

# ***Nova PTO***

## ***Meeting Minutes***

*November 6th, 2014*

### **“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 enriched 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 (Robin/Beth)**

A. In attendance: Robin Cerio, Chair; Beth Hawley, Chair; Melissa DeJesus Hernandez, Co-Chair; Jessie McClary, Secretary; Dr. Jennifer Marker Johnson, Treasurer; Susan Hooge, Board Liaison; Jane Lagerquist, Upper School Parent Advisory Committee; Jennifer Bateman-Grover, Great Gatherings Co-Chair; Bruce Watkins, Executive Director; Angela Whited, Nova Project Manager; Faith Paul, Room Parent; Diane Rude, Math Specialist; Claire Helin; Amy Brown

B. Agenda Review

#### **II. Requests for additions**

#### **III. Approval of minutes from last meeting (Jessie)**

**A. October minutes were approved**

#### **IV. Officer Reports**

A. Board Meeting Report (Susan)

- i. State testing results are in, and the board discussed how to address the results, mostly by focusing on “Data driven instruction”.
- ii. A committee was formed to find the new Executive Director.
- iii. School Budget is tight, but seems to be on track.

B. Advancement Committee Update (Mr. Watkins)

- i. Now that the Great Gatherings Kick-off party is over, the focus is on Give to the Max day, SweeTen, and the Nova Classic Run.
- ii. An email went out last Wednesday highlighting the three and there has also been information in the Nova Notes.
- iii. More information to go out soon that will state what specific dollar amounts given could mean for the school.

C. Executive Director’s Update (Mr. Watkins)

- i. A committee has been formed to find a new long-term Executive Director, which will be done both through job posting in the tri-state area and through networking.
  - ii. Linda LaFrambois has made informational packets with profiles of both Nova, and of the Executive Director's position for potential candidates.
  - iii. The student enrollment process has begun for next year. Initial numbers are high.
  - iv. "As you Like It" is running this weekend.
  - v. There have been five Conference Championship teams so far this year at Nova.
  - vi. The Mock Trial Team recently took 8<sup>th</sup> place out of 40 teams.
  - vii. A short calendar survey regarding next year is to be sent out to parents and staff shortly.
- D. Treasurer's Report (Jennifer)
- i. There is currently \$47,726.05 in our account.
  - ii. The Book Fair did slightly less well than last year, but still did well.
  - iii. Great Gatherings numbers are still out because they need to be triplicated, but initial numbers are looking good.
- E. Upper School Parent Advisory (Beth/Jenni)
- i. The first meeting of the year took place in early October.
  - ii. Ms. Bergerson and parents met to discuss improvements in the Upper School.
  - iii. It was a productive meeting. Students in 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade are now able to wear a black fleece sweatshirts instead of just sweaters, and the demerit system is being analyzed in-depth for reasonability.

## **V. Updates and Upcoming Events**

### **A. Room Parent Responsibilities**

- i. Fall Conference Meals coming soon, an activity which is a 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Room Parent responsibility.

## **VI. Discussion/Action Items**

### **A. Fall Conference Meals Update (Melissa)**

- i. Conferences start at noon on the Monday of the week of Thanksgiving.
- ii. There will be a Mediterranean feast this year that will include vegetarian and gluten-free options. There will be continental breakfasts, and dinners as well.

### **B. Room Parent Update (Melissa)**

- i. There are still no Room Parents for 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Finding people has been problematic. Group email to all 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents to come.

### **C. Barnes and Noble Book Fair Update (Beth/Susan)**

- i. Sales were slightly down from last year, raising \$1,241 this year vs. \$1,400 last year.
- ii. Book donations to teachers this year were up from 220 to 280.
- iii. The parallel fundraiser at Bruegger's raised \$90.88.

### **D. Spiritwear Sale Update (Robin)**

- i. The Spiritwear sale resulted in \$1,258 in sales.
- E. Calendar Changes for 2015-2016 (Robin/Beth)
  - i. It is possible that the Great Gatherings party may move from the first Saturday in November to the second.
  - ii. The Carnival will move from the third Saturday in May to the second Saturday.
- F. Parent Education Nights (Jane)
  - i. October was busy with many Parent Education Nights.
  - ii. The Upper School event, "Classical Education and Your US Student: How to Succeed", was particularly successful with around 80 parents there. It led to great discussion about homework and rigor, which may lead to change in the spring schedule, as so many people were interested in it.
  - iii. Finding childcare for events has been somewhat of an issue that may be affecting turn-out at some events, especially events for the parents of younger kids. Looking into the logistics of using volunteers versus EAs, which have been difficult to get.
  - iv. Also an issue is finding a way to make sure the doors are unlocked for the events.
  - v. Coming soon is the School of Rhetoric Information Night on November 17<sup>th</sup>.
- G. Great Gatherings re-cap and Call for Volunteers (Jennifer Bateman-Grover)
  - i. There were 55 gatherings for sale this year, 22 of which sold-out at the Great Gatherings Kick-off party.
  - ii. There was about \$7,500 in ticket sales, which goes towards the cost of the event.
  - iii. Numbers aren't triple-checked yet, but it's looking like \$915 was raised from the Giving Tree, and \$255 was raised from the tip jars. All of it will probably all go towards the computers that the school needs.
  - iv. The Gatherings totals have not been done yet, but further sales will continue to raise money throughout the year.
  - v. Many people on this committee will be moving on next year, and they are looking for new volunteers to bring fresh blood to the event.
- H. Locker Organizer Fundraiser (Jane)
  - i. This fundraiser will offer a high quality locker-organizer for \$20 each.

**VII. Public Comment on Today's Discussion**

**VIII. Adjourn**