

MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING (150128)

Minutes of the meeting of the Education Committee of the Northridge East Neighborhood Council that took place on January 28, 2015, at 4:08 pm, at the Northridge Recreation Center (Computer Room).

1. CALL TO ORDER

- a. The chair call the meeting to order at 4:08 pm. (Fantini)

2 QUORUM

- a. It was determined that there was a quorum. (Fantini)
- b. Attendance (committee members):
- i. PRESENT: Nestor Fantini (NENC, chair of the committee), Joe Kozul (Northridge Academy HS), Caroline Mitchell (Northridge AcademyHS), Virginia Ghoniem (Darby Elementary).
 - ii. ABSENT: William Kuzmin (stakeholder), Francisca Vega (CSUN).
 - c. Others present: Glenn Bailey (NENC), Lydia Grant (DONE)

3. COMMENTS

- a. Fantini stated that although some procedures were not strictly followed in the past, it was the intention of the committee to ensure that all procedures are followed in accordance to DONE's guidelines and state and federal laws. He also asked NENC's president Bailey to ensure that all committees are held to the same standards as those expected from the Education Committee.
- b. Bailey indicated that procedure was very important and that it was his goal as president of NENC to ensure that we do not experience any problems as we had in the past (ie: funds were temporarily cut by DONE).
- c. Grant reaffirmed the need to follow procedure especially at a time when many changes are being introduced, and when some are focusing on the way business is carried out by neighborhood councils.

4. MOTION BY DARBY ELEMENTARY (P.E. COACH)

- a. Ghoniem, principal of Darby Elementary, introduced a proposal to fund the PE program at Darby Elementary.
- b. Discussion:
- i. Grant explained the process that NPGs must follow before they are approved by the council and DONE.
 - ii. Bailey stated that all NPG-related documents should be delivered on a timely manner and analyzed by the Finance Committee before being voted by the council.
 - iii. Bailey also asked about the number of Northridge East students that attend Darby Elementary. Ghoniem thought that most were from NENC's jurisdiction but did not have specific percentages. Grant volunteered to get the residency percentages of Darby and other local schools.
- c. MITCHELL MOVED that "NENC approve \$3,000 so Darby Elementary School can continue with its "On the Ball..." program, which involves hiring a coach during 40 days." (SECONDED by KOZUL).
- d. Motion PASSED with 3 members of the committee voting YES, 0 voting NO, 0 abstaining, and 1 recusing herself (Virginia Ghoniem).

5. MOTION BY NAHS (LIBRARY BOOKS)

a. Caroline Mitchell, a teacher at Northridge Academy HS, introduced a proposal to fund the purchase of books by the school's library.

b. Discussion:

i. Bailey asked about the number of students from Northridge that attend NAHS, and suggested that this kind of funding could probably be shared among several local neighborhood councils.

ii. Although the original proposal was for \$1,990, Mitchell agreed to amend it to \$1,900 as it appears in the agenda.

iii. The motion was amended to request "up to" \$1,900 to allow flexibility considering the limited funds that NENC has available.

c. GHONIEM MOVED that "NENC approve up to \$1,900 so Northridge Academy High School can purchase multiple copies of classic young adult novels to rebuild its YA Literature section". (SECONDED by KOZUL).

d. Motion PASSED with 3 members of the committee voting YES, 0 voting NO, 0 abstaining, and 1 recusing herself (Caroline Mitchell).

6. MOTION BY NAHS (BUSES)

a. Caroline Mitchell, a teacher at Northridge Academy HS, introduced a proposal to fund the lease of 3 buses for a school-sponsored field trip.

b. Discussion:

i. Ghoniem wanted to know if the local councilman was contacted. Mitchell reported that he was, but the possibilities of obtaining funds from other sources were very limited.

c. GHONIEM MOVED that "NENC approve \$1,100 so Northridge Academy High School can lease 3 (three) buses for a curricular field trip to CSUN's Aquatic Center in Castaic Lake which will involve about 156 students and 15 adults". (SECONDED by KOZUL).

d. Motion PASSED with 3 members of the committee voting YES, 0 voting NO, 0 abstaining, and 1 recusing herself (Caroline Mitchell).

7. FUTURE FUNDING PROPOSALS

a. Fantini stated that due to a mistake, the Friends of NAHS's proposal was not included in the January 28, 2015 agenda. Thus, he intended to call an Education Committee meeting in February in which this proposal will be included as well as one from Valley Academy (Robotics program).

b. Kozul spoke about his proposal.

b. Bailey reminded that NENC has limited funds available.

8. MOTION TO SUPPORT A FREE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

a. Nestor Fantini, member of NENC, introduced a proposal to support free community colleges in California.

b. Discussion:

i. Fantini pointed out that this is not a new concept considering that the Act of 1967, that created the CA community colleges, already banned any form of tuition.

ii. Ghoniem expressed concerns about the impact that funding community colleges may have on K-12 education.

iii. Grant also had doubts how this proposal could be funded in CA.

iv. Bailey reminded that funding may be shared 75/25 between the federal and the state government.

v. Fantini clarified that the proposal was to support the concept of a free education and not a specific proposal.

v. Bailey suggested the motion be amended to address not only NENC but also city

council.

c. FANTINI MOVED that “NENC and L.A. City Council support the concept of a free community college education in California”. (SECONDED by MITCHELL)

d. Motion PASSED with 4 members of the committee voting YES, 0 voting NO, and 0 abstaining.

9. MOTION TO ADJOURN

a. GHONIEM MOVED to adjourn (SECONDED by FANTINI) (5:25)

Prepared by: Nestor Fantini