

NAC Meeting Minutes October 9, 2007

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm

Welcome: NAC Chair, Richard Harrison, opened the meeting and welcomed parents.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from prior meetings – May, June and September – were unanimously approved.

Teachers' Report:

Vince Noto presented this report, in place of Bob Herold, who is away dealing with a family situation. Vince reported that things are going smoothly at the school. He noted that the Halloween Dance is coming up on the Friday, October 19. Vince also mentioned the possibility that students in his course, "The Play's the Thing", may be putting on a play later in the year.

Principal's Report

Nell Ballard-Jones reported that she, David Larson (LWSD Head of the LWS Community) and Brad Molloy (Principal of LWHS) had met with architects to discuss plans for the new school. The issues of space for the Northstar teachers and Connie, and contiguous space for Northstar during construction were discussed. A solution is expected by January.

David Larson also met with the Northstar staff to discuss the issue of classes at LWHS for Northstar students. David will be at the next NAC meeting and will give more information then. However, the teachers are optimistic about the future of class offerings. The basic policy will be that students already in the pipeline (e.g. in Math or foreign languages) will be served. There are still questions about whether or not Northstar students will be able to start high school programs.

Treasurer's Report

Skip Felts gave an overview of the projected budget for this year. This is a preliminary budget, as he has not yet had feedback from Bob about particular requests from the teachers.

Income is strong, with most families having paid their dues. About 10 – 12 families have not yet paid. They will be sent reminders.

Matching funds are also an important source of income. Families are encouraged to submit their forms to the school soon, as some matching funds must be paid out within three months of the donation being made. Contact Skip with any questions.

Microsoft will also pay \$10/hour for volunteer hours by their employees. If you work for Microsoft, please check into this.

A recent email went out about Escrip. If you link your Safeway card to NAC's group number, a donation is made to the school each time you use your card. If

you use a Safeway card, please sign up. Please ignore any message which appears telling you that Safeway cannot support this organization, as this is incorrect. Eddie Bauer and Macy's are also part of the Escript program. Kerri Truhan mentioned that Washington Mutual's program "Wamoola for Schools" is another way to raise money for the school. If you register your debit card, money goes to the school each time you use your card. You may need to go to your branch to sign up.

Skip explained how field trip fees are calculated. Fees for the first few trips are typically higher than the actual cost. The balance is used to subsidize the cost of the year-end field trip.

In general the NAC carries a balance of about \$4000 from year to year, to cover unexpected expenses. Anything over that is typically spent on something for the school, so that contributions benefit the children whose parents raised the money, and not just future generations of students. For example, last year new laptops were purchased so that the school now has a full class set. Skip mentioned that perhaps this policy might be modified this year, to allow a larger balance to be available for unexpected expenses arising during the move.

Skip is no longer a parent at the school, but is continuing to serve as Treasurer this year. (This announcement was greeted with amazement and applause!) He needs someone to shadow him this year, so he can be replaced next year. Contact Skip or Richard if you would be willing to take on this job.

Other Reports:

1. Field Trips:

France Giddings thanked parents who have signed up to help with field trips. The next field trip is to Intiman Theater. If you signed up to chaperone this trip and did not receive an email from France, please contact her.

The next field trip will be to the 5th Avenue Theater to see the play "Into the Woods". Contact France if you would like to chaperone this trip, which is on Wednesday, November 7. Note that this field trip will end after the normal Wednesday dismissal time. Students will be returning to school at 1:30.

Currently a trip to the International District is in the planning stages.

Note that to be eligible to be a chaperone on the year end field trip, you must have chaperoned at least one previous field trip.

2. Ski Bus

Bruce Clouse reported that there will be a Wednesday afternoon ski/snowboard program in January. There will be a meeting before the next NAC meeting (November 13 at 6:30 p.m.) with a representative from Mohan, the ski school which organizes the buses and lessons.

There are about 6 seats left on the bus. Next week Bruce will be sending out applications forms as well as a list of students who signed up. You will be able to buy a discounted ski pass through this program. Money will be due in early December.

The bus takes students to Summit Central, at Snoqualmie Pass. Buses leave at around 12:30 on Wednesdays, and return between 7:30 and 8:00.

3. Conference Week (Nancy Cox)

Conference week will be taking place on January 23 – 25, at the end of the first semester. During these three half days, parents organize classes and activities for students, so that teachers can work on planning and conferences. Nancy will be sending out an email soon, inviting parents to help by teaching classes, suggesting speakers, etc. There are many ways to participate, even if you do not want to organize an activity yourself. Please contact Nancy Cox if you have any ideas or want to help out.

4. Public Relations

Annette Hamilton submitted many articles to the “Kirkland Courier” last year. This year the format of the publication has changed. It is now the weekly “Kirkland Reporter”, and the editor wants shorter stories, especially ones focused on student achievements, awards, etc. Please email Annette if you have any items which might be suitable for inclusion in an article.

Other items:

1. Richard reported that although most volunteer positions are now filled, help is still needed with the following positions:
 - i. Someone to shadow Skip and take over as treasurer next year.
 - ii. Volunteer coordinator to help organize volunteers for events during the year.
 - iii. Fundraising coordinator to work on fundraising projects which may be especially important while the school is being rebuilt.
2. Sandy Roberts announced that there would be an impromptu Mom’s Night Out (Dads also welcome!) right after the meeting at the Outback Steakhouse.
3. Heidi Tucker, a Northstar parent who works for International Ballet Theater, announced that their new show “Dracula” will be running at Meydenbauer Center October 26-31. It includes many different kinds of dance, not just ballet. It may be of relevance to students taking Bob’s Russian History class.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05.