

NPTO Meeting Minutes

October 8, 2012

DRAFT

“Strengthening the Nova Community”

Our 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.

Taken by Claudia Blumenstock, NPTO Secretary

Present: Jane Lagerquist (Chair), Julie Sheahan (BoD Liaison), Jodi Gallagher (Treasurer), Claudia Blumenstock (Secretary), Robin Cerio, Joann Lynch, Jessie McClary, Kim Landy, Dawn Ellerd, Beth Hawley, Crissy Kabanuk, Jennifer Bateman Grover, Mary Corrigan, Nissa Rojas, Jessica Newville, Melissa Hernandez, Brian Bloomfield

I. Welcome and Roll Call (Jane)

- A. Called to order at 6:35 pm.
- B. Julie Sheahan moved to approve the September minutes, Kim Landy seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

II. Officer Reports

- A. **Board of Directors Liaison** (Julie) – Mr. Bloomfield gave the State of the School address. It was well received. The baking brigade did a great job providing for treats for the meeting – thank you!
- B. **Treasurer** (Jodi)
 1. We received \$3560 from Target for the year. This was more than we had expected.
 2. Great Gatherings money starting to come in as well.
 3. We purchased 20 hats for Spiritwear. Scarves are not available at this time, but we are still looking in to mittens.
- C. **Development** (Kate)
 1. The city may need to change the day of the Fun Run, so we do not have the final word on whether the carnival and the run will take place on the same day.
 2. SweetTen event has been moved to April. This is the ten year anniversary of the fundraiser. \$10,000 is our goal for the event.
 3. Give to the Max will be on Thursday, November 15th.

III. Quick Updates (Jane)

- A. **Room Parents** - Some parties have already been arranged in first and second grade. Kindergarten is beginning to plan. Jenny Carbone will contact 4th and 5th grade room parents.

IV. Review of recent events (Jane)

- A. **Website Updates** – New forms and fundraising information are up on the website.
- B. **Homecoming** - The dance went very well. There was some discussion of whether there was enough food.
- C. **Back to School** – Both nights went very well. The glitch with the laptop on the second night has been addressed. The Great Gatherings video was very nice.

V. Upcoming events (Jane)

- A. October 13 – NPTO will provide coffee for the ribbon cutting
- B. October 16 – Parent Ed night on Classical Education. We have lots of leftover treats in the freezer that we can serve. Great Gatherings will also see tickets at the event.
- C. October 23 – 26 – Conference Meals. Tickets for Great Gatherings will sold during conferences as well.

VI. Discussion/Action Items (Jane)

- A. **Great Gatherings (Jennifer)**
1. Signage will be up as of October 8.
 2. Food trucks are lined up and the food is already purchased.
 3. The events are available online. They include Peanuts Thanksgiving, Learn to Make Potstickers, Yoga, 1st Grade Holiday event, Rockumentary, Great Gatsby Cocktail Party. Discussion followed about a men's event. Dawn and Jennifer have lots of suggestions for those who would like to host but don't have an idea for a gathering.
- B. **Barnes & Noble Book Fair (Beth)**
1. Event to take place December 1.
 2. Upper school kids will wrap and do a bookmark craft.
 3. Discussion followed about other involvement/entertainment. Drama could do a reading, band and musicians can perform. Teachers will do readings.
 4. Discussions with Chipotle about tie-in fundraiser are still in progress. They have been given a deadline to respond. Panera, WhichWich Menchies and Noodles are also possible tie-ins.
 5. Expecting 150-200 people.
 6. Mr. Bloomfield will check with Ms. Morton about getting the upper school teachers involved. An email reminder will be sent to teachers next week to get their donation requests. A reminder will also be posted in the staff room. Clubs could also make wish lists. Beth will contact Kate to coordinate lists from clubs
- C. **YMCA childcare (Nissa)** –

YMCA can provide childcare for the Parent Ed night on the 16th. The PTO can give a donation to the YMCA to cover the costs. Suggested age range – 4 and up with a suggested donation of \$5 to \$10 from parents to cover the PTO donation to the Y. Mr. Bloomfield will put out an email to a sign up genius for childcare.

D. Meeting Times (Jane)

1. Moving the PTO meeting time was discussed in an effort to encourage attendance of PTO meetings and involvement in the NPTO.
2. Moving the meeting time to 4, directly after pick-up was discussed. In a poll of those at the meeting, half said they could attend at 4, half said they could not. Some working parents would find a 4 pm meeting very difficult to attend.
3. For the time being we will keep the meeting at 6:30, though, the possibility of an online poll, and the possibility of alternating meeting times was discussed.

E. Parent Ed (Jane)

1. Discussion about possible topics – Singapore Math, the writing program in the lower school.
2. Question was raised about the possibility of video taping the parent ed nights. It may be possible to get college students to volunteer.

F. Conference Meals (Jane)

The committee is meeting tomorrow.

G. Carnival (Kate)

1. Still signing up volunteers.
2. Can use the gym – we will have a floor cover by that date.
- 3.

VII. Special Group Updates

A. Cookbook (Robin)

1. The committee now has all the recipes and artwork that have been collected. They are looking in to using Morris Press cookbooks to produce the book. Morris Press has an online submission form for recipes that would make uniform format, editing and compilation easier.
2. Discussion followed about the price of the cookbook, whether this was still a profitable fundraiser, and whether we should make it available as a pdf rather than a hard copy. Most members present seemed to prefer to have a hardcopy of the cookbook.
3. Mr. Bloomfield brought up the need to review recipes to make sure that there is no copyright infringement.

- B. **Toolboxes** (Jodi, Jane) – Teachers will need to have lists by December. Mr. Bloomfield indicated that the teachers will be able to devote time to making lists in during the November inservice.

VIII. Public Comment

A. Unhandbook – Discussion about the need for new family orientation. This need can be addressed through a mentoring or host family program as previously discussed. Many of the gaps that the unhandbook was going to address have been filled. Identifying a few families per grade as contact points would address current needs. Julie and Mr. Bloomfield can begin to identify families in the lower school, perhaps through room parents, and students in the SOR to serve as contact points.

- IX. **Parent Ed** – Additional idea for a topic for a parent ed night – Nova Virtues. Parents expressed the desire to learn more about the virtues so that they can reinforce what is being taught at school and use the same language at home that the kids are hearing at school.
- X. **Adjourn** – Joann moved to adjourn, Nissa seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.