

Nova PTO Upper School Advisory Group 4-3-2014 Meeting Minutes “Strengthening the Nova Community”

NovaPTO 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.

Members Present: Jane Lagerquist, Claudia Blumenstock, Miranda Morton, Pemly Fink, Gene Crawshaw, Kate Hendrix, Charlene Hess

1. **Welcome and Roll Call (Jane)**
 - a. Call for additions to agenda - none
 - b. Motion to approve last month’s minutes by Gene Crawshaw was seconded by Pemly Fink and passed unanimously.

2. **Review past events March 2014**
 - a. **Parent Ed night - Virtues**– Feedback was very positive. 3 students and 2 parents were on the panel. There were around 60 attendees. The older students were very helpful and seemed to care about the issue. Conversation about how the virtues carry through into life going forward.
 - b. **Dessa** – Local businesswoman and artist – she was very excited about the school and motivated to come and speak. The performance was well received. There were comments made about the sound system – not loud enough. This has been an issue at other events as well.

3. **General Topics**
 - a. **House** – Ms. Morton asked for feedback on the House program as a whole. Discussion followed.
 - Seniors were isolated from the program for the most part..
 - Older students seemed to enjoy mentor role – discussing virtues and school culture with younger students.
 - Issue of micromanagement by teachers
 - There is a feeling that the House program displaced Joust, which is unfounded. Changes to the schedule were separate from the addition of a House program. The idea behind it was to create chivalric pride, a sense of community and school culture across the grades.
 - There were different reactions among the grades and among the families.
 - b. **Differentiated Learning** – see board packet.

4. **Upcoming events**
 - a. **Service Week** – Blood Drive on the 21st. 9-12 service trip – Second Harvest Feed my Starving Children – bussing subsidized by PTO
 - b. **Board Elections** –Apr. 22nd
 - c. **Staff Appreciation** – Sign up genius is up.
 - d. **Parent Ed Night** – Child Safety – two sessions, first is geared towards younger kids, grades 6 and up at 7pm.

- e. **Spring Fling – May 2**
 - Open Gym – need parents to organize activities and to man the doors so that shoes and food do not go in the gym. Possible activities – board games, craft table. Some concern was expressed that the energy of the dance would be dissipated. Not too many options would be best. Stage and hallway need to be blocked off – no access to academic wing.
 - Need bottled water – Kate always gets 2x what she thinks they'll need, but kids tend to take a sip then leave it somewhere. Lots of ½ drunk bottles.
- 5. **Grad party**
 - a. Discussion about PTO contribution to Grad Party – Possibility of Grand Slam, MOA, movies.
 - b. Students pay for admit?
 - c. Need funds for bus and prizes
 - d. Prizes – Target gift cards, BBand Beyond gift cards, Amazon care packages
- 6. **Carnival**
 - a. Baked goods and coffee fundraiser for kids going on Capstone and DC?
- 7. Meeting adjourned at 6:05

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