

# Nova PTO

## Meeting Minutes

November 2015

### **“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.

#### **I. Welcome and Roll Call (Sam)**

A. In attendance: Samantha Fischer, Chair; Jessie McClary, Co-Chair; Sara Knudsen, Co-Chair; Claire Helin, Secretary; Liz Halverson, Treasurer; Robin Cerio, Board Liaison; Beth Hawley, Board Liaison, Brooke Tousignant, Lower School Principal; Jess Faulken, room parent; Marlo Corletto, kindergarten teacher; Melissa Hernandez, LS office manager; Jane Lagerquist, Upper School Parent Advisory Chair; Bella Looney, student; Ruby Tetmeyer, student; Simon Savvateev, student.

B. Agenda Review

#### **II. Requests for additions (Sam)**

A. Prom

B. Bloomfield Coffee Installation

C. Kona Ice

**III. Approval of minutes from last meeting (Claire)**– October Minutes were approved.

#### **IV. Officer Reports**

A. Board Meeting Report (Robin and Beth)

- i. The results of the School-Life Balance (Homework) Survey conducted last year were presented at the Parent Education Night on Oct. 19th, and the presentation is available on Nova’s website.

- ii. The board is in the process of approving the budget.
  - iii. There was public comment on anti-bullying week. Paul Mason thoughtfully set the tone with an opening statement to keep comments respectful.
  - iv. There was continued discussion on what to do with the green space by the Nova playground to benefit students and keep them safe.
- B. Executive Director's Update/Advancement Committee (Ms. Tousignant)
- i. Parent Education Night on School-Life Balance (Oct. 19th)
    - a. Approximately 40 parents were in attendance, and Mari Bergerson, Jason Belter and Missy Johnson presented.
    - b. The session with slides is on the Nova website.
  - ii. Parent Education Night on PSEO/MCA's and ACT Aspire/Supporting Struggling Learners (Nov. 9th)
    - a. This will be a round robin format where parents will have the opportunity to attend sessions on up to three different topics.
  - iii. Lucas Mueller and Chris Norton will be participating at the State CC meet this Saturday at St. Olaf.
  - iv. The Climate Committee is hosting a Listening Session on the book, My Princess Boy, on Nov. 9th.
    - a. The committee hopes to gain constructive feedback to help them in their consideration of the book as part of federal Title IX requirements and the creation of an anti-bullying curriculum which the state has mandated.
  - v. The fall play, Robin Hood, will be Friday Nov. 13th thru Sunday Nov. 15th in the Nova gym.
  - vi. On Wednesday Nov. 18th, the Finance and Budget Committee will host a work session (open to the public) to examine different turf options for our green space (natural or artificial).

- vii. The administration is looking for a couple of PTO representatives to help develop calendar options for next school year.
- viii. Upcoming Parent Education Night (Dec. 7th) Dr. Todd Savage, president of the National School Psychologist Association, will present on the topic of gender identity and gender non-conforming students.

C. Treasurer's Report (Liza)

- i. The NPTO checking account has approximately \$64,000 and is rising with Great Gatherings ticket sales.
- ii. Taxes are finished.
- iii. Liza attended the recent Development Committee meeting and reported about this as well.
  - a. There was discussion about improving the Nova Classic. It lost approximately \$1,000 last year and has lost more in years past.
  - b. There continues to be discussion about allocating money.
  - c. Post cards will be sent out for Great Gatherings and Give to the Max.

D. Upper School Parent Advisory (Jane)

- i. Conversation about Infinite Campus; standardizing with grading, etc.

**V. Updates and Upcoming Events**

A. Room Parent Responsibilities (Jessie)

- i. Teachers have been pleased with the food provided during conferences so far.
- ii. Second grade room parents are working hard to coordinate conference meals and fill in gaps.
- iii. There was conversation about next year's conference meals looking different (less spread out), which will reflect a new calendar as well.

**VI. Discussion/Action Items**

A. Great Gatherings (Jane Lagerquist)

- i. Ticket sales are down.
  - a. Last year we sold 326 tickets (16 of which were sold at the door). 203 tickets have been sold so far.
  - b. There was conversation about how to get people to buy tickets this week, specifically targeting new families.
- ii. The final booklet for gatherings is finished, and there are lots of new hosts and 58 events.
- iii. There will be a piano bar with live music by Michael Loonan.
- iv. There will be Cafe Latte desserts served.

B. Coffee Donors (Jessie)

- i. Jessie is continuing to look into donors, but no donors yet.
- ii. There was discussion about asking parents who regularly attend the Friday morning coffees to donate (i.e. a large container of Folgers).

C. Wine Racks (Sam)

- i. There are three fairly large wine racks that are used for Grapes of Wrath that need to be stored.
- ii. The school does not have space to store them, so they are looking for one or two families to store these at their homes.
- iii. Nova does have an off-site storage. Mrs. Hernandez will inquire about this space as well.

D. Prom

- i. Students on the prom committee came to the meeting to ask if the NPTO could match last year's prom donation of \$800. This was approved.

E. Kona Ice (Jane)

- i. The Carnival Committee is considering using Kona Ice as a vendor this year for treats at the carnival.
- ii. Kona Ice came to give samples after the meeting.

**F. Bloomfield Coffee Installation**

- i. The coffee maker will be installed in the workroom on the second floor.
- ii. It will not be installed in the new staff break room because there are no plans for plumbing in this room.

**VII. Public Comment on Today's Discussion**

**VIII. Adjourn**