

**Nova PTO Upper School Advisory Group
11-7-2013 Meeting Minutes – Draft
“Strengthening the Nova Community”**

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.

Members Present: Jane Lagerquist, Claudia Blumenstock, Kim Nelson, Liz Palmer, Jo Burr, Pemly Fink, Heather Massie, Andrew Olson, Miranda Morton, Sara Waters

1. Welcome and Roll Call (Jane)

- a. Call for additions to agenda – none.
- b. Motion to approve last month’s minutes was seconded and passed unanimously.

2. Name of Group

- a. There was discussion about the name of the group. At the last meeting Upper School Advisory Group (USAG) was discussed.
- b. Jane made a motion to name the group Upper School Parent Advisory (USPA) instead. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

3. Mission of Group

- a. “Interaction between Parents and Administration in an informal setting to discuss particular events and issues, thoughts, and perspectives in a positive and proactive manner.”
- b. A motion to approve the above mission statement was made and seconded. It passed unanimously.

4. Pre-Approved NPTO Budget for 2013-2014 and Student count

- a. Funds for upper school events over the course of the year were discussed.
- b. Jane relayed information from the NPTO meeting about a reduction in NPTO funds due to the loss of income from Target gift cards and Boxtops. This may result effect the NPTO funding of Upper School events in the future.
- c. Discussion followed about the increase in class sizes over the next few years.

5. Review of past events – 2013

- a. **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. Also some of the older kids wondered why they did not get to participate in the workshops, and only attended the show. This was an effort at teambuilding for the expander grades. Ms. Morton then discussed the possibility of a 6th and 7th grade teambuilding event, such as a Winter Wonderland With a firepit and sledding.
- b. **Homecoming Week** - The general feeling was that it was a little wacky with the participation of 6-8 in dress up days. The suggestion was made that perhaps 6-8 could do just one dress up day next year – Spiritwear.
- c. **Senior Fall Breakfast (Ms. Morton)** – Ms. Morton met with the seniors and reported that it went very well. Kids would probably be happy with just donuts and might not need a full-on breakfast next year. Discussion was primarily about de-stressing about the college process. Parents present expressed appreciation for the support, and agreed that kids should be encouraged to not get fixated on certain schools.
- d. **Teacher Conference Meals** – Big success. The food was great and teachers appreciated the vegan and gluten free options.
- e.

6. Upcoming Events

- a. **Parent Ed Night – SoR/L – Motivation, Engagement, Responsibility and School Success – Nov 14** – Response to Intervention team presenting a program that applies to all, from gifted to remedial. Program includes discussion of happiness leading to success, rather than the other way around, and encouraging students to advocate for themselves when they are stressed – know when to ask for help. An email will be sent to parents and inviting kids. There will be no homework in order to encourage students to attend.
- b. **Parent Ed Night – SoR Information Night** – Preview of SoR before enrollment season.
- c. **Winter Treats** – Cider and Oreos served on the mezzanine – 12/16. Charlene, Liz, and Sara volunteered to serve. Jane will use the sign up genius from last year.
- d. **Snow Daze** – Prefects are working on it. Feb 3-8. Consider including 6-8 for one day of the week.
- e. **Capstone** parent night information meeting is in the planning stages.

7. Discussion

- a. Uniforms – Uniform violations and demerits were discussed. Various ways to address the issue were discussed. Parents of 9-12 grades can have a conversation at home about the place that this has in school culture. Ms. Morton suggested that we put out a call for donations of SoR uniforms that could be kept on hand – sweaters and the like.
- b. Health and safety protocol – Discussion followed about the 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.

8. Meeting Adjourned at 6:05.