

NovaPTO Upper School Parent Advisory - "Strengthening the Nova Community"

Minutes – February -6-2014 - Draft

Parent Rep - 6th	Kimberly Adelsman	kimberlyadelsman@hotmail.com
Parent Rep - 6th	Charlene Hess	hesscharlene@yahoo.com
Parent Rep - 7th	Sara Waters	sara@saras-stories.com
Parent Rep - 7th	Russ LaPlante	russ@laplante.info
Parent Rep - 8th	Anna Brailovsky	a.m.brailovsky@gmail.com
Parent Rep - 8th	Heather Massie	hdmassie@stthomas.edu
Parent Rep - 9th	Jo Burr	cjburrfamily@gmail.com
Parent Rep - 10th	Amanda Granse	amanda.granse@loonmagnet.net
Parent Rep - 10th	Tanya & Andrew Olson	tanyamarieolson@gmail.com; andrew.olson@hp.com
Parent Rep. - 11th	Claudia Blumenstock	blumenstockc@gmail.com
Parent Rep. - 11th	Kim & Graham Nelson	kimmernic@gmail.com
Parent Rep. - 12th	Liz palmer	palmer.gaffney@gmail.com
Parent Rep. - 12th	Pemly Fink	peeps44@comcast.net
NovaPTO Rep	Jane Lagerquist	jglager@gmail.com

1. Welcome and Roll Call (Jane)

1. Agenda Additions – Ms. Morton asked to add discussion of the School Climate Survey and Prom.
2. Minutes and approval Motion
3. Claudia agreed to take minutes.

2. Review past EVENTS January, early February, 2014

1. **6th grade event, Jan 27** - Grand Slam review – Very successful. Kids had a great time. This would be a great event to repeat for next year. 52 kids attended. Photos are on Facebook.

2. Black and White Dance, SoL

- a. The group discussed some behavior issues that arose at the dance: Lipstick graffiti on the mirrors in the girls bathroom, Ink graffiti (f bomb) on a stall door in the girls bathroom, Destruction of property (decorations in mezzanine), Mishandling of food: shaking up cans to spray at people; dropping Oreo cookies into just-poured drinks
- b. The group discussed various ways to address the behavior. General consensus was that we need to find ways to reinforce that this is not our school culture, not just in reference to behavior at the dance, but also with regard to destruction of furniture at lunch, theft of gym uniforms and phones, language in the hallways. Possibilities are to address issues in assembly, over school announcements, in house meetings, enlisting the help of older students and prefects.
- c. Chaperone training was also discussed. An email could be sent to chaperones to let them know how to handle situations and what their responsibilities are. Also better supervision of bathrooms would help. More chaperones scheduled. A suggestion of a 5 min chaperone orientation before these events was liked by the attendants. "This is what a chaperone does ...", "This is when a chaperone get staff assistance ..."
- d. Other Ideas, Charging for food, Too much food may not be valued; food from home might be more valued
- e. We want to keep the dances, but how can we keep the kids more engaged so they don't get involved in deviant behavior? Open Gym, Game room, More activities ...Do we not call it a dance? What other activities could we incorporate?- Kid DJ competition
- f. We would like communication from the school that this occurred - what level of communication is important; emails? Dance behavior, Lunch furniture destruction, Theft (in gym); iPhone thefts

- g. Destruction at lunch at school – ideas discussed. Have the kids take responsibility for cleaning (not at dance)
- h. Discussed Culture of virtues: Rewards needed to reinforce positive behavior to help avoid response only to bad behavior. Are there rules regarding students who witness destructive behavior
Could that be tattling?
For the most part kids are uncomfortable then things are done that are wrong.
Usually a few students? General discussion with all regarding what is wrong with this behavior - enforce peer pressure. House meetings - enforce proper behavior. Reminders in morning announcements
- 3. **Snow Daze-** Thursday was the (infamous) Student vs. Staff game. This year the game was JV girls and staff vs. Varsity boys. It was a great game and was really close.
Assembly on Tuesday - Prefect Hour - Happiness theme; student band, interview show; less "by teachers - for teachers" this time out; the kids were happy with their involvement in the event
"Redneck Day" not a big hit with parents or staff. Trying to keep students involved in planning the week, but may need some editing

3. Upcoming Events

- 1. **7-8 Grade Events Ideas.** Catch-up year since they didn't have a 6th grade event. Looking at:- Zero Gravity-Sky Zone- Water park. Friday after school, in March
- 2. **Teacher Appreciation Week** will be ~~April 14–18~~, (Actually it will be April 18 – 25th.)
- 3. **Prom.** Saturday likely best option due to magnitude of the event. Need to keep Prom costs down; since it's cost-effective at this year's location we can do more with the graduation party
- 4. **After Prom or Graduation Party for Seniors?** Last year the After Prom was too long. A party of the last Friday for Seniors would give them the opportunity to celebrate together. They will all be there for rehearsal so it's a great chance to get together, as opposed to after graduation when most people split up after the ceremony for family events. Grad party- Good - half-day on Friday (of rehearsal)
- 5. **Day of the week for Graduation?** Discussion followed about whether Sat. or Sun. is better for families. We could poll, but generally the feeling was that so long as we know can all plan ahead, and Sunday is fine, around 2pm.
- 4. Additional Discussion
 - 1. **School Climate Survey** – Ms. Morton encouraged everyone to complete it.
 - 2. **School start time for next year** – We were offered a 1st tier bussing slot for next year. The administration decided to open the question up to the community. Most of the feedback has been that families prefer to keep the current start time. This was as expected. Tier 2 buses are often late and athletics, were the main reasons for the earlier time start to be discussed.