

NovaPTO Upper School Parent Advisory “Strengthening the Nova Community”

Minutes – October 17 -2016, 5:00 pm to 6pm in Music room 131

MINUTES 10-17

NovaPTO Mission - Nova Classical Academy PTO is an organization of volunteers engaging families, teachers, and staff in fostering a school community that actively supports Nova’s mission and enriches the students and the school. Any and all current Nova parents and staff are considered members. There are no dues.

USPA Mission - Interaction between Parents and Administration in an informal setting to discuss particular events and issues, thoughts and perspectives in a positive and proactive manner.

x	6th Grade	Jennifer	Bateman Grover	Jennifer@batemangrover.com	
x	7th Grade	Charlene	Hess	hesscharlene@yahoo.com	
	7th Grade	Sara	Waters	sara@saras-stories.com	7,10
x	8th Grade	Jane	Lagerquist	jglager@gmail.com	
x	8th Grade	Cole	Williams	coaltrainwilliams@gmail.com	
x	9th Grade	Bridget	Borell	bridgetborell@gmail.com	
x	9th Grade	Maura	Hackenmueller	danhack@juno.com	
x	9th Grade	Kimberly	Adelsman	kimberlyadelsman@hotmail.com	
x	9th Grade	Jim	Boyle	jtboyle888@gmail.com	Katiejim888@yahoo.com
	10th Grade	Katherine	Scheil	kscheil@comcast.net	8,10
	10th Grade	Mary Jo	Wiatrak		
x	11th Grade	Barb	Demlow	demlow@gmail.com	
x	11th Grade	Naomi	Kritzer		
	Registrar and	Angela	Whited	awhited@novaclassical.org	Assessment Coordinator
x	U.S. Principal	Mari	Bergerson	mbergerson@novaclassical.org	

1. Welcome and Roll Call (Jane)

- a. USPA Mission - Interaction between Parents and Administration in an informal setting to discuss particular events and issues, thoughts and perspectives in a positive and proactive manner
- b. Represent not only our family but other families. Be respectful.
 - a. Provide time for all parents in the group to respond.
- c. Agenda Additions

2. Upcoming events

- a. **8th grade trip to Washington DC** – Parent meeting on Thursday, Oct. 27 at 6:30pm. Might include Gettysburg this year. Chaperones will be teachers. Trip is Sunday, June 11th - Saturday, June 17th. Ms. Taylor Mr. Pelofske and Ms Bergerson are scheduled to be on the trip.
- b. **Great Gatherings & Grapes of Math - Nov. 5.** Buy your tickets now. Jane is asking for Wine donations for the event. Jennifer is suggesting families sponsor events and attend.
- c. **Masquerade dance – Nov. 4th,** Grades 6,7,8. This year the dance is right after school, so the kids need to bring their costume. Open gym is popular. Teachers help Chaperone the event. Dance is from 4:30 to 7:30. 7/8th grade soccer is the same night. Talked about having pizza available for purchase to limit the kids leaving the dance for food. Discussed asking for money for food from the NPTO for the Black and White dance in January.
- d. **Upper School conferences on Oct 26 and 28th.** Discussed time limitations on conferences.

3. Topics –

- a. **Capstone 2017** – this year will have 48 students with 1 on a waiting list. There are 42 12th graders and 65 11th graders eligible. In future years it is being considered, Capstone trip will be done yearly for seniors only, so that the traveling group will be around 35-40 students and chaperones, a more manageable size. Parent chaperones may be considered if it is a yearly event. For all chaperones it’s a dry trip. Chaperones do not pay for their trip.

- b. **"Seminar Space" in Ex. Hall, room 304.** Estimates are coming in for a remodel of the Exhibition Hall to create a more classical interdisciplinary space for seminar for joy of learning. Improvements considered is a heavy duty, hardwood wood type floor, more traditional acoustical tiles, canned lighting, painted walls, sofas, etc. Other events such as Robotics, board meetings, and conference meals will be diverted to other rooms. Senior breakfast worked well on the Mezzanine.
- c. **Phone issues in SoR and SoL.** – Phones usage will not allowed in academic wing. Upon second violation, the phone will be confiscated and be able to be picked up by the parents. Some parents pointed out that phones have been used by some students during the study hall period. Ms. Bergerson will have a talk with the teachers regarding this.
- d. **Parent Ed night on Nov 14 - SoR and SoL Discipline, College Corner, Naviance.**
- e. **Music Program** – Ideas were suggested on ways to acknowledge the musical Talent at Nova. Recognition in the Nova notes, small performances, maybe have a small ensemble at GG.
- f. **Coaching/Athletics** – Some parents mentioned issues of miscommunication, or lack of communication, and some frustrations.. Further discussions will be done outside of meeting.

4. Past Events

- a. **Legacy boat trip for the 8th graders,** well received in past years.
- b. **Parent Ed night - Monday, Sept 19** Data Driven Instruction
- c. **Bookfair Oct 1st** Barnes and Noble at Harmar Mall. Ms. Taylor and Mr. Sexton will be reading. It was highly successful, best year yet.
- d. **Parent ed night - Monday, Oct. 3,** a class on Classical Learning 101, approximately 40 attended the event.
- e. **9th Grade Retreat to Camp St. Croix.** First weekend in October. Students loved the trip. This year, the Seniors have asked to go back to the Camp as their Senior Legacy event.