

**NovaPTO Upper School Parent Advisory “Strengthening the Nova Community”
Agenda – September 19 -2016, 5:00 pm to 6pm in Music room 131**

DRAFT OF MINUTES , completed 9/24/2016

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.

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

I. 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. Provide time for all parents in the group to respond.
- c. Our meeting is limited to 1 hour.
- d. Need someone to type minutes.
- e. Agenda Additions

2. Upcoming events

- a. **Legacy boat trip for the 8th graders**, well received in past years.
- b. **8th grade trip to Washington DC** – Dates TBD. Info will be coming out in mid to late October. Estimates that it will be around \$1200. Might include Gettysburg this year. Chaperones will be teachers. Walking trip. Approx. 5-6 days. Date to be set for a week in June.
- c. **9th Grade Retreat to Camp St. Croix**. First weekend in October. This year, the Seniors have asked to go back to the Camp as their Senior Legacy event.
- d. **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.
- e. **Bookfair Oct 1st** – Barnes and Noble at Harmar Mall. Ms. Taylor and Mr. Sexton will be reading. Upper school teachers have lists of books to buy as well, and they really appreciate them. Even buying food & coffee at BN applies towards Nova.
- f. **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.
- g. **Upper School conferences**

3. Topics

a. **Science** curriculum update

Has been reviewed for 2 years to come up with this solution. Science classes will be more in line with the State standards, and testing requirements. New books are being used for 5,8,9 this year. Grades 6,7 next year. Book series chosen has a lexile level more in tune to the reading levels of the grade. And book series has online references so that its easier for families. The program is circular, building upon topics taught previously.

b. **Announcing USPA members to the rest of the school** – after the Barnes and Noble book fair, we will have communications sent out, announcing our team. If any communications need to be sent as a parent representative to their grade, we have this protocol. Each person needs to send a note to Jane. We will then work with Angela to communicate the information. This will ensure that the message is consistent & acceptable to the school, and not misrepresent NPTO.

c. **Upcoming Parent Ed nights** –

Monday, Sept 19 Talk about State of Nova, testing results from last few years. Great improvements have been made in Reading and Math scores in the Upper school. Higher scores were attributed to multiple factors including Math program improvements and Reading 160, and Data Driven Instruction.

Monday, Oct. 3, a class on Classical Learning 101 will be given for parents. Plans are to video tape the program. Often, parents coming to Nova do not realize how the Classical pedagogy changes as kids move from SoG, to SoL, to SoR

d. **Musical program** – Request was made by parent that more attention is given to the musical achievements and talent of the students at Nova.

4. **Past Events** -

a. **Homecoming & dress up days** – Students liked the parade on Friday, Dress up days were 5 days. On dress up days, students typically have less focus in their classes. Request was made for an All school Spiritwear day be given for the Friday of Homecoming, to create anticipation and intention for the lower students to stay with Nova into the high school. Great attendance to the sports events. Students even cheered for the teachers against the superior girls' volleyball team.

b. **Open house/meet the teacher night** – Parent liked the format. Next year, there will be an email sent out with each students list of classes. Each parent will need to print their child's schedule and bring it to the night. There will not be any printed class schedules by the administration due to the amount of work and staffing it takes.