

MINUTES APRIL 1, 2014
NORTHGATE HIGH SCHOOL
SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL

I. WELCOME

The Site Council meeting was called to order at 3:17 p.m. The following members were present:

Ruth Carver	Nicole Reyherme
Janet Read	Margaret Vercammen
Kimia Zahedi	John McMorris
Jill Wilk	Teresa Bloom
Mary Phalon	Dan Reynolds
Lisa Liu	Ben Campopiano
Shirley McClelland	Goli Mohammadi
Margaret Johnson	Teresa Bloom

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Nothing to report

III. APPROVED MINUTES

The March 18, 2014 Site Council minutes were reviewed. A motion was made to accept the March 18, 2014 minutes; the motion was seconded then approved.

III. STUDENT REPORT

Senior Rep Lisa Liu: Seniors are getting acceptance letter from colleges. Senior Ball is May 3rd, tickets are currently on sale.

Senior Rep Kimia Zahedi: Friday April 4th is Spring State for JSA, elections will be Sunday on April 6. Three Northgate students are running for positions; Kimia Zahedi for Mayor of East Bay Region, Jackson McDonough-Vice Mayor and David Bronstein for Senator.

Freshman Rep Goli Mohammad: Sophomores are currently testing for CAHSEE. The freshman class is organizing an Easter egg hunt fundraiser on April 17th.

IV. PRINCIPAL REPORT-JOHN MCMORRIS

John McMorris announced that NG Jazz band took first place at the Monterey Next Generation Jazz Festival, and at the State Mock Trial our team took third place at the Contra Costa County Mock Trial Competition. Also, Northgate had two teachers who were finalist in the Mt. Diablo Education Teacher of the Year, our Dan Reynolds and Greg Brown was strong candidates, and Cori Starr was also nominated. The Northgate community is very proud of their teachers. John McMorris is happy to report that our English teacher Dan Reynolds is promoting a State wide

75th Anniversary of John Steinbach's Grapes of Wrath on April 14th. His students have studied the novel and are doing activities that will help celebrate the anniversary and to help spread an understanding and awareness of the novel and publication milestone.

On April 15, Northgate will be having a minimum day and Northgate teachers will be in their departments doing work with the common core transition.

Northgate students will be taking the Smarter Balance Test which will occur at the end of April. Every sophomore will be taking a paper and pencil test. The junior's will take an EAP English and Math test for the California State System and Graduation is set for June 11th.

WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) visited Northgate approximately three years ago and had a list of things to work on. WASC then came back in February 2014 to follow-up and in their report they stated that they were very impressed with Northgate's leadership team and action plan.

V. ELAC REPORT

Nothing to report

VI. BUDGET REPORT-BEN CAMPOPIANO

Ben begins to explain some news regarding an accounting error in the budget. SC originally had \$28,801.00 but in actuality we had \$24,801.00. This accounting error occurred because we did not take into account \$4000.00 for staff benefits for Shirley McClelland and Teresa Bloom. SC had committed to this the previous year and now SC needs to make a decision of where to take the \$4000.00 from. Ben recommends taking the funds from the Tech Committee of \$21,121.76.

John McMorris adds that this error was not Ben's fault, and takes full responsibility. He explains that the budget of 28,801.00 consisted of straight salaries and did not include the benefits creating an error of \$4000.

John McMorris made a motion that SC vote to reconsider the budget and reconfigure the number to accurately apply the benefits that are required for the classified personnel. A motion was made, seconded and then approved unanimously.

John McMorris also made the motion to cut \$1500.00 From the English department and the remaining \$2500.00 from the Tech Committee. His suggestion is based on knowledge that the English department has currently \$12,000.00 in their budget from donations for this year.

Dan Reynolds was concerned if department budgets will rollover from year to year, John McMorris answer to that was yes. Dan Reynolds adds that he is in support of removing the English department's item of \$1500.00 due to the fact the English department has money and that it would be there next year to spend. He also suggests that the remaining \$2500.00 be cut from the Foreign Language department and if the Language department needed more money they could seek additional funds from the Technology Committee.

John McMorris amended his original motion of \$2500.00 to be cut from the Foreign Language and not the Tech Committee as previously stated and would like his proposal to be on the table

for a second. Motion was moved and seconded. SC voted and approved the motion. In review \$1500 will be cut from the English Department \$2500.00 from the Foreign Language Department. Ben will contact the department chairs and explain this budget change.

VII. DEPARTMENT REPORT-BEN CAMPOPIANO

Ben reported for the Social Studies department. He begins to explain that his department has been very excited about improving the Technology in SS to help provide more computers for their students. A letter was generated and sent home to parents asking help with donations, approximately \$13,000.00 was raised. Because the SS department did not follow proper procedure for these donations, monies may have to be returned, SS is currently working with the NG administration on what the next steps should be. Ben added that his department had nothing but good intentions for their students.

VIII. TECHNOLOGY REPORT-NICOLE REYHERME

Nicole Reyherme reported that NG is in the process of developing a five year Technology Plan which consists of getting input from other sources and putting priorities in place. Nicole created an online teacher technology survey on Google Docs for staff, parents and students which will consist of questions of how technology applies in their daily life.

Student Rep Goli reported that some teachers don't show the announcements and would like to know if this could be mandatory. Mr. McMorris replied; saying that some teachers don't have TV's in their classroom not the proper necessary hook-ups. He would like to know the names of teachers that are not showing the morning announcements so he can help those teachers acquire TV access.

IX. PFC REPORT-MARY PHALON

Mary Phalon reports on April 12th is Spring for Education, this is Northgate's second biggest fundraiser and sales are down from last years, this brings a big concern for the PFC budget for next year. A potential budget was presented in March and after the vote PFC was \$107,000 over budget. Some serious cuts will have to be made. Possible items to be considered for cuts are salaries, contribution support to the computer tech, Model UN, Advisory Fund, Principal Fund, and Teacher Appreciation Fund. The budget will be finalized in May.

Mary Phalon concludes her report stating there are many board positions open for next year, and so far no one has stepped up. Next PFC Meeting will be April 17th at 9 am in room 62.

X. QUESTIONS/FUTURE ITEMS

Ruth Carver asked Ben Campopiano to update the SC board in the Social Studies department. Ben reports that the SS department is focused on common assessments so that all teachers in the department are in-line together. Family history project will roll out next year with more expectations. Every Tuesday students do public speaking, a skill that his department really believes in, and works hard on. There meetings center more on Technology and how to get more hands on with their students as well as more interesting too.

Junior Rep Lisa Liu: Asked what is Academic Events?

Ben explained Academic Events is a project-based course. Students will develop their research, logic and speaking skills, and will participate in one or more of the following clubs: Mock Trial, Model UN, JSA, Academic Decathlon, and the Debate Team. Students will work in class with team members to prepare for events, conferences, and competitions. Students will receive support from teachers/advisors on the various projects and events.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.