

NPTO Meeting Minutes

June 4, 2012

“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 Linda LaFrombois, NPTO Secretary

I. Roll Call!

Call to Order: 5:41 p.m.

Present: Julie Sheahan (Chair), Jane Lagerquist (Co-Chair), Hope Covington Schwartz (Treasurer), Dawn Ellerd (Board Liaison), Brian Bloomfield, Linda LaFrombois, Kate Tetmeyer, Liz Palmer (Administrative Liaison), Claudia Blumenstock, Heidi Hoefs, Jodi Gallagher, Rushika Haage

II. Minutes/Agenda additions

Draft minutes from last month were been posted online for review. Copies were circulated at the meeting. Vote was taken to approve the 4.9.12 minutes. Hope Schwartz moved. Liz Palmer seconded. Minutes approved.

III. Parent Check-in

We just began taking volunteers for building the playground at the new facility on July 21 and 22. We need six dedicated team leaders to be on site all weekend. We are having people sign up to volunteer to bring snacks and food.

The New-Student Welcome Event was a great success. There was a large turnout of new parents. Parents stayed to talk with current Nova students; close to 40 new students came. A great time was had by all.

IV. Quick Updates

A. BoD Liaison Brief

A Board Meeting highlights: the building will be completed on time. Curbs are poured. Streets will be paved soon. The playground will be even nicer than pictures on the website show.

Board elections were finalized: Ms. Toso: new teacher; John Bujan and Roxanne Lehman: community members; Jeff Ellerd and Andrea Johnson: parents.

Board meetings always take place on the third Monday of every month. Please come!

B. Room Parent Update

i. Olympics

Today and tomorrow. There are tents and water out for parents this year.

ii. Upcoming events

JUNE

5 Nova Olympic (3rd grade helps) JM

6 Nova Olympics(3rd grade helps) JM

7 School of Logic Honors Ceremony KT

Ms. Sivriver is making 180 decorated cupcakes for the event. Any

leftovers

will

be frozen and used for the staff barbecue on Independence Day, July 4.

Do we want coffee? Perhaps just ice tea or lemonade? Kate Tetmeyer

will

coordinate treats.

8 Last Day Treats (2nd grade helps) HS

Hope is coordinating treats; there will be ice cream this year; no

lemonade.

AUGUST

30 Ice Cream Social

3:00-5:00 (K-Grade 5); 5:00-7:00 pm (Grade 6-12). Discussion took place about treats (ice cream?). Ice cream should stay outside if it's not raining.

We should purchase garbage bags.

? K-1 Potluck

Needs to be planned. We usually use the Highland Park Shelter on

Montreal.

If it

is held in August, we could use the new facility. The playground will be in;

Mr. Bloomfield said we could use the bathrooms inside the new building.

New Kindergarten lists are available from Linda LaFrombois (enrollment).

Pre-email will be sent from Jane to first-grade parents to see if there is interest in planning it. Jane planned it several years ago; she has notes on

how it was run. Mr. Bloomfield said the school is purchasing a five-foot grill that we could use. (The first-grade parents pick the date; try to avoid the

first

week

of August.)

V. Discussion/Action Items

A. Treasurer's Report/2012-13 Budget (Hope)

We are slightly over budget. This is due in part to the yearbook. To date it has cost more than we have brought in, but this is still in flux pending checks due to the school.

Perhaps we paid too much on the overrun this year, or checks may still be coming from Maria Marchand. The \$600 designated in the budget is to supplement the cost of the yearbook for teachers/staff.

SpiritWear has brought in more money. Great Gatherings is still bringing in a trickle of money.

The Volunteer Appreciation will be covered/run by the school this year and not by NPTO.

The Teacher/Staff Appreciation event was a big success; teachers/staff went at about 4:00 and stayed till after 9:00. There was lovely food at the event. The Keurig coffee pods were a favorite. Breakfast should arrive earlier next year; teachers came to a staff meeting at 8:00 and thought there would be breakfast, but it hadn't arrived yet.

Kemps is discontinuing their milk cap donation program. We should tell parents immediately not to bring in Kemps caps. Land O' Lakes is still running their program. Should we consider tying in to the Coke Rewards program?

Liz Palmer moved to approve the 2012-13 NPTO Budget; Jane Lagerquist seconded the motion. The 2012-13 NPTO Budget was approved.

Gift to Nova: Dawn said that Mr. Bujan recommended that we should carry the full year's budget over to next year (\$31, 710.00). Dawn suggested we place a discussion of this on the agenda for next year and that we talk with Mr. Bujan about how we are handling our finances just to ensure we are doing everything correctly. The audit in March suggested we move the bulk of our money into savings from checking. As of today, we don't have money, due to the carry-over, to give a gift to Nova. We will most likely have money in November following the Great Gatherings. The NPTO has given the school \$11,000 this calendar year. Julie agreed that we should table this until next year.

The Development Committee is trying to put together a run next May. The city has said they'll work with us. The Development Committee will need seed money for this. Brian said they are trying to be self sufficient with the event. Paedea school has a 5K that they do.

B. Nomination of PTO Co-chair (Julie)

Julie nominated Liz Palmer as the 2012-13 Co-Chair for the NPTO. Hope Covington Schwarz seconded. The vote was passed unanimously.

C. PTO Officer elections (Julie)

All officers are now in place:

Jane Lagerquist: Chair
Liz Palmer: Co-Chair
Claudia Blumenstock: Secretary
Jodi Gallagher: Treasurer
Julie Sheahan: Board Liaison
Brian Bloomfield: Administrative Liaison to the NPTO

D. Nova PTO Magnets

We are considering magnets with pertinent phone numbers. We are expecting about 500 families next year. Liz will be the magnet liaison with Brian.

There will be a school mailing this August. The magnet should be able to be included in that mailing.

E. NPTO Gmail Clean Out

Julie would like to clean out the email account. Dawn emphasized that all documents need to remain in Google Documents because they are all the originals. We will back everything up on a flash drive. Carnival.

F. Draft of Development/NPTO/Nova/Student Senate Events/Tasks

There was discussion on all of the NPTO events for 2012-13. Any materials the NPTO would like in the early August Nova packet should be to the school by July 15.

The NPTO will not be doing the Nova Directory anymore. The school will do that.

There was discussion on the NPTO's role with the Yearbook. NPTO funds the Yearbook (the NPTO will get all revenue and expenses passing through). The NPTO will keep this.

The NPTO will continue to fund Opera for the Young.

NPTO will do baking brigade for the ribbon cutting.

Mr. Fraser, Board Chair, would like to reinvigorate the Parent Education Nights. Brian thinks these are a good idea. He would like to almost insist that new families should attend these; they have been poorly attended in the past. The 2012-13 Parent Education Nights are not yet scheduled.

There were more ideas on format/topics from new families that Dawn will pass on to Brian.

Brian would like the NPTO to give input for how to increase attendance. Heidi suggested decreased homework on those nights so parents are more free to attend.

Brian said that the idea has been suggested to have high school students present to give homework help to children of those attending.

Hope suggested that the NPTO continue to provide meals for the parent/teacher conferences. It's great for staff community building, etc. Jane said the UC meals were much easier since much was catered.

EA Appreciation treats are coming off our list; they are recognized as part of the staff appreciation event.

Legacy Events, Showcase Events are no longer NPTO events. We fund these.

The Rollerskating Party is still undecided: it could remain an NPTO social event, or it could be given to the Student Senate or to the students for a Grade 8 or Jr/Sr class trip fundraising event. We may want to move the Rollerskating Party to February since that's a slower month.

We are opening an opportunity for students to have fundraising tables at the Carnival.

VI. Public Comment on today's discussion

Heidi Hoefs came to talk about ideas to welcome new families to the school next year. Brian said that we are offering a new student orientation in mid August for incoming 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students. It will be half-days; optional. Brian would like to see a buddy/mentor program for new students and families. Colleen Kelly and Heidi Hoefs would really like to see these types of programs move forward. Brian will connect with Heidi and Colleen. Dawn will forward all ideas gathered to date to Brian. Linda will email the parents that did mingling at the New-Student Welcome Event to see what type of ideas they may have shared on Saturday.

Brian suggested that we see how to get more teachers involved in NPTO. Liz suggested that one teacher sign up to come to each NPTO meeting and be required to report back to their faculty meeting.

VII. Adjourn

Adjourned at 7:27 p.m.