

Foothill Parent Faculty Association

Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2014

Attendees:

Julie Stokol, April Bush, Jackie Byrd, Faye Mettler, Mary Nagore, Kimberly Harris, Nicky Henzie, Sunita Bayley, Andrea Smethurst, Miriam Lattanzi, Sabine Kroeber and Ron Davis.

President, Julie Stokol, called the meeting to order at 7:09PM.

Motion made to approve the February minutes by Faye Mettler and seconded by Jackie Byrd. Unanimously passed.

Principal's Report: April Bush

Career Day was awesome, organizers and student leadership was phenomenal. Thank you PFA for supporting the event.

Other happenings, course elective selections are being done online starting in April, a few booklets will be printed for students who need it if computer access is an issue. April 7-18th is the signup window.

Practice test for California Smarter Balance, teaching students the interface and technical operations of the test on the computer. Student results do not count. Foothill is a pilot school for the test. A video on the value of the testing can be found online going to "sbaomiddleschool". The video does a good job telling teens why they should do well on the test.

A student and teacher survey will be going out asking about academic prep and what other activities they have an interest in. Student survey will go out through their school Google account. Also asking on the survey who is their trusted adult they identify with at Foothill if they are looking for support.

Recognize that parent communication on Common Core is lacking. The issue right now is that teachers are so focused on curriculum development that they need to shift some energy in order to build that communication link with parents. Looking at innovative way to provide Common Core feedback so that parents can support student learning at home.

Site Council and the Strategic Planning Committee met together on Tuesday. With the change in state funding, Site Council roles will shift and likely not be required to approve the school budget but the school will still need an organizing body to make discussions. The idea is to bring key stakeholder groups at the school together to look at the overall school vision. Will have to see how in the next few months Site Council changes will evolve with the CA budget changing.

Faculty Report: Mary Nagore

Excited about Common Core as it is allowing teachers to teach in greater depth on a subject or concept. What we are doing in English is pulling articles to support what the students are reading. Also incorporating closed reading where students are looking for context within the story. Emphasis is also

Working with Miriam on this project. Company approached to participate, interested because we could get 40% of what is sold and it is a reuse, recycle approach. Don't know how much we would make but is a low effort activity. March 24th – 28th will be the clothing drive. CJSF also doing a clothes drive. Will include the lost and found items not claimed after this Friday when items will be laid out. Questioned the attendees of the meeting if they feel there are too much clothing drives happening? Group felt is worth all supported both events as it could help increase participation.

Salad Bar: Sabine Kroeber

Good news, we got something free. Foothill will receive a salad bar thanks to the district/Anna Fisher, from the district, was able to get it through an available grant. Don't know when it will arrive. As soon as it is here, I will set up a volunteer schedule with sign up genius. Volunteers will NOT need to cut or prep the produce in any way, Mary Mingay in the kitchen will take care of it. Volunteers just have to supervise and make sure students are on good behavior and do not take too many croutons. Salad Bar days will be Wednesdays and Thursdays from 11:20am to 12.30pm. There will be a quick food safety training with Suzanne Bernhard from the district for all the volunteers. The biggest concern is really that parent volunteers are absolutely crucial for this to work. Without volunteers the cafeteria isn't even allowed to put the salad bar out. The volunteer part worries me a tiny little bit, because I didn't get a huge response from the library volunteers.

New Business

1. Motion to fund class size reduction in math and science for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade at .51 FTE for the 2014-15 school year. Motion by Sabine Kroeber and second by Miriam Lattanzi.
12 Yes votes. Motion unanimously passed.
2. Motion to fund an Instructional Media Assistant (IMA) position in the library for 6 hours for the 2014-15 school year. Motion by Faye Mettler and second by Mary Nagore.
12 Yes votes. Motion unanimously passed.

Career Day: Andrea Smethurst

Involved 38 speakers, both parents and nonparents spoke to students. Good feedback from all. Signup genius was mostly successful. Registration would move up a week next time to better handle students who were not registered the morning of. Also hoping to have students register in school to minimize those you didn't in advance. Kristen Giatzis handled the breakfast and got most of the items donated.

PEAK: Kim Harris/Miriam Lattanzi

Presented a check from the Turkey Trot and Sports Basement contribution for \$2, 374.00. Sports Basement is promoting charity madness involving all the nonprofits they work with. We compete against another charity to advance to the next round. To support Foothill, mention PEAK at the purchase counter between March 19th and March 25th. You will get 10% off and 10% will go to PEAK. Each week the 4 charities who raise the most advance to the next round, which turns into fundraising for Foothill.

Looking for Two New Parent Volunteer Coordinators/Teams: Julie Stokol

teaching students how to talk about what they are learning. Took class into the lab for testing. One component was to read an anthology, story about two boys who competed against each other. The prompt for the students after reading the story was to respond to what was the theme and show supporting evidence from the story. This was a different way to test versus the multiple choice test of STAR testing of the past. Now required to do reading, give responses and include writing. Practice test took two hours. Testing on the computer requires scrolling back and forth from the story to the response area. Tests allows for a box to take notes, so students also need to learn how to use the test tools. In math the students will have to learn how to build equations, not just answer the questions.

Executive Committee Reports

President's Report: Julie Stokol

Today was Career Day. Would like to thank Holly Hewes and Andrea Smethurst for coordinating this event, the 38 parents who spoke about their jobs this morning and Foothill Office for collaborating to provide student lists/assign rooms for speakers. Will happen again in two years.

April PFA meeting will include a guest presentation Street Smart traffic safety for parents. Also likely will be voting on budget items. Keep eye out on website and e-Gazette for more info about voting.

Have need for parent volunteers to chair various PFA committees next year--Directory, Ed Fund, Emergency Preparedness, 8th grade activities, Nominating, SMART Start, August Walk-Thru. Also, if you'd like to learn more about being part of PFA's exec committee you can talk with me directly. Will also need to add a PEAK representative.

Attended MDUSD Northgate community meeting, with still more to come. Dr. Meyer sees leadership at school sites as a way to make changes/shifts in curriculum. Meeting focused on funding structure changes. Discussed substitute teacher concerns from parents. Funding levels will bring us back to 2008. State is specifying money for K-3 reduction and 9-12.

Any parents/teachers interested in being interviewed for an article about Berkeley Business Academy for Youth Program, if participated in the past. Article to run in Haas School of Management's upcoming newsletter, let me know and I can give you the email address of the writer for this article.

Treasurer's Report: presented by Julie Stokol

Stacy had a last minute conflict come up. As of last month we have made budget. Update on amphitheater project, small number of donors wanted a refund, largest being for \$1,100.00. Total refund of \$1700.00 requested, there was \$2700.00 in that budget line item with remainder being rolled into PFA general budget.

Old Business

Schoola Clothing Fundraising: Julie Stokol

ASB needs some parent supervision to open and operate a student store once a week, have funds to start with an inventory. Store would include spirits t-shirts plus whatever items the students want to purchase. Also looking for a parent team for lockers clean out/prep. April Bush stated lockers are a student privilege and Foothill is the only middle school in the district who still actively uses lockers. It is a nice right of passage but they are high maintenance and a tax on custodial and office staff. In June custodians spend days to empty the lockers even though students are asked several time to empty lockers prior to the last day of school. Proposing a crew of parent volunteers to clean the lockers in June. Ellen Martin in the office would still do the administration in the fall but the time consuming task of putting locks on all the lockers would be handled by a volunteer team. Group started brainstorming ideas. Some agreed that getting rid of the lockers is not a big deal as not often used and some see the need for them, many felt strongly that it should be the students' responsibility. April Bush stated she was open to either position however, does not have manpower to offer. None of the brainstormed ideas were either feasible without addition oversight or could be done during school time without learning disruption, especially for B and C wing. Discussion was tabled to explore further ideas at a later date.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

Next meeting will be held Wednesday, April 16, 2014 in the Foothill library.

Foothill Parent Faculty Association

Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2014

Attendees:

Julie Stokol, April Bush, Patty Cochran, Kim Jenner, Jackie Byrd, Faye Mettler, Stacey Sutter, Cheryl Brown, Kirsten Riker, Debbie Dvorak, Kimberly Harris, Holly Hewes, Kristin Kupsch, Micheline Barazin-Richman, Belma Eldridge and Kathy Vendel.

President, Julie Stokol, called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

President's Report: Julie Stokol

Schoola Stitch Clothing Drive: Thank you to families who donated to PFA's clothing drive in March. We won't know until some of our clothes sell on line what money we made from the project. This seems like the sort of project that might need a few years to build up to a fundraiser in which many families get into the habit of donating.

New Foothill parent, Tania Morr Vanderbeek, will serve on the PFA board next year to work with interested teachers on DonorsChoose project funding opportunities. Online national program to fund school projects. She met with April Bush and me to begin the process of preparing projects for next fall.

Next PFA meeting is early in May (May 7), because Open House happening later in the month when we usually have our meetings. The May 6 meeting will be our final meeting of this academic year. We will vote in the 2014-15 PFA board.

Thank you to the many parents who have agreed to serve on next year's board. I truly appreciate your service. We have been able to fill several chair positions in the past few weeks, however, a few open positions remain: Registration Walk-Thru Coordinator, Directory Distribution, Nominating, Emergency Preparedness, Smart Start. If interested one of these or in Exec Board opportunities, let me know.

Locker update: One parent has responded to volunteer for locker clean outs and preps over the summer. In talking about the need for locker help at PFA exec meetings, board meetings and site council meetings, it seems as if student participation in such an effort might be key. At this time, no firm plan has been made for locker support. The possibility of discontinuing student locker use remains strong. Seems the solution is to get some students involved who still want the lockers and communicate after spring break that lockers are at risk at no longer being available to use. Biggest key is manpower support.

Free workshop for middle school girls to be given by a high school sophomore girl scout, who is doing this project for her Gold Award. To learn more about the workshop, which will take place at Ygnacio Valley Library from 2-6 p.m. on May 31, see the flyer on the sign in table.
(www.GirlsAchieveLifeSkills.wordpress.com).

Principal's Report: April Bush

Carpet repair in the library is complete and looks "beautiful", further decorating updates are being coordinated by library staff.

Carol Berger has started Book Council Club in the library. This club is an opportunity for students to take a leadership role in developing the Foothill library. Student interested in participating will be able to assist in making book selections for the library, help with book fair and maintain library bulletin board. More details to follow.

Attended along with Patty Cochran the superintendent's focus group meeting, today and will go again in a couple of weeks. Looking at District goals and the 8 points of accountability from the State. Funding formula, using parent input, was broken down into 5 categories and looked at how those categories impacts student learning. Was a meeting well worth attending. Also looking at a parent component from the District to help with communication around these student learning categories.

Site council met Tuesday to review school's Single Plan for Achievement. With student, parent and staff voice school goals were developed around condition of learning, pupil outcome, engagement and stakeholders.

7 or 8 teachers interested in DonorsChoose program, have a parent volunteer willing to coordinate with teachers on that.

General thank you to PFA for the class sections voted on and approved.

Street Smarts: Kristen Riker

Street Smarts traffic safety program was developed by 511 Contra Costa to educate pedestrians, cyclists and drivers in Central and East Contra Costa County. The overall intension of the Street Smart program is to reduce traffic and keep students safe around traffic. Street Smarts is providing bicycle and pedestrian training in the PE classes on April 30th. Will have available to the students certified bike instructors to talk about traffic right of way and rules of the road. On this day 150 free helmets are available to students on wheels. Walk and Roll School Challenge Day is May 2nd. The goal is to reduce school traffic so students are encouraged to bike, walk, skate, scooter or carpool to get to school. Prize incentives are available.

Foothill observed by Street Smarts Tuesday. Noted violations identified included jay walking, no helmets, parking in red, and bike riding in the crosswalk.

Big issue for Foothill is student not walking bike through school parking lot until getting on the other side of the road.

Mrs. Bush working with city to get southern side of Cedro as a no parking zone during drop off pick up time.

Part of the pilot program was to include a parent meeting but attendance is poor so looking at other promotional ideas.

Idea presented by parent in the room to provide a map outlining where and where not to park/ride on car windows. We could also communicate driving rules at Open House and Back to School in the fall.

Part of Street Smart funding is to support schools in updating or adding school signs.

Computer Technician paid 10 hours a week through PFA, eliminated. Through Common Core expecting technician coming from the district.

Historically counselors have received \$10,000.00 from the City of Walnut Creek, good possibility they will withdrawal that support so budget was increased for counselors. If city comes through with continued funding, we will reallocate that money. June 30th is the expected date for the City to present a balanced the budget.

Historically funded a librarian for 1 day a week, not. Reduction then for 1 day aid by the district. IMA being used to fill need to provide daily library access. Librarian one day a week.

Unbudgeted carryover reduction as it is truly a balancing figure. What we didn't use goes into strategic planning. As strategic planning identifies a need, money is spend in those areas. Reserve remains the same as the rainy day fund.

Old Business

Motion

Motion to approve 8th grade Civil War supplies funding request for \$500 as seed funds to establish a yearly Civil War reenactment. Motion made by Kim Jenner and seconded by Holly Hewes. Unanimously passed with 13 votes.

New Business

Motion

Motion to adopt 2014-2015 Foothill PFA budget. Motion made to approve by Jackie Byrd, seconded by Kim Jenner second. Unanimously passed with 13 votes.

- Motion to fund one section .17 FTE of technology instruction. Motion made to approve by Patty Cochran, seconded by Stacey Sutter. Unanimously passed with 13 votes.

Staff Appreciation Week: Julie Stokol for Steffanie Denman

May 5-9th, separate parent group is organizing their final staff lunch and special events are planned for staff throughout the week.

Meeting adjourned at 8:34pm.

Next meeting will be held Wednesday, May 7, 2014 in the Foothill library.