

# Nova PTO

## Meeting Minutes

September 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.*

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

- a. In attendance: Eric Williams, Executive Director; Mari Bergerson, Upper School Principal; Kelly Rogosheske, Parent, Beth Hawley, Parent/Book Fair; Jane Laugerquist, Parent; Robin Cerio, Parent/Nova Board Member; Samantha Fischer, Board Liaison; Liza Halverson, Treasurer; Kimberly Dumitrica, Vice-Chair; Suzanne Anderson, Secretary; Cole Williams, Parent; Ben Snook, Parent; Sarah Snook, Parent; Jennifer Bateman Grover, Parent/Great Gatherings Chair; Brooke Tousignant, Lower School Principal; Andrea Perzichilli, Parent; Kristina Ralstan, Parent; Jess Faulken, Parent; Clair Helin, Room Parent; Jessie McClary, Sara Knudsen, Chairs; Marlo Corletto, Parent/Kindergarten Teacher.
- b. Agenda Additions: Parent Education Nights
- c. Approval of minutes from last meeting (Sarah)- July minutes were approved.

#### **II. Officer Reports**

- a. Board Meeting Report from the August 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting (Samantha Fischer)
  - i. The board is reading through the book, *Classical Education: The Movement Sweeping America* by Gene Edward Veith, Jr. and Andrew Kern, and will be discussing chapters 1-5 at the next meeting.
  - ii. A general contractor is in process of evaluating a plan for changing the bathrooms.
  - iii. The work on the field is moving forward.
- b. Executive Director’s Update (Erin Williams)
  - i. In refinancing Nova’s bonds for the 19-million-dollar mortgage, two and a half million dollars has been allocated for purchasing the triangle

property. A purchase agreement is in place with a closing date of October 28<sup>th</sup>.

- ii. The administration is looking at starting a “Classical 101” class to help parents understand the trivium and the classical model in more detail.
  - iii. Last year, *US News and World Report* ranked Nova Classical Academy’s Upper School as the #1 High School in Minnesota; again, this past spring, Nova had some of the highest test scores in MN. Nova also ranked high in growth scores and scores for closing the gap.
  - iv. Traveling Classical Educator Dr. Christopher Perrin plans to speak at Nova in December on the topic of creating an affiliation of classical schools.
  - v. Parent Education Nights coming up:
    - 1. September 18<sup>th</sup>: Last year’s assessment data
    - 2. October 3<sup>rd</sup>: “Classical 101” led by Mari Bergerson
- c. Treasurer’s Report/Development Committee Update (Liza Halverson)
- i. The NPTO started off the year with \$72,359 in the checkbook with a \$45,000 budget planned for the year.
  - ii. The audit for 2015-16 is in process and once that is completed, Liza will file the taxes. The tax due date is November 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - iii. Fifteen teacher grants have been paid thus far; several more grant applications have come in since then.
  - iv. There is a development team meeting coming up; the last one was in May.
- d. Upper School Parent Advisory (Jane Lagerquist)
- i. There is a great need for 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents.
  - ii. Meetings are once per month; the schedule is on the NPTO website.

### **III. Updates and Upcoming Events**

- a. Room Parent Events (Jessie)
  - i. Kimberly and Jessie met regarding conference meals for both upper and lower schools.
  - ii. The next event for room parents is to schedule fall get-togethers.

### **IV. Discussion/Action Items**

- a. Back to School Night Review (Jessie McClary)
  - i. It was very successful with positive feedback.
  - ii. Schwann's gave the NPTO a 20% discount for selling both twin pops and ice cream sandwiches.
  - iii. The NPTO handed out magnets, brochures, sold t-shirts and sold out of locker bones.
  - iv. Liza figured out a new system for how to use credit cards and \$800 was run through it.
- b. Barnes & Noble Fundraiser (Beth Hawley)
  - i. It is scheduled for October 1<sup>st</sup> at the Har Mar location, from 9am-10pm.
  - ii. Barnes & Nobel will give a portion of profits both from the bookstore and café back to Nova.
  - iii. Teachers are signing up to read and there will be a special "bedtime stories" time from 6:30-8pm where kids come in pajamas and teachers read bedtime stories.
  - iv. A blurb about the event will be coming out in the Nova News with a sign-up link to volunteer.
- c. Selling T-Shirts during Homecoming Week (Liza Halverson)
  - i. Selling t-shirts after school is not always productive.
  - ii. It may be possible to sell t-shirts at the girls' volleyball game.
  - iii. T-shirts have been selling and we are 25 t-shirts shy of breaking even (275 were originally ordered).
  - iv. The t-shirts have been approved as gym shirts for 6<sup>th</sup> grade and up.
- d. Volunteer Update (Kimberly Dumitrica)
  - i. Volunteers are needed for Great Gatherings. Sign up and Jennifer Bateman Grover will contact you with various opportunities.
  - ii. Also needed are 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade room parents. There is an on-line sign-up.
- e. Meet the Teacher Nights (Jessie McClary)
  - i. The NPTO will be selling t-shirts, bags, handing out magnets and brochures and answering questions. Jessie will also be doing a presentation about the NPTO.

- f. Great Gatherings (Jennifer Bateman-Grover)
  - i. Scheduled for November 5<sup>th</sup> from 7-10pm
  - ii. The cost is \$25 per person (adults only) and covers the cost of the evening. The cost goes up to \$30 after September 28<sup>th</sup>.
  - iii. There will be food trucks, a cake buffet from Café Latte, a cash bar, complimentary pop & water, live music (piano bar), and the Grapes of Math.
  - iv. The GG committee is in need of volunteers as two of the co-chairs stepped down this year. If interested in helping, e-mail [novagreatgatherings@gmail.com](mailto:novagreatgatherings@gmail.com) and someone will be in contact with you about volunteer opportunities.
  - v. Stefanie Herschbach has taken over communications.
  - vi. They are looking at an on-line ticketing system and are hoping to have things set up by next week.
  - vii. The deadline to sign up to host a GG event is the end of October.
  - viii. Last year the Great Gatherings event brought in \$26,000 (before expenses).
- g. Lockerbones (Jessie McClary for Jane Lagerquist)
  - i. They are sold out!
  - ii. Last year Jane found a great deal on lockerbones as a fundraiser for the NPTO and they were sold at \$20, compared to \$30 on Amazon.
  - iii. Jane is looking into finding another source for these as it was such a successful fundraiser. The only ones she has found in the same style so far are pink or wooden.
- h. Spirit Day (Sara Knudson)
  - i. There will be spirit days throughout the year; dates will be determined through ongoing conversation.
- i. Kindergarten Benches (Sara Knudson)
  - i. To be called “Nova Benches” or something similar so that people know that everyone may use them, not just kindergarten.
  - ii. Right now there is only one bench in the outside courtyard.
  - iii. The idea proposed is to add concrete benches in a formation similar to Stonehenge.

- iv. The benches would be 8x16x48”, would cost roughly \$500-\$510 each and could be ordered through Amazon Smile in order to re-direct a portion back to Nova.
- v. The NPTO passed the motion to approve payment for the Nova benches, up to \$2,000 without further approval.
- j. Peace Pole (Brooke Tousignant)
  - i. It was ordered, is here and is ready to be installed.
  - ii. The original intent was for it to be installed in the rain garden, depending on the timeline of the rain garden’s completion.

**V. Public Comment on Today’s Discussion**

- a. Thanks to the NPTO for making the Kindergarten Picnic warm and welcoming (Marlo Corletto)
- b. Lego Nova Replica (Mari Bergerson)
  - i. A former student whose sister is a current Nova student, created a replica of Nova (to scale) out of Legos.
  - ii. The family is willing to sell it to Nova for what they paid in parts (\$800), no labor.
  - iii. A motion was approved to purchase the replica, up to \$900.
  - iv. The replica will be on display on the mezzanine on the Meet the Teacher Nights.

**VI. Adjourn**