

Foothill Parent Faculty Association

**Meeting Minutes
March, 2016**

Attendees:

DeeAnna Cossu, Jamie LaPierre, Patty Cochran, Anna Saunders, April Bush, Jill Collins, Charlie Litten, Susi Farmer, Deanne Sommerville, Caroline Clerempuy-Tolerton, Stacey Hovey, Sabine Kroeber

President Anna Saunders called the meeting to order at 7.10.

Motion made to approve January 2016 Minutes. Motion made by DeeAnna Cossu and seconded by Patti Cochran. Approved unanimously.

Principal's Report: April Bush

A big thank you to the organizers and volunteers of the career fair, the event went very smoothly and was quite spectacular. Presenters were very well prepared and professionally dressed; students were very polite, interested and asked smart questions. The only issue were some scheduling problems with Google Forms on the sign ups.

Gearing up for CAASP testing which will take place beginning of May, talking about practice runs to get students used to the format, looking good on the tech side, going from 6 weeks of testing to 2 weeks. Foothill has 200 more devices available than last year, bandwidth should be supported by the new Wireless Access Points.

Working on semester schedule for next year.

Working on the celebration of Foothill's 50th anniversary, lots of alumni have confirmed their attendance, amongst them Rose Widmer, Foothill's first office manager.

Faculty Report: Charlie Litten

Career Day: Flawless event, Ms. Elliot did an outstanding job putting the sign up for the students together.

Foothill had an influx of young teachers, which is very invigorating, lots of enthusiasm from the new teachers. Thanks for PFA sponsored luncheon for teachers – much appreciated.

Looking forward to 50th anniversary and to seeing some teachers who taught him - likes working at Foothill a lot.

Committee Reports:

PAC: Anna Saunders on behalf of Laura Taylor

The Superintendent wasn't there because she was testifying against Rocketship in Sacramento.

District Updates:

Jennifer Sachs ran the meeting and gave the district updates. During the meeting she got word that the State Board approved the Rocketship charter 8:1. Prop 39 says the district has to offer space to the charter in the district, so MDUSD had offered Rocketship ½ of Ayers and ½ of Silverwood campuses. A parent said that Guy Moore, MDEA President, had stated at a previous meeting that an investor in Rocketship owns apartments in the Monument corridor and is just bringing the school here so he can raise the rents. The SPA performing arts middle school has been offered Riverview in Bay Point.

The district just received a Career Tech Ed grant for \$1.9million. They applied alone without partnering with the county. It is a 3 year matching incentive grant from CA Dept of Education. (CTEIG) \$ will go to High School pathways, but also to elementary and middle school, such as guest speakers, field trips, career days, teacher training on the new science standards "Engineering is Elementary" and the next generation outdoor education and Science & Engineering Fair.

Counselor Updates:

Stephanie Roberts reported that counselors are coming back after being cut years ago. It began with a pilot of 6 high school, 3 elementary, 2 middle school. Then this year every high school has at least 2 FTE. Next year HS will have at least 3FTE, Middle at least 2 (400:1). Elementary school counselors are apparently not a common thing around the state, but they are going to have 13 across the 28 schools, and hope to add 4 more. They learned it is hard to have a counselor at more than 3 schools, so aim to have every school get at least 2 days.

Healthy Kids Survey:

Mr. McCreary, former principal, is leading this survey effort. For the first time, at the Superintendent's request, parents will be surveyed as well. Goal: 100% participation. To not overwhelm students during testing, only 10 elementary schools will be chosen for the student survey. All parents are invited to participate from all schools. There is a separate link for each school survey, coming soon, April 5. Parents should answer one survey per child. Questions? mccrearyj@mdusd.org

Uniform Complaint Procedures:

Tracking/follow up to ensure no complaint falls through the cracks is now led by Jennifer Sach's office. The Complaint Procedures are listed in the Parent Handbook -- a link is on MDUSD website.

Public Comment:

Kim Harris brought up the Internet issue -- lack of bandwidth, students can't get on - at Northgate and I seconded her, citing Walnut Acres recent challenges. Answer -- they are working on it. WAPs (Access Points) have been added at each school, but the total bandwidth still needs to be increased. Apparently AT&T was considered in the past as an option so that all schools don't go through one single pipeline, but was denied due to cost.

I brought up instrumental music scheduling and got the same answer as in the past - that it is a site specific decision between principal and teachers. I suggested scheduling it as an opt-out of vocal music or a longer school day, and Jennifer Sachs said with a laugh that she'd welcome me

at the bargaining table... Greenwood PTA suggested a zero hour 7:30am and the answer was it would be an equity issue.

I asked about the influx of funds from the state and what funding would reach the schools, and the answer was that the overall LCAP plan would determine that, and will be the main agenda item at the May 5th PAC mtg.

PEAK: Anna Saunders on behalf of Melissa Sunbury

Foothill received a check of \$4,600 from PEAK.

PEAK is looking for different ways to support our schools and is discussing to ask for funds at registration day. One idea which evolved was to focus on funding for STEAM fields, and to look into building a pathway for students in these fields. Mrs. Bush: Schools could certainly use more funding help with that, would be great way to impact the entire community.

Career Fair: Anna Saunders on behalf of Andrea Smethurst and Naomi Stanley

- We had 36 different programs with about 39 speakers (some were paired up for joint programs). Most speakers were parents. So many volunteered that we did not rely on the community as much as we have in the past. This made recruitment easier. On the other hand, the parents that volunteered were pretty much all highly educated professionals. But, if we had not been at capacity it would have been good to recruit some other kinds of careers (i.e. chef, mechanic, contractor, etc.)
- Registration - We used a new system this year. Teacher Margaret Elliott created a registration program using Google Docs.
 - The pros of using this system were: 1) students are familiar with this technology and that made it easier for them to register; 2) students could own the registration process rather than having parents do it for them; 3) having Margaret own this process was certainly easier for the parent committee; and 4) if Ms. Elliott is available to help with Career Day in two years she can put it to use again without having to start over with new parents reinventing the wheel (different registration systems have been used in each of the past three career days).
 - The cons of this system were: 1) We were developing it as we went; 2) Some students did not know how to access their Griffin mail 3) Some sessions did not cap maximum registration properly and therefore some sessions were overenrolled and Ms. Elliott had to devote significant time to reassigning students.
 - Overall, I think using Mrs. Elliott's registration system (versus sign up genius) is better for the future as it is easier for students to use and it also allowed the school to manage the student registration rather than the parents. Also, next time there will be improvements and continuity in using the same system twice.
- Leadership students helped out again with welcoming speakers and taking them to their classrooms. This year they are also writing thank you notes to speakers.

- Overall budget - we came in under budget. We streamlined the hospitality offerings this year as we realized speakers don't actually have time to eat much before they go to classes. We spent about \$100 of the \$500 allotted.

Executive Committee Reports

President's Report: Anna Saunders

- A big thank you for Career Day and for Margaret Elliot for the time she put into career day sign ups – really appreciate everyone's efforts to make the day successful for the students.
- Received \$4,600 donation from PEAK.
- Foothill's 50th anniversary – SignUp Genius is set up to donate cookies.

Treasurer's Report: Susi Farmer

Money for 5th grade activity is coming in, so the 8th grade account seed money of \$2,000 has been moved back to Unallocated Carryover. Otherwise nothing big to report.

Vice President: Jamie LaPierre

Info about matching funds will go into next Enews, list of companies who do matching funds has been published on PFA website.

Old business

Anna Saunders: Thank you everyone involved for a great career day.

Updates from Feeder Pattern Meeting:

Walnut Acres PFA president went to City of WC and asked that they fund crossing guards again (Foothill funds 2 at the moment). The City, not the District, is responsible for crossing guards. Parent mentions that at Bancroft, the PTA stopped paying for crossing guard, but the guard stayed and city apparently paid for it. Also noted that this was for students crossing Treat Blvd. Anna Saunders: We still have to budget for paying for the crossing guards, but it would be nice if city would pay in the future.

April Bush: Improvements will be made in May 2017, when doing repaving. In the meantime the City of Walnut Creek will implement short term interim improvements in the Spring of 2016: partial bike lane on the south side of Cedro, crosshatch inside the crosswalk from Cedro to Avellan Drive, creating a bottleneck at the intersection of Cedro/Wiget and Wiget/Blackstone, added parking restrictions close to crosswalks, speed display sign.

New Business:

Currently looking to fill PFA Board positions for next year. Currently vacant are: 8th grade activities, walk thru, EdFund, Health Fare, Book Fair, PAC advisor.

In order for April to start working on master schedule April has to send to the district the intention of the PFA to pay for class size reduction. April Bush: Number 2 on the Agenda will not be voted on today. Anna Saunders: Right now we are giving our commitment that we will budget like this for next school year.

1. Motion to fund class size reduction in math and science for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade for a total of .51 FTE for the 2016-17 school year.

Motion made by Stacy Hovey. Seconded by DeeAnna Cossu.

Discussion: April: Reduction of 33:1 (vs. 37:1) has a big impact on students and teachers. Multiplied by six periods the reduction means almost a class size less per teachers. 48,000 is approx. cost. If teachers negotiate a class size reduction, this money could potentially be used in a different way.

Vote: passes unanimously

2. Motion to fund a Computer Lab Assistant Position at .4875 FTE for the 2016-17 school year
Motion is not being voted on today.

3. Motion to fund an Instructional Media Assistant (IMA) position in the library at .25 FTE for the 2016-17 school year.

Motion made by Susi Farmer, seconded by Stacy Hovey.

Discussion: April Bush: The IMA keeps the library open during recess, runs the library club, is the heart and soul of this room, supports teachers with iReady, CAASP makeup, brings great energy, makes library a safe place to go to.

Vote: passes unanimously

4. Motion to fund one section .17 FTE of technology instruction

Motion made by DeeAnna Cossu and seconded by Stacy Hovey.

Ms. Elliot currently helps teachers and staff with technological troubleshooting; she will be the full time engineering/tech teacher next school year. Goal is to give her one section so she can work with the mouse squad and train/collaborate with students on how to troubleshoot computer problems. This is the second year of the mouse squad.

Patty Cochran reports that she frequently sends the Mouse Squad over when a teacher calls with problems and pretty often the mouse squad can resolve the issues. Overall the whole staff is getting more techy. Mouse Squad will be an elective for 7th and 8th grade. At the moment it is by invitation. The Mouse Squad also helps teachers with tech projects. Mouse Squad is an organization, funded by the school district.

Vote: passes unanimously

Question about sign up for Electives: April explains that Wednesday and Thursday next week are assemblies, Friday before Spring Break window to sign up opens until Wednesday after spring break.

Meeting adjourned at 8.15 pm.

Next Meeting will be Wednesday, April 20 at 7:00 pm in the Library