

Nova PTO

Meeting Minutes

January 2017

“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.

1) Welcome and Roll Call (Jessie)

- a) In attendance: Eric Williams, Executive Director; Mari Bergerson, Upper School Principal; Kimberly Dumitrica, Vice-Chair; Suzanne Anderson, Secretary; Brooke Tousignant, Lower School Principal; Jessie McClary, Chair; Liza Halverson, Treasurer; Sara Knudsen, Parent/Teacher/NPTO Chair; Marlo Corletto, Kindergarten Teacher/Parent; Claudine Altunbilek, Parent; Mark Snell, Parent.
- b) Agenda Additions: None
- c) Approval of minutes from last meeting (Suzanne)- December minutes were approved.

2) Officer Reports

- a) Board Meeting Report – No report
- b) Executive Director’s Update (Eric Williams)
 - i) Nova made an offer for the square-shaped land on the north side of the building but the owner declined it. The owner of the land does not plan to build on it right away, so there is hope that things could change in the future.
 - ii) Dr. Williams will be meeting with legislators, lobbying for a 4% increase for charter schools, probably sometime in March.
 - iii) Dr. Williams will be meeting with a rep to look at getting bids at either putting in synthetic turf or grass or a combination of both on the fields, to be completed this year.
 - iv) Nova has gained approval from the Friends of Education for five more years.
 - v) A five-year strategic plan will be initiated this spring with the goals of meeting all needs of all students.
 - vi) There will be an event on February 13th to welcome and introduce rising 5th graders to the SOL.

- (1) The objective is to make current families feel welcome and wanted and to help get scholars excited for entering the SOL.
 - (2) The event will run from 4:30-7pm and will include a welcome from Ms. Bergerson and Ms. Tousignant, an introduction to teachers, classrooms and some of the texts they will be learning from, a panel discussion followed by a pizza dinner.
 - (3) More information will follow in the Nova Notes, an e-mail blast and a postcard.
- vii) The Exhibition Hall is completed!
- (1) It is beautiful and seems to have boosted morale in the Upper School.
 - (2) The first event, an alumni seminar, will be held in it tonight.
 - (3) The hall will be given a new name, reflecting its purpose as a learning space.
 - (4) The next NPTO meeting will be held in the newly renovated space.
- c) Treasurer's Report/Development Committee Update (Liza Halverson).
- i) The current checkbook balance is \$89,630.
 - ii) Insurance and accounting software is due, in the amount of \$569.
 - iii) Amazon cancelled the order for the buddy benches and Sara Knudsen will begin looking for new options for benches this spring.
 - iv) The Development Committee is gearing up for Sweeten.
 - (1) They are proposing (pending board approval) that the funds raised be used for the rain garden and to finish the exhibition hall.
 - (2) This event may be given a new name, something like "Spring into Action."
 - (3) Along with campaigning for monetary donations, there will be a campaign for volunteers as well.
 - v) Nova Classic
 - (1) Only one person stepped forward to help out; if no other volunteers come forward to run it, the event will be cancelled.
 - (2) At the next board meeting, Chris plans to propose using a company to do a boosterthon i.e. there is a kick-off, then kids raise money for laps for some sort of running event. The company running it would charge a \$2,000 fee.
 - (3) Dr. Williams proposed an idea of doing some sort of run in conjunction with the West 7th Days in the summer, with the thought that there might be more buy-in having the event in the summer, as opposed to the spring.

d) Upper School Parent Advisory-No report

3) Quick Updates and Upcoming Events

a) Room Parent Events (Jessie)

i) Winter Break Treats (Suzanne)

(1) It was a successful event with much enthusiastic volunteer support from parents!

(2) Mari Bergerson reported that it took quite a while to get everyone through the line to get cookies and cocoa; however, her idea of dismissing by table made it much more orderly.

4) Discussion/Action Items

a) EA appreciation week progress (Sara Knudsen)

i) Next week each EA will receive a \$5 Starbucks gift card and a personal note from a teacher, staff member or student. They will also have coffee, breakfast and snacks.

b) Dr. Williams action item (pizza money for parent education night)

i) The NPTO board will decide on this and respond soon.

c) T-shirt sales from the book character event (Update-Liza Halverson)

i) Selling t-shirts that day brought in \$220.

ii) It may be beneficial to sell t-shirts on Grandparents Day.

iii) The NPTO is down roughly \$2,000 in fundraising compared to last year.

iv) We will have an NPTO representative at the incoming SOL event to encourage parents' continued participation in and support of the NPTO.

d) Tubing on February 19th.

i) It is happening and will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

e) Proposed parent coffee for March 3rd (focus: rising 5th grade parents)

i) Jane will make coffee and the baking brigade will provide treats.

ii) A couple of teachers will come and talk to parents to set the tone and answer questions.

iii) Parents of rising 6th graders could come to answer questions as well (?)

5) Public Comment on Today's Discussion

6) Adjourn