

PFA MEETING MINUTES

October 7, 2008

Attendees: Maria Kopf, Vicki Fraser, Mary Phalon, Kathy Frattini, Janet Sheehy, Susan Blumer, Pam Lundgren, Linda Locke, Linda Hutcherson, Tom Dial, Patty Cochran, Anna DeAnda, Michele Ramia, Megan Trowbridge, Barbara Amacker

Principal's Report:

Ms. Hutcherson stated that 2 new math teachers have been hired. Deana Brusco has been hired and will be taking over for Mr. Moser on Thursday, October 9. She is currently transitioning with Mr. Moser and Mr. Klein. An Ed Connect will be sent to parents. She comes to us from the San Ramon School District. The name of the second teacher cannot be announced until it is official. The paperwork is being finalized and once everything is finalized, an announcement will be made.

All lockers have been distributed to students with 200 additional lockers being added this year. These lockers are in the A wing and are being used primarily by 6th graders. We are trying out the use of the indoor lockers and there isn't any access allowed during lunch so as not to disturb any classes. Lack of sufficient lockers was a concern brought to the staff last year by parents and steps are being taken to address it.

There was a copper wire theft over the weekend and on Monday, October 6; the school was without electricity for approximately half the day. New wiring has been installed and additional safeguards are being put in place. Special locks will be installed after school on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. There won't be electricity during this time.

Also this week, we had an emergency situation with a student who fainted at lunch on Tuesday. Mrs. Gabe, the school nurse, was here at the time. The student couldn't be revived initially and 911 was called. She was taken to the hospital and was OK. Ms. Hutcherson was not on campus and Mr. Dial handled the incident very well. The school had an earthquake drill scheduled for later in the week and it was cancelled as they felt the medical emergency and copper wire theft were real life drills. Mr. Dial was very pleased by how the students, faculty and parent volunteers handled everything.

Make up pictures were taken and it went very well.

Progress Reports have been sent out and students who are having problems in school have been identified. Intervention meetings are taking place and substitute teachers are being provided so teachers can participate in meetings with the parents and students.

The Leadership class is doing a great job so far this year. They are partnering with the Creek on their food drive. On October 18 they will be participating in the Breast Cancer walk in San Francisco. Ms. Hutcherson and Mrs. Cochran will also be participating in the walk. Red Ribbon activities are being planned and October 8 is Pink Day. All students are being encouraged to wear pink in support of Breast Cancer Awareness. On September 26 the Leadership class helped to organize a Teacher Appreciation brunch which was greatly appreciated. On October 14 schools that had API scores above 800 will be honored by the district. Some of the Leadership students will be attending this event with Mrs. Hutcherson.

The librarian arranged an author to visit the school and it was attended by the 7th graders. The library will be open on Fridays, by appointment only, during lunch. Students will not be able to check out books, however, if they need a book to study they will be able to use it during lunch. The lunch hour opening will be manned by parent volunteers and initially only 30 reservations will

be accepted. This was another concern brought by parents and the school is trying to address it as best they can.

The first Site Council meeting took place. A group of parents did a small presentation regarding homework issues. Mt. Diablo currently doesn't have a homework policy but Ms. Hutcherson felt we were headed in that direction. A Homework Task Force is being formed at the district level and Ms. Hutcherson will forward the names of parents for the taskforce to the superintendent. There are four student representatives on the Site Council and their perspective on homework was very different from that of parents. Megan Trowbridge asked how parents were being chosen for the Site Council meeting. Ms. Hutcherson responded that it is open to the public and they are not chosen. They can attend as part of the "Public Input" section. The only thing parents are unable to do is vote. The minutes from the Site Council meetings are open to the public as well. Ms. Hutcherson stressed that if a parent has any concerns about the homework being assigned, they should address it with the teacher. Teachers will work with parents regarding any concern. She also reiterated a statement from last month's PFA meeting, that she would like to meet with small groups of parents for a "2nd Cup of Coffee" and Brown Bag Lunches as another way to give parents a voice.

The Association Student Body elections are scheduled to take place next week and not as many students are running this year. Ms. Hutcherson has reached out to the teachers for the names of students they feel would be good for the ASB. She will then extend personal invitations to these students to run for Student Body office. Officers meet two times a month during school (a class period). The class period is rotated throughout the school year so that the same class is not always impacted.

Ms. Hutcherson received a proposal from a student to start up a student newspaper and they are taking it into consideration.

There was an incident of vandalism a few weeks ago that was discovered by a teacher who came into work one Sunday. The District immediately addressed the issue by cleaning up the graffiti. The windows affected have since been replaced.

Mr. Dial spoke briefly about the copper theft and the medical emergency on campus and how proud he was of everyone rising to the occasion. He felt this was a great opportunity for the school to demonstrate its readiness.

Last June, Mrs. Chris Arslom a Noon Supervisor left and it has been a difficult position to fill. A 7th grade parent, Yamila Germes, has been hired. She is wonderful and has fit right in to the school routine. Mrs. Hutcherson and Mr. Dial suggested that a second Noon Supervisor be hired to help supervise the growing Foothill population. They wanted to know if the PFA would help fund this second supervisor. Normally a request like this would go to the Strategic Planning Committee. Vicki asked that a motion be made to pay for a supervisor for two years and the salary not to exceed \$7500 for the two years. Linda Locke made the motion and it was seconded by Susan Blumer. The motion was passed unanimously.

September Minutes Approval:

Vicki Fraser called the October 7, 2008 PFA meeting to order at 7:04 PM. Vicki welcomed everyone to the meeting. There is one change that needs to be made to the September minutes. It originally stated that Vicki called the February meeting to order when it should have said September. The September minutes will be corrected to reflect that. Vicki asked for a motion to approve the September minutes. Patty Cochran motioned the approval and Kathy Frattini seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Faculty Report:

Neither Mrs. Brown nor Mrs. Green were able to attend the night's PFA meeting and so Patty Cochran filled in. The 8th grade is going on a field trip on October 28 to Chabot College to see plays about some of the short stories they have read in class. There is nothing major going on with the 6th and 7th grades. In May during the 3rd day of STAR testing the 6th grade will be going on an all day field trip. They will be going to San Francisco but it has not been finalized at this time. There will not be a Mt. Lassen trip this year.

President's Report:

Vicki thanked Foothill Administration for opening the library on Fridays during lunch and to listening to parents' concerns. The Strategic Planning Committee met for about an hour and the deadline for proposals is on Friday, October 10. They will meet again on October 14 to prepare the proposals for the November PFA meeting. Please plan on attending the November PFA meeting as there will be several items to vote on.

The parking problem still continues, however, the police have had more of a presence. No tickets are being issued, but the police are listening to our concerns. The idea of a drop off loop was raised. Vicki said that if any parent is interested in forming a committee to let her know. Megan Trowbridge volunteered to be on the committee.

The Magazine Drive came in at \$60,000 and we should have received 40% of that amount. However, due to the contract guarantee we will receive \$38,400, not the 40% of the magazine sales. Next year expect the dollar amount to be much smaller and therefore our budget will be smaller as well. Sales were up \$5,000 from last year. Anna DeAnda won't be here next year and will be typing up clearer instructions for the next group who will be taking it over. Prize Day will be on Friday afternoon. The location for the Limo Lunch has not been decided, maybe Skipollini's.

Financial Report:

Kathy Frattini provided the financial report to all in attendance. Money from the Magazine Drive has been deposited. She moved money into a money market account earning 4.5% interest. The CD matures in May. We bank at 1st Republic with is a very healthy and conservative bank and it is owned by Bank of America. This bank may be spinning off from its parent. The reason she moved money into a money market account was that she didn't want over \$100K sitting in any account.

A parent asked about the money on the balance sheet that is earmarked for the outdoor theater. There have been some contract issues and the PFA has been holding the money until it can be resolved. Ms. Hutcherson said that she was going to do some research to see if the outdoor theater is really a reality. Otherwise, that money should go towards something that will benefit the students.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Committee Reports

Fall Social Committee Report:

We have sold 159 tickets and 67 wine glasses as of 10/3/08. We have only 25 tickets left. Tickets are \$25 per person, \$14 for staff and wine or beer glasses with 3 drink tickets are \$20.

We are planning on emailing out the evening's schedule and auction items ahead of time on 10/8. We will have a list of auction items at the check in. Sunrise Bistro has graciously donated the food for event. We are looking forward to a great event.

Michele Ramia
Amy Frazer
Gail Markham
Fall Social Committee

PAC Report:

1. In response to a question regarding what, during this election season, "political" activities teachers can do during the school day, we were told they may not wear political buttons during the school day. Teachers may conduct classroom discussions, assign writing projects on subjects concerning the campaigns etc. but may not in those discussions argue their own political views. They can "be political" during a duty-free lunch however.
2. Many sites within the District are seeing unusual increases in student enrollment as students who had been attending, or who had intended to attend, private school are choosing to not spend money on private education. This is still causing a "numbers issue" at several sites, most notably College Park High School and some elementary schools.
3. We discussed the implementation of the new Board policy on returning "Student Assessments". While the new Board policy's language is geared for professional educators and may not be obvious to "lay people", the intent is that quizzes and tests will be returned to students to help "inform students and parents of progress made and to be used as a study tool for future assignments and assessments" Quoting the AR that is written to explain the new policy: "examples include, but are not limited to, teacher created tests, chapter tests and quizzes....These tests and quizzes are to be returned to students and parents." Assessments (e.g. quizzes or tests) that are given at the conclusion of a course (e.g. semester finals) may be kept by the teacher. This policy is new this school year and is requiring some change in how some teachers "test" students. Site Administrators (principals) are responsible for making certain the new policy is being adhered to at their site.
4. High School Academies: this subject should be interest to parents of 7th graders. Several of our District High Schools have focused areas of study, known as Academies. Many of us have heard of the restaurant at Mt. Diablo High, it gets great reviews nearly yearly in the CC Times. It is part of the Hospitality Academy at Mt. Diablo High. In the same, focused-instruction way, Concord High has a Communications and Human

Services Academy, Clayton High has the Clayton Arts Academy (requires audition and is a small very well respected arts program), YV has a Health Care and a Careers in Education Academy, and Mt. Diablo has four total academies: the International Hospitality and Tourism, the Fine Arts, Media and Entertainment, the Digital Safari Multimedia and the ACME (Architecture, Construction, Manufacturing and Engineering) Academies. If your student has an interest in these fields and would enjoy enrolling in these programs you would need to apply for an intradistrict transfer in the fall of 8th grade, therefore you need to look into these opportunities in late 7th grade. If accepted, the student would attend that particular high school where they would go to "normal" courses as well as participate in the Academy, and therefore not go on to Northgate. These programs have passionate teachers and passionate and committed students, and are the better fit for some students than the "traditional progression" onto Northgate. If you are interested in more information please contact me and I will put you in touch with the right people in the District for more specific info. We strongly urged the District to hold some type of "fair" or do a "marketing tour" advertising these opportunities to families in the District (like Foothill), as the programs sounded wonderful and were largely unknown outside of the families involved.

5. The Homework Policy group is still in its infancy. I did pass along the name of one Foothill parent who is willing to participate in this group. Thank you! We will keep you posted as that group starts their work.

Janet Sheehy

jd_sheehy@yahoo.com

Magazine Drive:

The Magazine Drive ran through October 1st. Foothill students sold approx. \$59,000 in magazine orders. The magazine co-chairs and a great number of volunteers tallied up \$48,955.00 in cash/check orders last week and the magazine company estimates an additional \$10,000 will be tallied from on-line sales. The profit to Foothill PFA is 40% of total funds raised with a guarantee from the magazine company of \$38,000. Although we expect a few more orders to trickle in, given these current results, PFA will receive \$38,400 from this fund-raiser. The \$48,955.00 has been given to the Financial Secretary, Petra Boyle. The highest participation was by far from the 6th grade class. Thank you very much to ALL who volunteered with this fund-raiser and also in advance to those that will be helping out with prize distribution, limo lunch, etc. in the coming weeks.

Anna Deanda