

Northgate High School to Move Forward with Facilities Improvements

Significant public/private partnership leads the way

Walnut Creek, CA--On Tuesday, May 10, 2011 the Mt. Diablo Unified School District approved \$1.5 million in funding from Measure C bonds to immediately be dispersed for a series of facilities enhancement projects at Northgate High School.

In a concerted effort, The Northgate Community Pride Foundation (NCPF), the school district, Northgate High School and the Northgate PFC, are all working as partners to ensure funds from the Measure C bond initiatives are best allocated to serve the school and the students. NCPF has raised substantial funds from parents and other individual donors to improve a wide range of facilities at the high school.

These organizations have prioritized facilities improvement projects including matching funds for completion of the Northgate High School sports complex with the installation of permanent bleachers. Other projects listed include converting the auto shop into a new engineering facility, construction of new classrooms, renovation of bathrooms, and restoration of the girls locker room. This has lifted a heavy burden off the cash strapped school district. According to NCPF, the goal is to stretch the measure C dollars as far as possible to get as many projects completed as possible. To help accomplish this, NCPF will continue to fund raise with fresh campaigns for each new project.

“Assisting with the installation of permanent bleachers is the top priority as the Northgate Pride Foundation has already raised \$2.25 million of the total \$2.75 million needed to build the sports complex that has been in the works for over six years,” said Kassie Wenzell, president of NCPF. “This project is shovel-ready, has all the necessary district approvals for design and construction and is in position for installation in 2011. The Northgate Athletic Boosters capped bleacher fundraising with a generous \$50,000 donation to reach our goal.”

The list and prioritization improvements were made in conjunction with the 2011 Northgate High School strategic plan set forth by the high school and the Northgate PFC. Superintendent Steve Lawrence was instrumental in supporting efforts to direct Measure C monies to district high schools so our communities can start benefitting from the bond they help pass.

“This is public-private partnership at its finest,” said John McMorris, Principal of Northgate High School. “We’ve been fortunate to have a dedicated group like Northgate Pride and they had already raised over 80% of the funds needed for this project and we feel it’s important for the district to assist in finishing the sports complex. It’s one of the only projects we have that is approved and can be completed this year.”

Walnut Creek City Council Member Kish Rajan also observed “this is a great achievement for Northgate and for our community. The collaboration between these public and private stakeholder groups is an outstanding example of what is possible when a community comes together in support of our children.”

The Northgate Community Pride Foundation is a recognized 501(c) (3) not-for-profit organization founded in 1999 to aid in the improvement and enhancement of educational and athletic facilities at Northgate High School and serve as a model for other schools. Working with the school district, the schools, corporations, parents, alumni and students, NCPF has raised over \$5.5 million and completed notable facilities improvements including the gymnasium renovation, the Little Theatre renovation, the Dance Studio renovation and the installation of the sports complex track, field and lights.

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