

NPTO Meeting Minutes February 6, 2012

Present: Julie Sheahan (Chair), Jane Lagerquist (Co-Chair), Hope Schwartz (Treasurer), Liz Palmer (Administrative Liaison), Dawn Ellerd (Board Liaison), Brian Bloomfield, Kate Tetmeyer, Laura Heuett, Linda LaFrombois, Mary Corrigan, Emily Schmall, Maura Kipp (Room Parent), Joy Knight (Room Parent), Miranda Morton

I. Roll Call

Called to order at 6:34 p.m.

II. Minutes Approved

- We would like to begin posting a draft of minutes on the website. This is not required, but it is a good practice.

III. Parent Check-in

- Jane created a 2011–12 calendar of events similar to the Nova Classical Academy School Calendar
- Liz has received about 30 volunteer signups for Winter Wonderland Week Legacy Event.

IV. Quick Updates

A. BoD Liaison Brief

- New building progressing fabulously.
- Beth Topoluk, Nova's sponsor, gave a great presentation, comparing Nova's test results to other schools. She had wonderful things to say and no negative things.
- Mr. Bloomfield presented a new organizational model that includes two assistant principals.
- Redesigned athletic logos will be incorporated into Nova SpiritWear.
- Development will do another Give to the Max Day on May 25, 2012.
- The 2.6.2012 *Nova News* included flyer of upcoming Development fundraiser.
- The Development Committee is looking into hosting a marathon in May for community and students.
- The Board had a special meeting on Monday, February 6, 2012 and approved Mr. Bloomfield's recommendation to hire a new Lower Campus principal.

B. Treasurer's Report

- Faculty/staff Holiday Party dinner with spouses included. Historically, spouses hadn't been offered complimentary dinners. Mr. Bloomfield planned the event and made the invitation.
- Hope confirmed that the NPTO is not over budget even with spouses being treated to dinner at the Holiday party.

C. Room Parent Update

i. Conference Meals

- Room Parents chose to split up meals between three classrooms. One classroom decided to have the meals catered and requested money. That went well until the Room Parent asked for volunteers; there was a poor response for volunteers. The Room Parent had asked for \$10.00 per family, but the meals cost more than that. The meal was catered by Brasa. It may have worked better to open the volunteering to parents of all three classrooms. She asked parents to donate desserts and that went well.

- The Room Parents suggests that if money is collected, all money be funneled to the NPTO and then the NPTO would cut a check.
- If Room Parents purchase the meal, they will be charged taxes; they should bring a tax exemption code form.
- SignUp Genius is a good tool.
- Recommendation: Get an estimate before the food is ordered.
- Recommendation: Be clear with expectations of volunteerism (i.e., need a volunteer every half hour)
- Recommendation: Sam's Club pizzas; sandwiches; Jimmy Johns....
- Don't recommend soup; it is difficult to transport.

ii. Roller Skating Party

- All set!
- Tom Lockhardt is looking for posters; needs name of person who had them last year.
- The roller skating place we've used in the past has called to inquire as to if we are going to have a party there again this year. Liz Palmer will call them to kindly let them know that we have chosen a different place.

iii. Olympics

- This is currently a third-grade event, but we might need to open this to more parents for recruiting volunteers.
- Dawn clarified that what we need volunteers for is putting up tents; providing water/drinks for hot days.
- Miranda recommended recruiting parent nurses or doctors to stand by to make sure all students are safe and not suffering from heat stroke.

iv. New Family Welcome

- Would like to set aside 10 minutes of our next NPTO meeting to talk about the New Family Welcome and invite parents to come with ideas. We can also open this to the community to offer ideas via *Nova News*.
- We do have an extensive list of items to include.
- It would be nice to tap newer parents to give ideas of what would've been helpful to them.
- This will be an online document that can be added to and amended.

v. New Facility

- Jeff Ellerd talked to the construction people They would like to have an inclusive party for shell people and interior people. They will bear most of the expense. They will get us more information about what they would like for us.
- Nova families have brought treats to them. They love it.
- Recommend we do more: Little Caesar's pizza; fruit; treats. Plan to bring food for about 20 people.
- Building top off in approximately three weeks.
- This should be able to come out of the Coffee/Social budget, especially if parents bring desserts.

V. Discussion/Action Items

A. NPTO Secretary Replacement

- Linda LaFrombois is stepping in for Carol Logie through the end of the year. Carol resigned to go back to school full time.

B. NPTO Board Elections

- We need to present candidates for 2012-13 NPTO Officers in the April meeting
- Need to vote for 2012-13 NPTO Officers at May meeting
- We will advertise in upcoming *Nova News* issues for interested candidates.

C. Math Mania Funding Proposal

- Nova has hosted math recovery session for our lowest math students after school for two sessions. This is expensive for the school in teacher time because we want our teachers to teach the students. The program can be costly for families as it is several times a week for multiple weeks. The program takes place in two sessions per year.
- We're ramping up the intensity and duration of the program based on data we have. There is some MCA prep involved as well.
- We don't want cost to be a factor.
- Because we are extending the duration and intensifying the program, Miranda is asking if the NPTO will consider underwriting some of this academic need.
- Top cost would be \$3000. It's approximately 90 students.
- Asking for a one-time donation for this year, and then we'll review after the fact.
- The Board Chair has mentioned that because this is an academic need, it might be something that the Board finds money for in the future.
- Hope stated that we made more at Great Gatherings than we anticipated, but how will this affect our year-end donation to the school; we're have about \$1300-1400.00 over what we have budgeted for from the Great Gatherings earnings overage.
- Jane suggested that we give a flat rate as opposed to an enrollment-related sum.
- Julie said she feels that this program fits with the NPTO mission and is at its core and that academics should
- Julie restated her motion that the NPTO give up to \$2000 to the Math Mania Fund. Jane Lagerquist seconded the motion. Abstain: Liz Palmer, Linda LaFrombois, Laura Heuett.

D. Hand-held STOP Signs for Traffic Control

- We are proposing six hand-held stop signs (wood- or metal-handled) for use at the new campus next year. Reflective seems more safe, unless the sun hits them. Wooden handles are more weather friendly.
- Hope motioned that upon further investigation we allocate to purchase two hand-held stop signs for up to \$50.00. Emily seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

E. Staff Event Options

- Dawn Ellerd moved that funds left in the Staff Appreciation budget roll to the Faculty/Staff Party budget. Julie Sheahan seconded. All for. None opposed.

F. Spring Drive matching grant (Kate)

G. School Trip Fundraising

i. PTO involvement

- Mr. Bloomfield explained that Nova has determined not to approach the NPTO to help with funding of the Grade 8 Washington, DC trip since it is for a targeted grade and not for the entire student body. He wants to make sure that we are all partnering on this.
- Mr. Bloomfield would like to continue bringing trip fundraising ideas to the NPTO to make sure that the Development Committee fundraising efforts and Trip fundraising efforts not overlap and infringe. For instance, Mr. Bloomfield has steered the Development Committee away from using the Carnival as a fundraising outlet.

- NPTO does not have control over what Great Gatherings parties are proposed and held. We do not want to tell parents what they can or cannot do.
- Mary Corrigan asked if it was possible to have an event within the carnival that would help raise money for the trips, such as Cold Stone Creamery donating ice cream and the profits going toward the trip.
- Dawn Ellerd suggested that the NPTO could play a role in supporting parents and students in their fundraising efforts (as opposed to designating NPTO funds for the trips).
- The idea was raised about the NPTO participating in a matching funds gift, but there was push-back since the NPTO already donates to the school and the money in the NPTO's budget was already given by parents.
- Dawn: the school donates money to bring the cost down. Families do fundraising to pay for the trip. Can the NPTO set up a list or system for families to contact students to do services for fundraising? Is this something that the NPTO wants to be involved in. Do we need to consider liability? Background checks? Dawn clarified that the NPTO wouldn't be recommending the list of students/services, just coordinated it.
- A Taste of West 7th event at Nova Classical Academy? Is that a money losing event? Mr. Bloomfield will investigate the idea. The point: bringing in money from people outside of the Nova community

H. Carnival Plans

- Kate Tetmeyer: cancelled jumpers last year due to rain. Do we get jumpers this year? Do we go to Games2U guy? Do we keep the Hamster Ball because it was so popular? Are we going to a model where the Carnival is to make money, as opposed to just covering costs?
- Dawn Ellerd talked about game that shoots water balloons. You sit, lean back, bungies... shoot it at the person across.
- How much money can Kate spend? We spent \$1300 last year with hamster ball and booger wars. We got a lot more bang for the buck with the unenclosed jumper obstacle course. (The enclosed jumper was awkward with small and large kids jumping together; injuries, etc.)
- Revenue was \$3000 from wrist bands last year.
- Food: grilling hot dogs and burgers. Need more burgers than last year. Need safety goggles for grillers.
- Looking into Schwan's truck.
- Kate will form a formal Carnival Committee in March.
- Hope will forward Kate a budget overview from last year.

VI. Public Comment

VII. Adjourn

Julie Sheahan moved to adjourn the meeting. Jane Lagerquist seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.