

## NFA Compact Committee Minutes

11/17/09

**Attendance:** Admin: S. Prokosch, S. Valentino;  
Parents: C. Cruz (Chair), T. Hoffner, S. Levinstein, F. Powell, L. Gambill, S. Santiago

Welcome to new admin to join NFA Compact, Susan Valentino.

Additional Members Introduced: L. Gambill & T. Hoffner

Items Discussed:

Family Day: Attendance was low, but workshops were informative. Tara Jones will discuss the event in more detail. Further discussions will take place in future meeting to determine how to increase attendance for next year.

Compact email: Administration will look into whether or not an email can be set up for NFA Compact on district extension.

Increase Parent Participation: It is believed that students can receive community service for attending & bringing a parent to an NFA Compact meeting. Mr. Prokosch will share list of community service suggestions with committee for next month.

T-shirt Issue: Parents raised concerns over senior t-shirts that were sold after the pep rally in October that contained alcoholic messages. Administration has addressed the topic, but it is not fully controllable since it is not school sanctioned. Much effort has been put forth by staff to discourage wearing the shirts in school by asking students to cover the shirts or wear them inside-out. Students were asked to do the same during senior picture day. Staff will continue to watch for them during school functions.

Security guard changes between NFA, HJH & North have been made due to retirements. The district had to cut some security positions in June, but have since hired additional staff to handle increased number of metal detectors. NFA now has a total of 7 metal detectors - 4 downstairs & 3 upstairs. The metal detectors were added to help increase the flow of students entering the building. All student identifications are checked before they enter.

Question was asked in light of situation at the High School in Pine Plains:

How does NFA protect against similar situations. Precaution as always - parents are always welcome, but are encouraged to come with an appointment. When a parent arrives security will check to see if the person they're looking for is available or they may be directed to the Attendance Office window. No one is allowed to wander through the halls and no one is allowed in without identification. Adults are randomly asked to go through metal detectors. Administration feels the school is secure. Poughkeepsie school system came last year to review security procedures at NFA.

In light of student intentions at Monroe Woodbury:

Anything reported to administration is immediately investigated by administration and the police officer assigned to NFA. There is discussion by the city to cut SRO positions at NFA, North & South even though 80% of cost is covered by district. NFA hopes not to lose the assigned officer because he is considered invaluable for the work he has compiled & does. It would be a true loss if we didn't have him. The officer knows the students and the area well which has proven many times over to be an asset to the school.

Last year parents were informed that drug sweeps could not take place during day because of the number of people in the building, question was now asked if sweeps could take place in the evening. Discussion ensued as to whether the school would need board approval and if surrounding entities would be interested in such a training session. Administration will look into.

Building Update:

Not much different as previously reported by Mr. Copeletti. The auditorium is still being worked on and work will take longer than originally planned. Because of this the school play and concerts will take place at a different location, possibly North, with additional performances.

With the inclusion of 9<sup>th</sup> graders next year the requirement of needing a parent to attend games with these students will most likely be removed.

On Feb 1: NFA is switching to Infinite Campus, a web based student management system. It will allow attendance to be done online & emailed each period to attendance office. System will also generate 5 week progress reports and report cards. System has a parent portal which will be implemented last (most likely not until September). Once available it will enable parents to see attendance, grades, & schedule. System will be used by the entire district from Pre-K to 12.

Question on scheduling was asked: students signed up for classes are only notified before start of school that class is no longer offered. This proves particularly difficult for seniors. Scheduling is the hardest task for administration. NFA is a 12 month school (due to the extended year program) and only has approximately 1-1½ weeks to finalize schedules before the start of school. It is impossible to predict all courses for following school year. If not enough students sign up for a class, the class may be cancelled. Schedules are literally finalized the Friday before being mailed. Charter Your Course is updated each year and is believed to be available online.

Graduation in June worked very well and proved to be a momentous occasion with the least disruption. Everyone was able to see. Because of transportation from surrounding schools, parking was plenty. All things went well and same is expected for next June.

Senior Prom was moved to middle of June so as to not to distract from Regents and Final Exams

#### Bus Accident Update

All students were ok. A driver and 6 students were discharged from hospital that evening. Accident is still under investigation. Concern was brought up that not all parents were notified. It was advised that all students were checked by Director of Health Services for district. Applicable reports were made and students were asked to contact parents. Students were then released to parents or parents gave permission for their child to ride with someone else. Notes were sent home.

Policy was reviewed:

Address injured or emergency situation

Depending on incidence, all students are checked individually.

Not standard to call all parents.

Next meetings are scheduled for Monday Dec 14<sup>th</sup> & Thursday Jan 21<sup>st</sup> at 6pm in Humanities Cafeteria. Meetings are open to anyone wishing to attend. Any questions or for further information please contact NFA Compact Chair, Carmen Cruz, [ccruz@gnes.nrcsd.org](mailto:ccruz@gnes.nrcsd.org).