

USAG Meeting 10/3/13

First meeting of this group.

In attendance:

Miranda Morton

Susan Hooge - PTO Chair

Jane Lagerquist - Former PTO hair

Graham Nelson (Kim not here tonight, but will be here in the future), gfnelson@gmail.com

Russ LaPlante

Sara Waters

Kim Adelsman

Need an agenda for the next meeting:

Miranda and a couple others will work on it.

5-6 others were not able to make it due to short notice

MISSION

Upper grade level representation to the PTO. A parent advisory board at a school that Ms. Morton worked with previously was useful, felt it would help at Nova. Engage upper school parents in the processes of the school. Interested in creating a larger network of parents; this is a start of that network. How can we get that parent involvement?

Proactive, looking forward at events. Working toward solutions.

Interaction between parents and administration in an informal setting to discuss particular events and issues as well as thoughts and perspectives in a positive and proactive.

Broaden parent involvement

Ex. AP tests immediately after Prom is an issue. Parent's may pick-up on these things that staff may miss. Feedback from what may be going on at home. How can we get out the word of events to more families? Bounce ideas off parents.

Proposed name of group: Upper School Advisory Group (USAG)

DISCUSSION

Review current list of school events (Ms. Morton)

Seems like lower school has more ease of involvement than the upper school

Make opportunities available to get more people involved. How can that be presented?

There are a lot of opportunities that a few may be handling and overworked. How can others be brought in to maintain these services and functions?

Manuals could be used more to maintain these processes.

Ex. Concession discussions have been happening, may be a lack of a support network.

When you have a couple of people who can plan an event it is easier to get the volunteers through tools such as Sign-up Genius.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Comedy Sportz (Oct 4, during the school day; 8:40 - 9:30 then workshops until lunch - Jane) - needs help, Sara Waters volunteering
- Senior Fall Breakfast (Ms. Morton) - not scheduled yet, open to discussion; prefers some time in October; Ms. Morton will facilitate it, or get parents or have Juniors host Seniors. Maybe the day before MEA (Oct 16)? Use baking brigade?
- Parent Education - School of Rhetoric Information night, Oct 29 (Ms. Morton) -
- Parent Education night ideas for next year (Jane)
- Parent Coffee - How's it going? Time for families to have an informal discussion - target per grade level, Have Ms. Morton at Parent Coffee time.
- NPTO Winter Treats help needed (Jane) - Day before winter break; hot cider?
- NPTO Teacher Appreciation week, April (Jane)
- Senior End of the year (Jane)
- 8th Grade Honors (Jane)
- Graduation (Jane)

SUMMARY OF AD-HOC DISCUSSIONS

Binders for parent portion of volunteer needs.

Networking with new families or families that make not be in the "in" group.

Discuss possible changes; sounding board to discuss ideas and get some parent feedback (for Ms. Morton). Parent/admin think tank.

Back to the tailgating idea for Homecoming. Getting this going for next year.

How can we develop a neighborhood school feel? How can we capture more parents to get involved in a school COMMUNITY?

What can be done to further develop the SCHOOL COMMUNITY?

Use the gym as a gathering place, both for gym and other types of games.

Notes by Russ LaPlante