

NORTHGATE HIGH SCHOOL
JANUARY 6, 2015
SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL

I. WELCOME

The Site Council meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m. The following members were present:

Janet Read	Melanie Scott
Tricia Zucker	Margaret Vercamen
Mike Ahn	Kari Reed
Jill Wilk	Shirley McClelland
Rula Kassicieh	Goli Mohammadi
Mick Ucciferri	Ben Campopiano

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Nothing to report

III. APPROVED MINUTES

The December 2, 2014 Site Council minutes were reviewed. *A motion was made to accept the December 2, 2014 minutes. The motion was seconded then approved.*

III. STUDENT REPORT

Mick Ucciferri – Book drive and giving tree fundraiser in December was very successful, and had a lot of donations for both.

Winter Dance is 1/9/15 in Gym at 7pm tickets are \$5.00.

NG has a trash problem and students and administration are trying to brainstorm ideas to find ways to encourage students to throw away their trash in the garbage.

Upcoming events:

Finals 1/20-23, and Senior Banquet 2/22/15.

IV. PRINCIPAL REPORT

Michael McAlister and both VP's could not attend today's SC due to a Basketball game on campus that needed their full attendance.

V. ELAC REPORT

Nothing to report

VI. COMMON CORE UPDATE

Ben reported that NG teachers will be participating in a common core professional development day on 1/26/15, which is an in service day district wide – no students will

be attending that day. Teachers will visit with Action Learning Systems for the full day. He adds that the common core parent symposium scheduled for 1/29 at 7:00 pm in the Little Theatre. There will be a presentation by Mr. McAlister, Ben, and both VP's on testing, and two teachers. Ben hopes to spread the word out to as many parents as possible and to answer questions.

Janet Read suggests that the trash problem and the common core symposium be posted on an EBLAST for more parent awareness.

There will be a staff meeting on 1/28/15 McAlister will be presenting info about last years standardized testing scores on juniors with a comparison to 2-3 years ago.

Janet Read would like to see more uniformity among teachers of the same department. Her concern is that teaching is not equal from teacher to teacher. Ben explains that most depts. Are working on same uniformity and explains that the common core will not address that specific issue but assures her that the departments are aware of it and are working on it.

Ruth Carver also expressed her concern as well as other parents that teachers are not responding back to parents regarding their students' progress. There is a lot of frustration among parents with teachers not updating assignments on home link, especially before finals. Parents feel they are in the dark about current events and would like to see an informative mass email from teachers. Also, teachers are not using all the tools offered on home link such as the calendar and would appreciate more time be put into it by teachers. Mike Ahn stated about the uniformity among departments and added that the teachers want the same as parents, and asks that parents be patient due to a new administration and staff and hopes for more organization next year.

Ben explains next fall the district is moving towards Google. Next year every teacher, student in the district will have a google account. A Technology plan was submitted and he will check and see if it can be posted for the public.

Margaret Vercammen asked teachers why they are not using home link to its full potential and adds that home link should be the main tool for parents and teachers for grades, assignments, attendance etc. Kari Reed responded to Margaret's question say that home link is not user friendly and that most teachers use it for grades only. She adds that most teachers have not been trained properly on home link as they should be. Teachers have found other ways to communicate with their students by using apps and websites. Mike Ahn expresses his concern that the district has not properly trained teachers how to use home link, and says some teachers are just not that techy and need help to learn how to use all the tools offered on home link. Margaret Vercammen feels parents just want one place to gather student's info instead of google.com, Edmodo, etc. The district needs to find out who needs help with home link so parents are no longer in the dark. As an Attendance Secretary she personally encourages parents to use HL.

Ben suggests looking into making sub-committees for these issues in hopes of taking baby steps in helping to resolve them. He will bring these concerns to the attention of Mr. McAlister.

Ruth Carver suggests for future SC meetings with no admin attendance that meetings be rescheduled.

VII. BUDGET UPDATE

Will report at next meeting

VIII. PFC REPORT

Some allocated funds budgeted for class sections were not used and have been put back into an unallocated fund. The total was approximately \$20,000.

Concerns were brought up for the reduction of a VP.

Next PFC meeting will be 1/15 at 7pm in NG library.

IX. QUESTIONS/FUTURE ITEMS

Next SC meeting 2/3/15

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.