

Foothill PFA Meeting

May 13, 2009

Attendees: Maria Kopf, Vicki Fraser, Kathy Frattini, Ruth Carver, Patty Proctor, Susan Broehm, Pam Lundgren, Lori Abele, Patty Cochran, Elaine Green, Linda Law, Betsy Henderson, Linda Locke, Mary Phalon, Kim Harris, Lance Friis, Linda Hutcherson

May's PFA meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM. Vicki Fraser asked for a motion to approve April's Meeting Minutes. The motion was made by Lori Abele and seconded by Kathy Frattini. The motion passed unanimously.

Crisis Counselor Report: Lance Friis

Lance and Jane are still very busy seeing kids. They are seeing the stresses of the economy being passed on to kids. Families are experiencing lay offs, financial worries and even receiving eviction notices. Lance and Jane receive referrals from parents and faculty. Many times core teachers will read something in writing assignments that they would like the counselors to review as well. If there is any cause for concern they reach out to the student and his or her family.

Faculty Report: Mrs. Green

Mrs. Green thanked everyone for the lovely Teacher Appreciation luncheon. Star testing has ended and the teachers have hit the ground running to complete the rest of the curriculum. May 22 is 8th grade day.

Principal's Report: Ms. Hutcherson

Open House is May 21 from 7-8 pm. The Book Fair will be open that night from 6:30-8. Ms. Hutcherson and others will be travelling to Disneyland to receive the California Distinguished School Award. Mr. Dial and Ms. Lundahl will be retiring at the end of the school year. Ms. Hutcherson has not received the criteria as to how she will backfill these two openings. Most likely they will be filled with district employees that have been pink slipped.

June 9th is the 8th grade promotion and their dance is afterwards. June 10th is the last day of school and dismissal is at 12:30.

On April 30th the Leadership class completed a managing conflict course. The Cultural Day held on April 23rd was very successful.

Foothill will be adopting a new math program for the 2009-10 school year. Ms. Hutcherson sent out a letter to families advising them of this upcoming change. This year Mr. Klein's 7th graders are taking Pre-Algebra I and II, next year all 7th graders will be taking it. There will be pacing in how it is taught and this will help to measure progress at the school and district level. Beginning with the 2010-11 school year Foothill will begin offering AIMS support classes. This is an algebra support class and this is already being offered at Northgate. The purpose of this class is to offer support to students who are not quite ready to grab all of the math concepts being taught in algebra.

There will be two math openings for the fall and they will be filled with teachers on the involuntary transfer list. All staffing requests are on hold until after the May 19th special elections.

Treasurer's Report: Kathy Frattini

We are on budget for this year and where we should be for the year. We have about \$78,000 in a money market account.

President's Report: Vicki Fraser

Vicki requested a motion to approve the proposed budget and new board for the 2009-10 school year. Linda Locke made the motion and it was seconded by Kathy Frattini. The motion passed unanimously after Betsy Henderson volunteered to fill the remaining Book Fair position that was open and Faye Mettler volunteered to fill the remaining Parent Patrol position. Mary Phalon amended the proposal to include Betsy and Faye who volunteered to be on the board during our PFC meeting.

Vicki thanked everyone for making her time on the board as president meaningful.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM. This is the last PFC meeting for the school year.

PAC Report: Linda Locke

Items discussed at May 6, 2009 Parent Advisory Council meeting

SWINE FLU: all schools reopened; closure was county health dept decision, not MDUSD; district will apply for waiver of ADA loss and STAR testing extension for Shore Acres

DRAFT HOMEWORK POLICY: draft homework board policy (BP), administrative rule (AR), homework plan template and recommendations for plan were passed out. A copy of all but the the recommendations are attached. A long explanation and discussion followed. Here are the highlights:

- * MDUSD currently does not have a policy on homework
- * Two online surveys were done (one general, second more focused) ~900 responses (2/3 parents, 1/3 teachers, some students) for each survey. Input also came from meetings with department chairs, administrators, elementary reps and the fall leadership conference
- * The draft policy is for each site (school) to develop their own Homework Plan that meets the specifics in the BP and AR.
- * There were specific recommendations for various levels.

Recommendations for Middle School Plans are:

- * Homework should provide opportunities to develop personal study habits
- * Homework should reinforce the skills taught in class
- * Stimulate intellectual development
- * Provide opportunities for participation on special projects
- * Homework should be about 60 minutes, total, per night
- * Grading of homework should count for a percentage of the final grade
- * Parents are encouraged to help students gather or avail themselves of appropriate resources (library, CDs, DVDs, internet access, etc.)

- * Each site's Homework Plan will be submitted for review and comment by the District (similar to Single Plan for Student Achievement)
- * The Final Plans would be put on school websites and in Parent Handbooks
- * The site committees that develop the Plan are to include students (as appropriate) and parents as well as teachers and administrators
- * Some schools have already developed Homework Plans. These can be used as examples. Schools can also use survey data

* The draft BP and AR were to be presented to the Board June 16 for discussion, then vote at following meeting. Just heard today that they will be presented May 26 for vote on June 2.

* Schools would have a year to develop their Plan, but can take less time

* Parents commented the process is taking too long. Suggest specific timelines for implementation

BUDGET: Federal Stimulus \$ is one time only. For MDUSD it will mean: \$3.7M to Title I schools, \$7.2M for special ed and \$5M to \$10M unrestricted (except that they have to be education programs - ie probably not sports) However state funding is so bad, that all could be taken back through state budget cuts. There may be less money taken back by the state if all of the budget propositions pass. The "May revise" of the state budget (from which we find out how much money each district will get for 2009-10) will come June 5. MDUSD budget is required to be balanced and submitted June 30. Measure D passing is the only way we can restore local programs. Measure D can't be taken by the state.