

Nova PTO

Meeting Minutes

December 2016

“Strengthening the Nova Community”

Our Mission: Nova Classical Academy NPTO 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.

1) Welcome and Roll Call (Jessie)

- a) In attendance: Eric Williams, Executive Director; Mari Bergerson, Upper School Principal; Kimberly Dumitrica, Vice-Chair; Suzanne Anderson, Secretary; Brooke Tousignant, Lower School Principal; Claire Helin, Room Parent; Jessie McClary, Chair; Samantha Fischer, Board Liason; Liza Halverson, Treasurer, Jane Lagerquist, USPA, Carnival, GG; Robin Cerio, Parent/Nova Board Member; Sara Knudsen, Parent/Teacher/NPTO Chair.
- b) Agenda Additions: Great Gatherings Update (Jessie McClary)
- c) Approval of minutes from last meeting (Sara)- November minutes were approved.

2) Officer Reports

- a) Board Meeting Report (Robin Cerio)
 - i) The Board retreat was last Saturday and included a meeting and training on classical education by Dr. Christopher Perrin.
 - ii) Jeff Ellerd resigned his position on the board and Adam Blood was voted in as his replacement on the board including the position of treasurer of finance.
 - iii) The board voted to use the \$38,000 raised from Give to the Max for the purpose of renovating the exhibition hall.
- b) Executive Director’s Update (Eric Williams)
 - i) There was a community “world café style” meeting on November 16th to discuss future facility projects and opportunities at Nova.
 - ii) A survey was created and sent out to the Nova community with the choices for the immediate term (6-12 months).

- iii) The board will use the feedback from the survey and from the faculty meeting in January to determine its next steps.
- iv) A strategic planning meeting is scheduled in January.
- v) Jeff Ellerd and Dr. Williams are in process of negotiating with the land owner to buy the land adjacent to Nova.
- vi) The Calendar Committee sent out a survey and the results showed that the majority of staff and families favored a two-week break in December over a shorter school year.
- vii) Dr. Williams encourages anyone who is interested to check out Dr. Christopher Perrin on his website or YouTube.
 - (1) Dr. Perrin is the cofounder of the Classical Academic Press and has a very thoughtful and compelling case for classical education as being the best option.
 - (2) Dr. Perrin stressed the need to start a classical school association that would unite the 120 public classical schools around the country.
 - (3) Dr. Perrin also emphasized that technology has a place in classical education. Aristotle himself would have used all the tools available in his time.
- viii) Buddy Benches (Brooke Tousignant)
 - (1) The Giving Tree raised \$580 for the benches at the Great Gatherings kick-off party. The benches will be ordered soon, after votes have been tallied for various suggestions for personalizing the benches.
- ix) Exhibition Hall (Mari Bergerson)
 - (1) Up to \$38,000 has been approved for construction and furnishings involved in the renovation of the exhibition hall.
 - (2) So far the only work done so far has been the removal of the dividing curtain and cabinets.
 - (3) Ms. Bergerson met with a team of teachers as well as with contractors to solicit bids on the project.
 - (4) The flooring will be LVT tile which resembles wood and will go in first, followed by furniture, then bookcase with books.
 - (5) Departments are making lists of desired books for donation.
 - (6) The original plan included work done on the ceiling and lighting, but this will be the 2nd stage of the plan.
 - (7) The timeline of the project will be determined by the availability of the materials.

- (8) The hall is currently not being used for much so the construction should not cause many disruptions.
- c) Treasurer's Report/Development Committee Update (Liza Halverson).
 - i) The current checkbook balance is \$81,971, which is a little high because of just coming off of the Great Gatherings event.
 - ii) Taxes have been filed.
 - iii) The Development Committee has not met since the last meeting.
- d) Upper School Parent Advisory (Jane Lagerquist)
 - i) Sports and club recognition were discussed at the last meeting.
 - ii) The homework club will be expanding and a Math 180 class will be starting second semester to help students who are struggling in math.
 - iii) The 6th-8th grade dance was well attended. Pizza was ordered and paid for by the students and they broke even.
 - iv) The next meeting is December.

3) Quick Updates and Upcoming Events

- a) Room Parent Events (Jessie)
 - i) Winter Break Treats (Suzanne)
 - (1) Treats will be served to the upper school on Thursday, December 15th at noon and one o'clock instead of on Monday.
 - (2) The lower school treats will be delivered to classrooms on Friday, December 16th.
 - (3) The sign-up genius will go out to 3rd grade room parents and Jane Lagerquist for the upper school parent advisory committee tomorrow and will be included in the Nova Notes next week.

4) Discussion/Action Items

- a) Restaurant Fundraiser (Sara Knudsen)
 - i) "Group Raise" has a list of restaurants that do fundraising.
 - ii) Since there are so many events at the beginning of the year and we do Panera at the end of the year, Sara will try to coordinate a restaurant fundraiser in January.
- b) Benches (Liza Halverson)
 - i) The benches were ordered with free shipping from Amazon but there has been a major delay in delivery. Liza will continue to follow up with Amazon.

- c) Teacher appreciation idea (Sara Knudsen)
 - i) The BeArtrageous program has an option for an after school activity where staff can paint a canvas, work on a group canvas together and earn staff development hours.
 - ii) The cost for this even would be \$275 for 2 hours for up to 40 participants.
 - iii) The board agreed that this would be a better staff development idea instead of teacher appreciation idea.
 - iv) Sara will forward the information to Rita Lagerman as an option for the January/February staff development.
- d) Update on teams assembled for teacher appreciation/grandparent's day (Kimberly Dumitrica)
 - i) A slot has been added to the volunteer sign-up list and four people have signed up, one for each day.
 - ii) A detailed list of what happens each day is needed. Robin will check to see if she still has the list.
 - iii) March 31st will be a conference day and the idea to provide a nice selection of snacks for teachers to grab throughout the day.
- e) T-shirt sales (Liza Halverson)
 - i) T-shirts will be sold on Friday at the book assembly.
 - ii) A table will be set up downstairs instead of in the mezzanine so that it will be more visible to parents in case they do not go upstairs for the coffee.
 - iii) Liza will work the table during both assemblies.
 - iv) Liza will look into the possibility of selling t-shirts on the NPTO website and will take inventory of how many are left.

5) Public Comment on Today's Discussion

- a) Update on Great Gatherings (Jessie McClary/Jane Lagerquist)
 - i) The Novatini's were a success and brought in a good amount this year.
 - ii) More money was made on the Grapes of Math this year than last year. All 250 bottles were sold out by 9:15pm!
 - iii) Next year the donated wine needs to be stored in the second floor office so it is not as visible.
 - iv) Positions for next year were discussed at the wrap up party. More people are needed next year, especially for Jennifer Bateman Grover's role as she will not be continuing in it.

b) Sledding Event (Jane Lagerquist)

- i) Jane suggested an all-school sledding event for February 19th (similar to the all-school roller-skating event idea).
- ii) The sledding would take place in Wisconsin, about 45 minutes away, and parents would be responsible to bring and pick up their children.

6) Adjourn