

NovaPTO Upper School Parent Advisory “Strengthening the Nova Community”
Minutes – November 20 -2014, 5pm to 6pm in Music room 131

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.

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|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| X | Parent Rep - 6th | Jane Lagerquist | jglager@gmail.com |
| | Parent Rep - 6th | | |
| X | Parent Rep - 7th | Kimberly Adelsman | kimberlyadelsman@hotmail.com |
| X | Parent Rep - 7th | Jim Boyle | katiejim888@yahoo.com |
| | Parent Rep - 8th | | |
| X | Parent Rep - 8th | Sara Waters | sara@saras-stories.com |
| | Parent Rep - 9th | Heather Massie | hdmassie@stthomas.edu |
| | Parent Rep - 9th | Karyn Carlson | kar_y_n@q.com |
| X | Parent Rep - 10th | Mina Lee | minaklee@yahoo.com |
| X | Parent Rep - 10th | Russ LaPlante | russ@laplante.info |
| X | Parent Rep. - 11th | Heidi Hoefs | hhoefs@gmail.com |
| | Parent Rep. - 11th | Colleen Kelly | kellycol@mac.com |
| | Parent Rep. - 11th | Mary Corrigan | mfcorrigan@msn.com |
| X | Parent Rep. - 12th | Kim Nelson | kimmernic@gmail.com |
| | Parent Rep. - 12th | | |
| X | NovaPTO Rep | Beth Hawley | mnhawleys@me.com |
| | NovaPTO Rep | Jennifer Marker Johnson | JMarkerJohnson@metro-dentalcare.com |
| | Project Manager | Angela Whited | awhited@novaclassical.org |
| X | Student Activities Dir. | Kate Hendrickx | KHendrickx@novaclassical.org |
| X | Interim Principal | Mari Bergerson | mbergerson@novaclassical.org |

1. Welcome and Roll Call (Jane)

- a. Jane took minutes

2. Upcoming events 2014-2015

- a. Upcoming School of Rhetoric Information night – discussed ideas. Recommendations included a class just for the incoming 9th graders to ask questions of the existing 9th graders. Talked about having the event on Dec. 8th or 15th, Monday’s work best with the calendar.
- b. Winter Treats – Hot chocolate was preferred. A sign-up will be sent out. The Monday or Tuesday of the last week was preferable. Serving can happen on the Mezzanine.
- c. Locker Sorter Sale – NPTO is selling sorters for \$20. They were well received at the meeting.
- d. January 12 – Parent Ed night will be on the topic of Academic Excellence: College Readiness, Rigor, Homework, and Assessing the Curriculum. This was a portion of the presentation on Nov. 3rd, that could not be fully covered in the round table discussion.
- e. Feb 9 - Testing and Assessment - Making sense of the ERB and MCA results
- f. Upcoming Snow Dance
- g. Upcoming Black and White Dance – Discussed the need for some sort of physical activity to keep the middle schoolers preoccupied during it.
- h. We will skip the meeting in December due to the business of the season.

3. Past events 2014-2015 - review briefly

- a. Oct 7- Parent Education night - Student Services
- b. Oct 11 - Barnes and Noble book fair, very successful. More books were purchased for upper school teachers than previous years.
- c. Oct 11 - School of Logic Masquerade Dance. Some of the families didn’t attend since there was no athletic or alternate activity provided.

- d. Oct 31 - Fall Festival. Discussed whether event would stay on the Friday or on Halloween day.
- e. Nov 1 - Great Gatherings was successful. More events sold out – the night of the event.
- f. Nov 3 – Parent Ed - Classical Education and your upper school student, How to Succeed (no homework night). Parents thought the night had many good discussions, and happy that these topics were being talked about.
- g. Nov 18 – SEAC meeting – Some of the parents attended and commented that they thought it was a good class. Parents commented how they wish they could attend the class but were too busy.

In general for Parent ed nights... We discussed the options of Parent Ed nights to start at 5:30, 6:00 or a 6:30pm. All eight parents preferred a 6:30pm start. Some stated that the online calendar does not show all the events and location, they wanted more consistency of information. They thought this SEAC class was another Parent Ed night, making 2 in one month, and felt that was too often for events. The parents felt that the Nov 3rd event was publicized correctly, with having the emails sent home – about 3 of them, and did not feel overwhelmed by this sort of communication. Russ suggested an SMS file to be sent – so it would be easier to add a class to the calendar and to have it texted or tweeted out.

- h. Fleece uniform addition – Parents were pleased with it, and that it was available so soon after approval.
- i. Merit/demerit improvements– Parents were pleased the changes to the system.

For reference below- not needing to be re-discussed. Suggestions for next year events school calendar (recommendations of previous meetings)

AUTUMN SUGGESTIONS

- j. **St. Croix weekend** – request for coffee at the St. Croix weekend drop off for parents.
- k. **Homecoming** – 6-8 grade parents, Teachers and Administration felt it was too many dress up days for the middle school group. Suggestion for just 1 spiritwear day. Homecoming suggestions to have tailgating by families, or concession event...
- l. **Comedy Sportz** – Feedback was very positive. There was some feeling that the younger kids enjoyed it more than those on the older end of things. Suggestion next year, show for upper school, but only gr 6-7 workshops.
- m. **Teacher Conference Meals** – Big success. The food was great and teachers appreciated the vegan and gluten free options.
- n. **Senior Fall Breakfast**– Next year Donuts and coffee might be enough, since the students didn't eat the full on Breakfast. Donuts from Cub were suggested. Cost around \$300 for 35 kids.
- o. **Motivation Parent/student ed night** in September/October. Large session in Great room, since more than 115 attended.
- p. **SoR overview** during early enrollment season
- q. **Reading SoR/SoL Parent Ed night** – suggested for October.
- r. **Parent ed night attendance recommendations** - No Homework Nights help! Promise of breakout sessions for parents/kids to talk to each other more, Reminders sent by email day of event.

WINTER SUGGESTIONS

- s. **Winter Treats** – Make signs alerting to special allergy food. Less volunteers needed. Discount quantity of food needed, due to lunch period service time.
- t. **Candy Grams** – make sure rest of administration is notified of event, so smooth delivery.
- u. **Grands Slam** – 6th Grade Event. The kids loved it, and we'd like it for next year.
- v. **Black and White dance** – 6th to 8th grade. Water available for drinks too. Other activities like open gym and game room. More Chaperones with better directions. Maybe name it something else, since the age group is not conducive to dances only.
- w. **Snow Daze** – 9th-12th. No RedNeck, no PJ day

SPRING SUGGESTIONS

Spring fling dance and open gym –

MISCELLANEOUS SUGGESTIONS

- x. **Binders** – for volunteer needs to plan future events.
- y. **Open gym** – for grades on weekend to get back the school community feel.
- z. **Monthly Friday** coffee with Ms. Morton.
- aa. **College fair** – Discussion regarding less faculty pushing of certain colleges.
- bb. **Uniforms** – Parents and Administration were in agreement in frustration on Uniform violations. Request of donations of SoR uniforms to be kept on hand, sweaters etc
- cc. **Health and safety protocol** for when a student is hurt or ill during school. There have been instances when students were asked to call home themselves, which has been problematic. A request was made to look in to the procedures in place.

4. Our Meetings for the year are as follows,

5. Approximate NPTO Budget for 2014-2015 and Student count (as reference) – no action needed.

S of L:
8th grade rec: 300
Comedy improv: 2250

S of R:
College tour bus: 500
Graduation: 500
House service project bus: 500
Prom: 800
Sr breakfast: 500
Sr Party: 850

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|------------------------|----|
| 6 th grade | 80 |
| 7 th Grade | 81 |
| 8 th Grade | 79 |
| 9 th grade | 61 |
| 10 th Grade | 49 |
| 11 th Grade | 37 |
| 12 th Grade | 27 |