

Nova PTO

Meeting Minutes

October, 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 enriches 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; Jane Lagerquist, Upper School Parent Advisory Committee; Jennifer Bateman-Grover, Great Gatherings Co-Chair; Gina Zelinka, Lower School Director; Bruce Watkins, Executive Director; Mari Bergerson, Upper School Director; Jess Faulken, Room Parent; Marlo Corletto, Kindergarten Teacher; Sara Knudsen, Kindergarten Teacher; Diane Rude, Math Specialist; Kristin Lerstrom, Room Parent; Bill Olirch; Christine Luna Munger; Jane Osborn Farber
- B. Agenda Review

II. Requests for additions- Parent Education Night

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting (Jessie) September minutes were approved

IV. Officer Reports

- A. Board Meeting Report (Robin)
 - i. Upper School Director position has been narrowed down to two candidates, one of whom is Ms. Bergerson. Meet and greet both candidates on October 9th.
 - ii. The school needs around \$58 thousand dollars for computers over the next three years. The budgeting for it for this year will be particularly challenging since we weren’t planning for it.
 - iii. Board member Andrea Johnson has resigned. The Governance Committee will find her replacement for the remainder of the year.
 - iv. The January board meeting has been changed to January 27th, and the March meeting has been changed to March 16th.
- B. Advancement Committee Update (Mr. Watkins)
 - i. Give to the Max day is November 13th.
 - ii. SweeTen or SweeTwenty (Not sure which yet!) is April 4th. Money will probably go towards computers. Science equipment is also possibility.

- iii. Nova Run- Getting more corporate sponsors is paramount to getting the run to be more of a financial success. (Contact Trixie Williams!)
- C. Executive Director's Update (Mr. Watkins)
 - i. The school is going to have to purchase enough computers so that at least one grade level at a time can take standardized tests.
 - ii. Homecoming week has been busy with activity.
 - iii. The Middle School had Comedy Sportz come to work with them. The kids had a good time. The 6th graders had "break-out sessions afterwards.
 - iv. There will be a Halloween party for the Upper School on October 31st.
 - v. Much discussion is occurring among the Academic Excellence Committee, the Curriculum Committee, and the School Climate Committee regarding finding the balance between rigor, extracurricular and home life.
 - vi. A list of Executive Director Goals for the school year was handed out.
- D. Treasurer's Report (Jennifer)
 - i. Tax Update- All documents are in.
 - ii. Non-Profit Renewal Update- We are now renewed!
 - iii. Great Gatherings Liquor Liability- All licensing is complete.
 - iv. Drop Box Installation- There is now a drop-box to the left of Mr. Watkins office for the NPTO.
- E. Upper School Parent Advisory (Beth, Jenni, Jane and Mari)
 - i. Last year was the first year of this committee.
 - ii. There is at least one representative from each Upper School grade.
 - iii. This year, there are thirteen reps already!
 - iv. The first meeting is Monday October 6th.

V. Updates and Upcoming Events

- A. Room Parent Responsibilities
 - i. The next major Room Parent event is Fall Conference Meals. The dates are November 24th and 25th.

VI. Discussion/Action Items

- A. Open House Update (Robin/Beth)
 - i. A successful night that had a good turn-out, organized teachers, and positive vibe.
 - ii. Many people find the name of the event confusing as usually an "Open House" is an event to which one can arrive at any time, which this is not. Renaming it was discussed.
- B. Room Parent Update (Melissa)
 - i. Fall get-togethers are coming together nicely
 - ii. Conference meals are coming up, which are organized by the second grade parents.
 - iii. Considering having the Room Parents ask their rooms for donations of underwear and socks for the nurse's office, which needs them on occasion.

- C. Barnes and Noble Bookfair (Susan/Beth)
 - i. Bookfair is scheduled for October 11th from 9am to 10pm.
 - ii. New this year is an art slideshow, compliments of Ms. Tuma, Mrs. Burkhardt, and Ms. Hoiland
 - iii. Parallel fundraiser occurring at Bruegger's.
- D. Spiritwear Sale Update (Robin)
 - i. Sale is running from October 6th through 15th
 - ii. There is a link to "Identity Stores" on our website.
 - iii. No shipping fees to ship to the school during the sale.
- E. Comedy Sportz (Beth)
 - i. A successful and entertaining event for the Middle School that included "break-out sessions" afterward for the 6th graders.
- F. Great Gatherings Update (Jennifer Bateman-Grover)
 - i. Tickets are on sale now for the November 1st not to be missed event.
 - ii. Price is \$25 through October 24th and then goes up to \$35.
 - iii. New this year will be a "Giving Tree" to help raise money for the computers Nova has to buy this year.
 - iv. New signature cocktail: "The Golden Apple".
 - v. The committee is looking for new officers for next year.
 - vi. Bill Olrich arrived to introduce the gathering he is planning.
- G. Facebook/Twitter Update (Robin)
 - i. Remember to "like" the NPTO on Facebook and Twitter so that it shows up on people's feeds.
- H. Canopies (Robin)
 - i. Due to space concerns the canopies will be moved from room 225 to room 325.
- I. Elmos vs. Computers (Robin/Beth)
 - i. Around \$50 thousand is needed over the next three years to purchase testing computers for the school.
 - ii. The NPTO has around \$8,000 to donate to the school currently and was planning on purchasing more Elmos for the teachers. Should we donate the money towards computers instead?
 - iii. A check for \$8,000 was given to Mr. Watkins at the close of the meeting and he will inform us how the money was used for our budgetary purposes.
- J. Parent Education Nights coming up (Jane)
 - i. Upcoming events include: "Student Services: Supporting our Students" on October 7th, "Reading Mastery Presentation" on October 9th, "Singapore Math in the School of Grammar" on October 23rd, and "Classical Education and Your Upper School Student: How to Succeed", which is a no-homework night.

VII. Public Comment on Today's Discussion

VIII. Adjourn

