

Nova PTO

Meeting Minutes

February 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 (Sam)

A. In attendance: Samantha Fischer, Chair; Jessie McClary, Vice-Chair; Sara Knudsen, Vice-Chair; Claire Helin, Secretary; Liz Halverson, Treasurer; Beth Hawley, Board Liaison; Dr. Williams, Executive Director; Brooke Tousignant, Lower School Principal; Mari Bergerson, Upper School Principal; Jane Lagerquist, Upper School Parent Advisory Chair; Sovanneary Sweere, room parent.

B. Agenda Review

II. Requests for additions (Sam)

A. Carnival Map

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

IV. Officer Reports

A. Board Meeting Report (Dr. Williams)

- i. The Board of Directors unanimously approved a Gender Inclusion Policy Development task force.
 - a. It consists of four Board members.
 - b. They will be charged with evaluating, developing and recommending a Gender Inclusion Policy to the Board of Directors.

- c. The first reading of the policy will be at the March board meeting for initial input.
 - d. The adoption of the policy will happen no later than the May board meeting.
 - e. There was a lot of public comment at the meeting.
 - ii. The administration is planning to implement a more restrictive cell phone policy for students.
 - a. This will help reduce distractions and encourage students to talk to one another during lunch and other times during the day.
 - b. This request came from teachers, specifically teachers in the School of Rhetoric, where problems are most prevalent.
 - c. Expectations will be clearly communicated to parents.
 - d. Cell phones will be restricted during the school day, beginning at the first bell and ending at the last bell.
- B. Executive Director's Update (Dr. Williams & Ms. Tousignant)
 - i. Update on the development of the land next to the first and second grade classrooms
 - a. It is currently zoned to be developed with construction starting in July.
 - i. The developer is planning to build 50 apartments with 50 stalls underneath for parking.
 - ii. They are asking for a conditional use permit to add a fourth floor to the apartment building.
 - iii. There has to be 12 feet between the apartments and the school building.
 - iv. The parking underneath would come out on Mercer Way.
 - b. The administration is concerned and lobbying the Fort Road Federation.

- i. Encouraging families who are concerned to lobby with letters of dissent.
- ii. Free Breakfast Survey
 - a. A survey is going out to the Lower School families to gauge interest in offering free breakfast for students.
 - b. This is a government program.
 - c. After considering parent feedback, Nova may test it out with two grades first.

C. Treasurer's Report/Development Committee (Liza)

- i. The NPTO checking account is at \$79,000.
 - a. The profit from SCRIP was rolled into the checking account.
- ii. There was discussion at the Development Committee meeting about rebranding and renaming SweeTen.
 - a. They are considering moving this fundraiser to the week of the Carnival and Nova Classic.
 - b. There was a suggestion of using one sign-up genius to consolidate and organize all the volunteers for the various events that week.

D. Upper School Parent Advisory (Jane)

- i. Prom is on Saturday, April 30th, and it will be on a boat this year.
- ii. There was a decision to keep Grandparent/Special Person Day in the Upper School.
- iii. Science Department update
 - a. The science department is getting new textbooks; still deciding on which ones.
- iv. There was discussion about the 8th grade D.C. trip over the summer.
- v. Ms. Bergerson explained the interim Gender Inclusion Policy and the current effects in the Upper School.

- a. She reiterated the practices that are part of the resolution (i.e. working directly with a student's family/using a script that has been drafted).
 - b. One student has used the staff bathroom.
- vi. The Black and White Dance was a success.
 - a. The gym was open, which was great for students.
 - b. There is still discussion about trying to schedule school dances on Fridays; however, this is difficult with the sporting events that are scheduled in the School of Rhetoric.

V. Updates and Upcoming Events

A. Room Parent Events (Sam)

- i. The all-school rollerskating party is coming up on March 6th.
 - a. The first reminder went out in the Nova Notes.
 - b. Flyers will be distributed soon as well.

VI. Discussion/Action Items

A. Coffee Maker Installation

- i. Not installed yet but figuring out logistics for the new PTO storage room in 210.

B. Changing "Co-chair" to "Vice-chair"

- i. Motion passed to change the title back to "Vice-chair" as stated in the NPTO bylaws.

C. New Storage Room 210

- i. NPTO will slowly transition supplies, etc. into room 210 this year.
- ii. The staff work room in 213 will be fully functioning with a copier by the beginning of next school year.

D. Elections

- i. NPTO elections will be held at the May meeting.

E. Calendar Meeting Results

- i. The administration had a preliminary calendar meeting this week but still waiting to finalize some dates.
- F. Meeting dates for next year
 - i. We will discuss at the March meeting.
- G. Carnival Map
 - i. Jane distributed the Carnival Map with the various stations and some new food options.
 - ii. This year they are trying a chalk hair option for crazy hair.

VII. Public Comment on Today's Discussion

- A. A thank you card, signed by staff members, was given to the NPTO for conference meals, etc.

VIII. Adjourn