

DRAFT 5/15/08

NPA Strategic Planning Committee
Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Minutes

Call to Order: Erika Arlington called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Those in attendance included Lisa Gainey, Chris Lofquist, Susan Smiley, Toni Post, Paula Rand, Steve Danner, Carol Bousquet, and Bob Lombardi.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve as presented the minutes from the meeting of April 16, 2008 was made by Chris Lofquist and seconded by Steve Danner. Unanimous approval.

Sub-Committee Reports/ Discussion on Reports

Academic/Extracurricular/Sports: Susan Smiley reported that this subcommittee has met three times. She also described an informal survey of students that was administered to some NPA students inquiring about the types of after school programs that they might be interested in. There was some interest in Lego/Robot construction among others. On-line competition programs mentioned as examples included FIRST and Dinkquest. Parents had expressed interest in SAT prep. The subcommittee is developing a proposal which could include an hourly fee for after school clubs/activities, and are exploring the possibility of contracting the oversight of this program out.

Goal: The development of a formal program will require more development than can be achieved for Fall '08, thus, in the near term coordination with the Community Enrichment Committee will be sought in an effort to design a loose model with parent sponsors for the coming school year.

Plant/Facilities: Paula Rand reported that this subcommittee has not yet met, and is seeking clarification on direction for study as it relates to the expansion conversation. She highlighted that the primary focus of this group is consideration of upgrading and adding library and science facilities on the NPA campus. Bob Lombardi recommended that perhaps a first step would be to conduct a feasibility study to identify general prices for renovation or retrofitting, whether portable classrooms would be needed when rooms are under construction, permitting and fee timelines, and other logistics related to different options.

Committee members discussed a host of options available to the school when considering how to define a school library. Resources could include software allowing students to log in to a library database from home, NAU Kline Library access, computer/media center lab, mobile lab within current facility among others. It was noted that the school holds a gift of \$50,000 designated for the development of a library.

Carol Bousquet offered to work with this subcommittee.

Goal: The subcommittee will explore what can be done and what the needs of the school are when considering a “library” and science labs in the current facility. In addition, the term “library” may need to be reconsidered with a new approach, and a feasibility study of some sort should be sketched out.

With these goals in mind, the subcommittee will seek out NPA parents with building and construction to assist in this effort.

Communication: Chris Lofquist offered a summary of the subcommittee work to date. She reported that in addition to communication within the school and NPA community, there was a desire to consider communication and projection of our image with the greater Flagstaff community. She asked for thoughts from others on this. The Committee offered consensus that the way NPA is seen by the community is important and reflected on how public relations could be improved. This aspect should be included in the overall approach to “Communication” as part of the strategic plan.

Toni Post described how the subcommittee had received suggestions on improved communication from parents as part of the survey, and that an informal request had been made to the teachers asking for ideas on improvement and roadblocks in this area. Teachers have been offering a number of observations to assist in looking at this issue. One teacher has offered to participate as part of this subcommittee.

Goal: The committee will review comments/suggestions from teachers and begin to develop a set of recommendations and roadblocks.

Expansion/Enrollment/Finance: Steve Danner reported that there have been three meetings to date. The subcommittee is outlining varying options when considering expansion or optimization of the student population. It was noted that the term expansion can be misleading and that by increasing the student population, many of the desired goals including increased class choices, and extracurricular programs, could be achieved.

A survey was administered to students asking for their opinions on different configurations that could be explored with a larger student body. Most

students were in favor of keeping the current configuration, though many ideas and comments were offered and will be sorted through. A similar survey will be administered to parents.

Concern about making any changes that would diminish the size of the high school population was expressed.

Goal: The subcommittee will continue to flesh out models for consideration and will meet with the Community Enrichment Committee.

Other Business: Carol Bousquet suggested that asking Toni Post to place all of the subcommittee minutes on-line was a poor use of her time but would like to be able to review minutes from other subcommittees as the work evolves. The committee discussed options for distribution of minutes and resolved to make minutes available by doing the following:

- Strategic Planning Committee minutes will be distributed by email to all committee members. Electronic copy may be posted by Toni Post at her discretion and pleasure of the Board. Hard copy will be made available at the main administrative desk on campus.
- Subcommittee minutes will be distributed electronically only to subcommittee members. A hard copy will be made available at the main administrative desk on campus.

Establish Next Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, June 10, 2008 6:30 p.m. Band Room.

Adjournment: Carol Bousquet made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:10, seconded by Lisa Gainey and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by
Carol Bousquet