and emotion, but are sometimes not supported enough afterward to be useful.

**Treasure's Report:** Miriam Casco. (see handout Profit & Loss Budget-vs-Actual, 2/28/17). Expenses currently on budget; income under budget. Still needs to move the \$10,000 from Undesignated Funds into Technology for the Language Lab, as voted on last meeting. Will have to determine budget priorities for next year and how our more limited income should be spent. Receiving very little interest on PFC savings account, so for simplicity will consolidate PFC bank accounts, closing savings account and moving all funds into checking account.

### **New Business:**

Budget Priorities for 2017-18-- Discussed salaries that the PFC currently supports and what spending priorities might be for the coming year. Technology continues to be a major expenditure, and now that new WiFi is in place, will probably be an ongoing need. Discussed support counselors and whether additional counselors might be needed to serve our student body. Discussed how to encourage community giving to the school--with a large, centralized EdFund ask or with asks for more targeted, specifically requested needs? Discussed how the fundraising efforts of the multiple booster groups, sports teams, PEAK, PRIDE, etc. may be unintentionally cannibalizing each other by repeated requests. More discussion of a coordinated strategy is needed to take advantage of the great generosity in our parent and business community.

Miriam will have a proposed 2017-18 PFC budget draft available for discussion at our April meeting, and will have a vote in May.

### **Committee Reports:**

Spring for Education—Katie Pierceall. Event will be April 29th at Shadelands with an adult carnival theme. Ticket sales are live, so buy a ticket now! This event is the PFC's main

fundraising event and the only one that benefits every student at Northgate. Committee needs help sending additional donation letters and needs volunteers the night of the event. A Sign-Up Genius will be publicized, so please help if you can. Fund-a-Need will be for rehabbing the atrium. Joanna is working on a video of the plans for that area to become a more usable space for teachers and students.

Grad Night—Lisa Lamm. Planning underway with 4 other schools for this huge graduation party celebrating our seniors. 200 seniors have already bought tickets; info on the website. Look for volunteer opportunities, to be available soon!

Site Council-- Julie Stokol—Reports covered the WASC process and visit. Mr. Campopiano will be restarting the safety committee next year and will be adding a new page with safety contact information to the school website. Student leadership will be holding a garage sale and e-waste event. Exciting Student-v-Teacher Olympics were held last week. Ms. Scott of Link Crew would like to contact PFC Freshman Welcome Luncheon planners. There will be no Site Council meeting in April.

PEAK—Melissa Sunbury. FormaGym will be issuing a check from the Turkey Trot to PEAK at their meeting this month. Macy's prom event was well received and Macy's will be sending a donation. Currently working on an event with Burger Lounge. The Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce held a "life-hacks" seminar at Berean on resumes and interviewing. Only 30 of the 60 Northgate students that signed up for this event came to the event.

Campus Beautification: Spring Clean-Up Day is being planned for May 6<sup>th</sup>; main project is preparing the atrium for major renovation in the summer. Depending on volunteers, may be able to take on some of the other weeding and maintenance needed on campus. Ms. Gibb's special education garden will be rehabilitated as an Eagle Scout Project by Patrick Chesnutt over Spring Break. Spring coaches were asked to contribute to sprucing up their venues, and swim team already spent an evening pulling weeds in last fall's bioswale planting area near the locker rooms. Parents willing to help pull weeds can come out Monday or Friday afternoons, approx. 3-5, to pitch in.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 20, 2017 at 7pm in the Library. This is "Bring a Friend to the PFC" night. Bring a friend!

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Chesnutt  
PFC Secretary  
3/20/17