

NPTO Meeting Notes

Monday, October 4th, 2010

Meeting was called to order at 4:05pm

In attendance:

Dawn Ellerd, Tasha Irving, Lisa Kleingarn, KD Athow, Susan Olshanski, Cheryl Farr, Emily Smith, Hope Schwartz, Julie Sheahan, Jane Lagerquist, Tom Lockhardt, Marsha Bunge, Kate Tetmeyer

I. Roll Call! (Dawn)

II. Minutes/Agenda additions (Dawn) – not discussed

III. Parent Check-in (Dawn)

- There was a discussion about Room parent vs. PTO liaison responsibilities.
- There will be a representative from Usborne Books at the November PTO meeting. The specifics of the Usborne program will be explained by the rep at the meeting. Any parent interested in having input about using Usborne for the Book Fair should attend the meeting. After the PTO meeting it will be left to the teachers and administration to decide if we will switch from Scholastic to Usborne for this year's fair.
- The 2nd grade had a successful meet and greet on the playground last week. They were able to update their email lists. Other grades will be holding similar events.

IV. Quick Updates

A. Room parents/Work Groups (Julie/KD/Jan)

All is going well with Lower Campus room parent program. The work groups at the Upper Campus are still being formed. Some groups are waiting on the student council elections before being finalized.

B. BoD Liaison Brief (Kate)

- A summary of the board of director's meeting was attached to the agenda. See below. The next meeting of the Nova BoD is Monday, October 19th.

C. Great Gatherings (Lisa/Jen)

- Dawn filled the group in on some GG info. Party sign up deadline is Tues. Oct 5. A packet will go home after that with the parties that are being offered and details.
- The kickoff party will be held on Sat. Oct 16th at the Upper Campus. We are finalizing catering. There will be heavy appetizers, desserts, cash bar, 2 musicians and an MC.
- There was also a discussion of some of the events that will be held.
- The GG committee is looking for help with clean up after the Kick off event. Please contact Lisa Keljik if you can help, lkeljik@visi.com

- There is a cost for the kickoff event. This is to cover cost of food, entertainment. The tickets prices are to offset costs of throwing party.

V. Discussion Items

A. Spirit Wear (Dawn)

- We have found a local vendor, Schoolidentity (schoolidentity.com), to supply spirit wear. The company is one that a lot of parents had brought up to the NPTO during their search. With Schoolidentity, Nova will have it's own website where parents can order items directly online. Orders can be placed at anytime. No need for someone to coordinate paperwork, etc. No forms to fill out.
- There is a \$350 initial set up fee and \$50 annual fee after that to maintain the website.
- Dawn showed a couple of items. There was a discussion about cost vs. quality. Items can also be customized with name for an additional cost.
- Items such as sweatshirts, t-shirt and flannel pants are available. A parent group will be formed to decide specific items.
- Schoolidentity will give 10% of all sales back to Nova. There was a discussion about marking up each item to generate more money for the school. This was not meet with a popular response.

B. School Directory options (Dawn)

- Dawn discussed the fact that the directory will be larger this year due to more children and grades being added to the school. The binding of last year's directory will no longer be an option.
- If the school goes with a larger directory the cost per book will go up by \$3. The meeting did not feel this was a good option.
- There was a discussion about how to have fewer pages in the directory. Here were some of the ideas. 1. Drop section with the students names and homerooms then have room parents email the class lists to parents. 2. Put teacher name next to students name on the address pages. 3. Have one page per grade with all homerooms typed very small.

VI. Action Items

A. Approve 2010-11 updated budget (Franc)

Franc was called out of town on business. No discussion was held about budget.

Kate had a request from the Upper Campus students to have additional chess sets available. They would like 2 or 3 new or used sets. Motion was made by Dawn and seconded by Julie to buy the sets. Some parents also mentioned having sets that they may be able to donate.

Kate also brought up the idea of having Friday Parent coffees at the Upper Campus from time to time. It was decided that we should try it. She will put the dates of these coffees in the Nova News.

B. Athletic Team Support Request (Dawn)

- Mr. Rovn has put in a request for First Aid kits for the sports teams. Several parents had bags that can be used. There was a motion to buy supplies.
- Motion was rescinded as KD Athow offered to donate the bags and emergency equipment. NPTO will not be reimbursing her costs. Thank you KD!

VII. Public Comment on today's discussion

- There was question from a parent regarding the discipline policy. A parent received a handout from a teacher with "Smiley face" system (green, yellow, red). The parent had questions about it and was told it was by the teacher it was the school's policy. The parent was directed by the NPTO to talk to Ms. Morton.
- We should put the NPTO minutes on the teachers section of the Nova website as well. (This will be done after the new website is up.)

VIII. Adjourn- Meeting adjourned at 4:35pm

BOD update of Sept. 20

Ms. Dumont-Brown joins the board as a parent rep. replacing a resigning member. She will fill out the remaining 10 months of the term.

Finance and Budget:

The state of MN made a scheduled payment of the normal state educational funding plus a percentage of the unallotted money from last year. With that money, Nova is no longer using its line of credit. Our current projected fund balance continues to be 20%, which should cover even a possible 30% state ed. funding holdback for this year. The F&B continues to research finding and securing a permanent facility.

Development:

Current fund raising total for the year is \$7,578.51, mainly from the ongoing monthly donations made by Nova Families through the GEM program. The committee will continue to work toward its \$125,000 fundraising goal (last year the school raised approx. \$112,000) through the promotion of GEM and year long giving opportunities and through vigorously pursuing grants. They will submit a report to the board on the progress of the grant search in October.

Governance:

Provided a summary of the last election and a time line for the next election cycle. They are working on ways to encourage more of Nova's population to get involved in the process. Last year only 25-30 people attended the candidate forum and 42% voted in the election. Governance also continues to work on policies, currently those that pertain to how and where to keep public written comment and data retention practices (as per new charter school law requirements). They are also in the process of developing a data collection plan of both historical context and current community concerns.

Curriculum:

An update on the possibility of having two tracks for 10th grade health was discussed- one for

abstinence/meeting State statutes only; one for having all sensitive subjects of this curriculum (about 21 days) taught in gender separate class by same sex instructor. This will likely not be possible until next year. Curriculum also begins work on H.S. electives. (Note- there is still the opt out option, as well as the choice to have the school provide an abstinence/state statute only materials for at home use. Students will be tested on the State Statues minimums.)

Actions:

BOD of directors passed the Annual report of 2009-10 for submission to the MDE. Passed the 2011 election timeline dates and process. Passed the Administrative Structure committees recommendation that the school continue to have Mr. Bloomfield as Nova's Executive Director, with Ms. Morton as lower school principle. The F&B was charged with finding a way to provide additional administrative support to the school. (This is opposed to an alternate plan of one Ex. Director and two principles under s/he). Executive Director Goals for 2010-2011 were also passed.

Next BOD meeting is 6:30 upper campus on Oct. 18th