

Nova PTO

Meeting Minutes

May 3, 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; Claire Helin, Secretary; Liz Halverson, Treasurer; Beth Hawley, Board Liaison; Robin Cerio, Board Liaison; Brooke Tousignant, Lower School Principal; Dr. Williams, Executive Director; Kimberly Dumitrica, parent; Suzanne Anderson, parent; Jess Faulken, parent; Jane Lagerquist, Upper School Parent Advisory.

B. Agenda Review

II. Requests for additions (Sam)

A. Change date for June NPTO meeting

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting (Sam)– April Minutes were approved.

IV. Officer Reports

A. Board Meeting Report (Beth)

- i. There were recommendations given about options for the turf field.
- ii. Information was presented and recommendations were made on the Rain Garden.
- iii. There were first and second readings of many policies.
- iv. There was an approval of the Curriculum Committee’s recommendation for 5th–9th grade science curriculum.

B. Executive Director's Update (Dr. Williams)

- i. The Gender Inclusion Policy Work Group presented recommendations to the Board on how the policy could be practically implemented.
 - a. The scope of the recommendations is expensive.
 - b. The Board will consider and respond with what is within budget to implement.
- ii. Members of the Nova community will attend the Saint Paul City Council meeting this week to show concern regarding the proposed apartment building on the lot next to Nova.
- iii. A representative from the Friends of Education came to speak to the staff about a new charter law.
 - a. The language has changed to state that the primary goal of a charter school is to improve all student learning and achievement.
 - b. The charter school authorizer will look at individual students to make sure they are showing growth.
 - c. The direct implications for Nova include how we staff and how to help all children learn and succeed.
 - i. Nova is currently meeting these standards and will continue to strive to do so.
- iv. The Read 180 Program has shown success at Nova by accelerating learning for struggling readers.

C. Development Committee (Liza)

- i. The SweeTen fundraiser was fantastic and the giving was beyond the \$20,000 goal.
- ii. This will be the last year for the Nova Classic.
 - a. There was discussion about changing it from an official race, which is expensive, to a "Fun Run" that could be sponsored by the track/CC teams.

D. Upper School Parent Advisory (Jane)

- i. The Read 180 Program has been successful.

- a. One highlight is that more concepts are reviewed with this method.
- ii. Angela Whited has been planning the Senior Party, which is a post graduation lock-in.

V. Updates and Upcoming Events

A. Room Parent Events

- i. Staff Appreciation week was April 18th–22nd.
 - a. There were treats, coffee, massages and Pizza Luce.
 - b. It was well-attended and received positive feedback.
- ii. The Nova Carnival is coming up on Saturday, May 14th.
 - a. Flyers went home to all Nova families.
 - b. Room parents were asked to send the volunteer sign-up to the parents in their classes.
- iii. Last Day Treats will be the last day of school, June 7th.
 - a. The volunteer sign-up has been sent to the fifth grade parents and will also go out in the Nova Notes mid-May.

VI. Discussion/Action Items

A. NPTO Board Elections for next school year (Sam)

- i. Kimberly Dumitrica was elected as the Vice Chair.
- ii. Suzanne Anderson was elected as the Secretary.
- iii. Dawn Ellerd and Jennifer Bateman-Grover are looking for people to take over their roles for Great Gatherings.
 - a. These people would have their help for two years before fully transitioning into leading this fundraiser.
- iv. NPTO is looking for new people to take over the Book Fairs.

B. NPTO Budget for next school year (Liza)

- i. The NPTO checking account is at \$75,072.87.
- ii. Liza walked us through the proposed budget for next school year.

- a. The proposed budget for the 2016–17 school year is \$45,000.
 - b. There will be an “All School Unplanned” flex fund in the budget.
 - i. This will include money that was in the Background Check expenses as well as a few other expenses.
 - c. We need another fundraiser to up our income.
 - i. One idea was to have a Kona Ice fundraiser at Back to School Night where families could buy treats.
 - d. Great Gatherings was down \$2,300 this school year.
 - e. The budget is heavier on faculty expenses.
 - i. NPTO tries to be fair in distributing between SoG, SoL, SoR, and staff.
 - ii. There was conversation about cutting down the expense of the Faculty Holiday Party.
- C. A motion was approved to move the last NPTO meeting of the school year to May 31st instead of the last day of school, June 7th.

VII. Public Comment on Today’s Discussion

VIII. Adjourn