

Foothill PFC Meeting February 11, 2009

Attendees: Maria Kopf, Vicki Fraser, Kathy Frattini, Elaine Green, Patty Cochran, Lori Abele, Pam Lundgren, Betsy Henderson, Mr. Dial

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. Due to low attendance, no items could be voted on.

Principal's Report:

Ms. Hutcherson is out on medical disability due to knee surgery. She did come to school one day this week. She is hoping to return to work on Monday, February 23, however, that date is not confirmed. Jeff McCreary is acting as the interim principal. He arrived two weeks ago and jumped right in. He is doing a great job. March 5th is the Distinguished School Visitation. An invitation will be going out to PFA members to attend a session with the Visitation Team from 2-2:30.

Crisis Counselor's Report: Lance Friise

Lance stated that he and Jane have been very busy this year compared to last year. They have seen forty different students since classes resumed after the winter break. Lance and Jane continue to receive a lot of referrals. He hasn't been seeing any major trends to report of. He submits a quarterly report to the City of Walnut Creek. He has been conducting a very informal survey of the students he is seeing. He has found that many of the students he is seeing that are struggling academically and/or socially are not doing anything after school. By that he means, either organized as in sports or unorganized as in getting together with friends. Again, this is very informal and he isn't seeing any particular trends. In some cases the kids are on the computer too much, watch too much TV, do nothing, or can go to friends' houses and they can't come to theirs. This isn't isolated to latch key kids either.

Faculty Report: Mrs. Green

This Friday is the Parent Appreciation Brunch. The teachers want to express their appreciation for all that the Foothill parents do. The 8th graders are half way through the Youth Educator Program and they are very happy with how things are going. The 8th graders are nervous about the transition to high school and this program helps alleviate those fears. The 7th and 8th grade dance is tonight and the 6th grade dance is Thursday night.

On February 19th the Disability Awareness Assembly for the students will take place. The Leadership Class has put up signs regarding acts of kindness. Thursday, March 19 is a staff development day and students will be getting out at 12:30, a reminder will be sent out to parents. April 23rd is Multi Cultural Day. Teachers are finalizing the plan and a notice for parent volunteers will be sent out.

Many 8th graders volunteered to write stories about 2nd grade students at Fair Oaks Elementary School. These stories are written and illustrated by the 8th graders. This is done on a volunteer basis and no grade is given. These stories are bound students each get one copy. Additional copies can be purchased for \$14.99. The 8th graders then go to Fair Oaks and read the stories to the children. This will take place on March 5th.

President's Report: Vicki Fraser

The theater project is officially a no go. The money donated by parents will go towards the Theater Department. The remainder will go towards Spring Proposals.

Treasurer's Report: Kathy Frattini

We are very close to making our income for the year. We have money carried over for the upcoming school year; however, that amount is not set yet. Fall Proposals are done and so far we are doing well. Vicki Fraser asked how much money we will have for Spring Proposals. Kathy said that she should know by April. We will have money coming back from the outdoor theater, chorus period "A", and Mr. Dial thinks some of the money for Emergency Preparedness will be coming back. Right now we have a rough estimate of about \$24,000 that could be applied towards Spring Proposals.

Open Discussion:

Betsey Henderson mentioned that her daughter has been saying there isn't any soap in the restrooms. Patty Cochran asked that an email be sent to her with the location of the bathroom(s) missing soap. She will contact the custodian. Parents asked if there are any issues with the departure of Superintendent McHenry. The response was that it was too soon to tell. Interim Superintendent Nichols is very well respected.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Feb 4 Superintendent's Meeting and School Board Meetings Information (by Linda Locke for Janet Sheehy)

At Feb 10 School Board Meeting

- Gary McHenry resigned as Superintendent. Dick Nicoll is the interim Superintendent.
- Approved a June 2 election to get a \$99 parcel tax for our District.
- Approved new contract with Classified Personnel (no pay increase). In January had approved a new contract with teachers for benefits but no pay increase.

At Feb 4 Superintendent's Meeting

Budget

Based on what money was promised for next year, MDUSD had to cut \$6.6M out of next year's budget. They're almost done. District office and maintenance folks got most of cuts. For schools: elementary schools had VPs, library IMAs and custodian cuts; middle school VPs were spared for now. No further cuts to libraries or music programs so far.

If Governor's budget passes MDUSD will lose \$11M THIS school year. The District has been holding off spending budgeted money where possible and will probably get some relief from state requirements to deal with this. Bottom line – MDUSD won't be bankrupt if this goes through, but will use up almost all savings to stay afloat. Many districts will go bankrupt under the Governor's scenario. Write to your state legislators!

Federal Stimulus Plan would mean \$6M to MDUSD for this year and \$4M for next year. However State could reduce our funding by that much and keep the money, so MDUSD is not counting on Fed money.

Returning Tests

At Jan 13 School Board Meeting, teachers brought up concerns regarding Board policy requiring teachers to return tests to students (and parents) so they can use them as study guides. At the Jan 27 School Board Meeting Janet Sheehy, Mrs. Hoffacker and others spoke about the policy. The Board recommended that the curriculum staff have more meetings with parents and teachers to address if there should be any changes to the policy. But the policy is still in effect.

Homework Policy

District is gathering info on updating homework policy. Go to Survey Monkey link on eGazette to have your voice heard.

Parcel Tax

There is a group called Citizens United for Excellent Schools (CUES) that is organizing the campaign. Will need money for the campaign. More details to follow.

Transitions

Discussed student transitions from elementary to middle and middle to high school. Pleasant Hill has an open mike question night for 5th grade parents. High schools are

putting their course catalogs on their websites. Northgate moved their 8th grade class-choosing meeting to night so parents could come with students.