

**Walnut Acres Elementary
Parent Faculty Club
May 17, 2011**

PFC General Meeting called to order at 7:06 PM.

Board Members Present:

Katherine Stahl, Nicole Padoan, Anna Saunders, Erin Jordahl, Leigh Silva, Colleen Dowd, Jill Roy, Gee Amundson, Han Mi Yoon-Wu, Terri Lindeman, Paulinne Bowen, Jane Steven (Moler), Naomi Hughes (Stanley), Lori Woodworth, Alison Brassinga, Julie Stokol, Susi Farmer, Barb Stevenson

Non Board Members Present:

Heather Michels, Stefanie Tomlinson, Michelle Yoshinaka, Nora Zwiegbaum, Kelly McCargar, Stephanie Dark, Meghan Pariso

Northgate Pride: Ralph Austin and Jane Erdiakoff

Northgate Pride is the Booster Club at Northgate. Our goal is to raise money to improve the campus. Just received approval and finalized for bleachers, which will be in by September. We are encouraging people to get involved, especially people with swimmers to get our pool project going.

Jane Erdiakoff shared that her husband started working on the field project when their kids were at Walnut Acres and were able to enjoy it while they were at Northgate. Know that many projects are here at WA too, but it's something to think about to start helping at Northgate.

It was mentioned that NG Pride can also help with site specific projects due to its good relationship with the District. The website address is www.northgatepride.org.

Approval of April Minutes: Nicole Padoan

Motion by Barb Stevenson. Seconded by Jill Roy. Minutes approved.

State of Our School:

State of Our School/Principal Update: Dr. Dowd

Assessments

- STAR testing is complete. Similar ranking scores just came out and we are at a comparative ranking of 5 rather than 2. The similar school ranking puts schools together with similar API scores and the 5 is better than the 2 from last year.

Climate Updates

- The counselor survey was overwhelmingly positive. Requesting \$3,000 from PFC next year to continue this great work.
- All goals were met (except cyber-bullying workshop for parents, which will be set for the fall) for the Climate Committee.
- One more sing-out set for 6/7 at 9:45 AM with a diversity theme to support Diversity Week.
- Leadership students from Foothill visited to support the 5th graders transition to Foothill. They talked to the 5th graders about resolving conflict and had lunch with them.

- Open House Festival is approaching on 5/26 from 5:30-8:00. You can visit special rooms from 7:00-8:00 including the 21st Century room in A-1.

Teacher Shifts

- Ms. Ireland is moving to Kindergarten
- Ms. Hubauer is moving to 3rd grade
- Mrs. Scudero will start the year with us and then we'll have a substitute that she works with from home.

Innovation Updates

- Taking pieces of money from various pots and ordering laptops so we can try some 1:1 computing in classrooms. Hope to have a COW for next year.
- Now developing goals for the next school year.
- Visit A-1 to learn about how the 21st Century Learning shift is important, what that means for learners and how we are going about it here at WA.

Strategic Planning Update

- Attend a meeting to provide your input on the Districts draft plan (dates on website)
- 2 ideas on draft plan that could heavily impact us – autonomy for high-performing schools and 21st Century learning focus
- The meetings are a simple process....listen and put post-it ideas on each posted standard.
 - Both Strategic Plan and Budget meetings have given everyone a chance to give input, share concerns and offer solutions. Every site team is to rank recommendations from these meetings.

Teacher Reports: Jill Roy

Kindergarten – Have the Heather Farms fieldtrip this week. Had the play last week. A lot of fun. Everyone is getting ready for Open House.

1st Grade – Had Clayton Pumpkin farm last week.

Thanks to everyone for a great Teacher Appreciation week!

Teacher Reports: Doug Grebe

3rd Grade – Headed to Rock City and getting ready for Open House.

4th Grade – Off to mission fieldtrips and doing California projects

5th Grade – Getting ready for Open House and two 5th grade teachers are on the report card committee.

Committee Reports:

Katherine shared information about the state of schools:

- Article from PTA about School Finance 101 written by the Contra Costa County Office of Education. This article can be found on the WA website under "news in education" tab.
 - The Gov. Brown May revised budget: if taxes don't get extended, this will cut \$800 per student. Best case scenario is that only \$350 per student will get cut.
 - In 1978, CA was in the top 5 states in per student spending. We are now 49th.
 - Huger portion of school funding comes from the state.
 - Cut \$20 billion in education over the last 3 years

- Predict it will be 2015 until any semblance of a recovery
- K-12 Deferrals – state says giving Districts money but doesn't give it to them on time. Won't get until the following year.
- PAC meetings give a lot of information and anyone can attend. Meeting dates are on the WA website.
- We all need to be aware of what's happening.

Kick Off: Nicole Padoan, Katherine Stahl

Working hard on new All in One Form. A big change will be that the PFC will start publicly thanking our donors. Acknowledgment will be to anyone that gives any amount. The goal is 100% participation at any level. The recommended amount is still \$350 per child. Payment methods are still the same. We have an amazing school, but we always want better for our kids. Getting there is sometimes uncomfortable but we do it for the kids.

Katherine reviewed that the PFC spends \$455 per child. Further details about how the PFC spends it's money can be found at <http://www.walnutacrespfc.org/news/pfc-president-s-message>.

Kick-Off will be similar to past years. Small changes will be made to set-up. The goal is to have Kick-Off information live on the WA website the last day of school. Went over what went worked and what didn't work last year. As a result, we're going to take an hour off of the total time. Forms have been sent to committees about what they want on the website.

Auction: Fran Doggett

The date for next year's Auction is Friday, March 17th at Boundary Oaks. The theme will be "Prom". The core team is going to be back, but we are still looking for helpers. Would love to have a group shadowing this year so next year will be easier.

Action Items

1. Proposed 2011-12 Budget

- Went over details last month. A few highlights to note:
 - Raised Auction and WAEF to better reflect actuals.
 - Brought back some Technology because we were able to take out money from Instructional Supplies because of Fund-a-Need.
- Changed from last month:
 - Reduced Teacher Allotment because there will be one less class next year
 - Raised PEP expense because the cost of training was raised
- 1st priority needs made budget, the rest of the expenses are coming from Strategic Funding (savings)
- There is \$77,644 in unallocated funds on the Balance Sheet. Proposing to spend \$72,890 of it, which will leave a balance of \$4,754.
- At the end of this year, will have made money and all net income will become unallocated. The current forecast for this net income is \$70,000.
 - Golf maybe didn't make budget, so may change forecast a bit.
- May have to change budget in August based on the District budget, if it's anything the PFC can help with.

Motion to approve 2011-12 Budget as presented, which includes all or partial funding of all current K-5 Aide positions, the Literacy Aide position, the Site Tech II position, the Vocal Music position, and the Reading/ELD teacher position– Gee Amundson. Seconded by Jill Roy.

Floor open for discussion.

Motion passed. 2011-12 Budget approved by majority.

Motion to approve Unallocated Strategic planning funds as presented, which includes funding of all or the balance of K-5 Aide positions, the Literacy Aide position, the Site Tech II position, the Vocal Music position, the Reading/ELD teacher position, and student support services specialist. – Fran Doggett. Seconded by Jane Stevens (Moler).

Floor open for discussion.

Motion passed. Allocation of Strategic Planning funds approved by majority.

2. Proposed 2011-12 PFC Slate

Motion to approve 2011-12 PFC Slate as presented – Barb Stevenson. Seconded by Lori Woodworth.

Floor open for discussion.

Motion passed. 2011-12 PFC Slate is approved by majority.

Motion to approve holding more than one job or holding a job more than two years for the following people: Melanie Kracht, Traci Olson, Leigh Silva, Kerrie Barry, Alison Brassinga, Julie Chesnutt, Amy Golan, Amy Hiatt, Lori Woodworth.

Stephanie Dark. Seconded by Han Mi Yoon-Wu.

Floor open for discussion.

Motion passed. The above listed people are approved to hold more than one job or hold the same job for more than two years by the majority.

3. Amend Bylaws

- Having a Co-Treasurer position. The wording is being changed so we could have 1 or 2 treasurers as needed. Complete wording is attached separately.

Motion to vote to amend as shown in meeting, "Articles of Association" (Bylaws) Article IV, Sections 1, 2, 7 and 7A to reflect Co-Treasurer positions as listed on 2011-12 Board – Jill Roy. Seconded by Stephanie Dark.

Floor open for discussion.

Motion passed. The amended by-laws are approved by the majority.

4. Calendar

- STAR test is a window and will reflect our chosen 2 weeks when picked
- Furlough days are negotiations between unions and talks will most likely not happen during the summer, so cannot reflect any furlough days at this time.
- The calendar will get put up on the WA site.
- The calendar is not an item that needs a vote.

Executive Committee Reports:

President: Katherine Stahl

Thank you to everyone! Especially to the Nominating committee for a great group for next year. Thanks to the Golf chairs. A huge thank you to Teacher Appreciation for a great year and

especially this week. Thanks to Community Service. The books will be dropped off this week. A pre-thank you to Open House and thanks for Yearbook – it will be fabulous.

Treasurer: Erin Jordahl

Review of current financials:

P&L –

Income –

- Golf – Paid most expenses, but have not made deposits. Estimating to earn about \$5,000.

Expenses –

- Campus Support – no changes since April
- Curriculum Support – no changes
- Staff – not billed since December
- Teacher Allotments – Only \$1,090 out of \$9,900 budgeted has been spent.

Balance Sheet –

Allocated Strategic Funds will go towards salaries. Have \$77,644 unallocated that we voted on for the 2011-12 budget

Introduction of 2011-12 Executive Committee: Katherine Stahl

Good bye to Erin! She has revolutionized so many things and always wants to do thing the right way. We will miss you!

Welcome to Terri and Susi!

Terri Lindeman began taking notes as the new Secretary.

Input Session: Nicole Padoan

One 2011-2012 PFC Objective is to continue to strengthen partnership between parents, staff, and students. All present at tonight's meeting participated in a brainstorm session. Everyone read an excerpt from "Involvement or Engagement" from Educational Leadership, May 2011. After the content was discussed in pairs, each person walked around the room and placed post-it notes on posters with their thoughts. Then everyone got the chance to read all the responses. Nicole ended by revealing that we had just participated in some 21st century learning objectives: creativity/choice, collaboration, critical thinking, communication, content mastery, global citizenship.

Old Business: none

New Business: none

Meeting adjourned by Katherine Stahl at 9:15 PM. Happy Summer!

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, August 24th, 2011 at 7:00 PM
Ygnacio Valley Library

Respectfully Submitted,

Anna Saunders, PFC Secretary 2010-2011
Terri Lindeman, PFC Secretary 2011-2012