

NPTO Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 7th, 2011

I. Roll Call! (Dawn) Attendees: Hope Schwartz, Dawn Ellerd, Lisa Kleingarn, Franc Garcia, Cheryl Farr, Jane Lagerquist, , Kate Tetmeyer, Miranda Morton, Liz Palmer, Julie Sheahan, KD Athow, Jan Beebe, Mary Corrigan, Susan Olshanski, Marsha Bunge

II. Minutes/Agenda additions (Dawn): No minutes from last meeting.

III. Parent Check-in (Dawn) No comments made for parent check-in.

IV. Quick Updates

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

B. BoD Liaison Brief (Kate) referred to report below.

C. Treasurer's Report (Franc)

- Taxes/state reporting taxes done and filed last week, state reporting will be done by end of this week.

- Staff Party – The meeting unanimously passed a motion (made by Dawn, seconded by Jane Lagerquist) to increase the budget for staff events by \$500 to accommodate increased attendance and general staff numbers. This was made at administration's request.

D. Used Uniforms online (Dawn)

- Dawn & Hope will check Gmail account regularly to update site.
- Jan/Liz – list of items from lost & found and closet
- there will be a parent in charge of uniform closet, keep tabs (Liz)
- Shelf & Bin for storage
- No used uniform sale

V. Discussion/Action Items

A. Coffee system – J & S was used at the last event and it worked very well. Was easy to pick up and good coffee. Jan mentioned that there was a lot of left over coffee so would get Medium and Small next time.

A. Coffee systems (Julie) – because J & S worked so well the idea of getting a new brewing system has been put on hold for now. Will revisit after a few more events using J & S.

B. NovaMoves! (Dawn) There are about 24 parents and staff who are signed up for the MN Challenge. Team is doing well and in the middle of the pack

of teams.

i. Prizes – MN challenge: Dawn made a motion which was seconded by Jan Lagerquist and approved by the meeting, for the PTO to award t-shirts to the "biggest winners" from parent and staff categories. We will have to figure out how to ascertain who they are...some system of self-reporting will be necessary.

ii. Open gym – the Family Open Gym at the Upper school will continue every Saturday from now until Spring Break. Has been well attended.

C. Spiritwear Samples (Dawn) – Dawn would like to purchase sample to display at events. There has been \$500 approved last year for samples that was never used. She will be using those funds this year now that we have a reliable vendor. She may have a few items monogrammed as examples. Other items would have clearly marked labels.

D. Carnival (Kate)

- Kate is looking for a carnival co-chair. This person would help with food and the day of set up.
- Kate will use google doc for sign ups, or she may look into volunteerspot.com

E. Elections (Dawn)

- Nova PTO will be looking to fill the Co-Chair spot for the 2011-2012 school year. This is a (3) year positions, co-chair, chair & board liason.
- Nominees must have their intention to run in by the April Meeting (4/4/11). All candidates will be announced at the May Meeting (5/2/11) and Elections will be at final meeting in June (6/6/11)
- Dawn will move into Board Liason next year, Julie will move to Chair.
- the Secretary position is filled by Hope for 2011-2012.
- checking on the Treasurer position

F. March meeting (Julie/Dawn)

- It was discussed and confirmed that the March Nova PTO meeting will be held at 6:30pm instead of after school. This is to allow parents that can't make the 4pm time to attend.
- This evening meeting will be held on the same day as planned March 7th.
- The meeting will be in an Open House style. Samples of spiritwear will be available, snacks will be provided.
- There will be NO childcare at this meeting. It will be an adult only event.

VI. Public Comment on today's discussion

- Teacher appreciation day is in April

VII. Adjourn – meeting adjourned at 4:50pm

NPTO BOD January Update

submitted by Kate Tetmeyer

There was no Treasurer's report for January. (There is, however, a House Bill working its way through the Senate that would permanently withhold the 17% state funding holdback of the 2009/2010 school year. While it is more likely this that payment will just be delayed indefinitely, Nova's budget will have to be updated accordingly and the line of credit may further utilized. As this is a problem that will affect all schools and charters, many in worse financial shapes than we, it is considered a challenging but not devastating blow.)

Ad Min:

High School Senate is working on a "Code of Conduct" and uniform policy suggestions. The proposed 2011/12 school calendar will shorten winter break but add time to spring break and also restores student contact days to previous levels. The new Operations Manager, Kim Reagan, is settling in to her new job and will oversee, among other things, the lunch program and bussing.

There was a long discussion concerning Nova helping develop other Classical Schools. The school's authorizer has asked Nova to assist another start up school they oversee (Parnassus Prep.) and there have been other overtures. The board voted to have the authorizers' request be more delineated in scope and to use this as a starting point for how Nova will led its support to other schools nationwide.

Facilities:

Four campus possibilities were laid out in no particular order

1.) Cooper-Howe in Mpls. All bids on these sites have been rejected by the Mpls. School Board, but the newly elected school board may be more receptive.

2.) Victoria Park-we could build a single campus site just off W. 7th & I35 if we can work with the site developers, the City of St. Paul and obtain bonding. Mr. Bloomfield and the Facility Com. have been in preliminary talks with the city and community members.

3.) Remaining at current sites: we could remain at the Montreal/Osceola sites if the two landlords agree to build a gym at the lower campus and to building expansions at both sites. A 15 yr lease would need to be signed so that both landlords could recoup the expenditures.

4.) Former Shalom home on Snelling (across from Fairgrounds) which would have to be retrofitted to suit our needs. The BOD approved the use of up to \$15,000 toward financial fit planning and site estimates, drawings, etc. Nova will know more at the February meeting which sites are more viable.

Parent Forum Wrap up:

78 parents attended the January open forum on the notion of a Parent Led school. Mrs. Brown, the forum facilitator found that there was a fair amount of agreement on the roles of parent/teachers/admin. at Nova with communication

being a recurring theme. The board agreed that the school should continue to have ongoing forums and to be “intentional and systematic in getting parent feedback.”

Government:

First reading of updated Anti Bullying Policy

The spring election will be for three parent seats and one staff seat.

Development :

Will be rolling out its Student Sponsorship Valentine campaign this month. The goal is 1400 student sponsorships between Feb. 14th and March 14th. A large heart at both locations will tally up the totals.

Curriculum did not meet in January

Next meeting is Feb. 28th at the Upper Campus

LC Room Parent Update

Submitted by KD Athow, Room Parent Coordinator

VolunteerSpot training was cancelled due to family illness and will be rescheduled. This is an online organizational tool we are hoping will give Nova families “one stop shopping” for volunteer opportunities and help event organizers and room parents keep track of what’s going on.

The next "room parent" sponsored activity is Feb. 17 and is a Parent Ed night, that the k-garten room parents are to organize. I sent them a reminder email last week, so I hope all is well there. The third grade activity was removed, since it was the band concert that did not include the third grade. I emailed the respective grades that it would effect as well as Heather LeVessuer, the organizer, and they were going to decide if they wanted to organize a reception after the concert. I also let the third grade room parents know that they have a \$700 budget to share with the UC for the Special Person Day, scheduled for May 6, 2011. I still need to email the 5th grade room parents to remind them that they are being asked to organize staff appreciation day with a budget of \$1200 to share with the UC. I think I will do that next week after the EA appreciation week. March 6 is the roller skating party and seems to be all set. I heard from Liz Krohn who compared the costs from both facilities that there was no cost difference. March 17 is another Parent Ed night to be organized by the k-garten. March 10, 15, and 18 are the conference meals to be organized by the 1st grade. There are some more spring activities for concerts and then the carnival and that sums up the rest of the year. Oh and Liz Palmer is coordinating the spring volunteer activities for the 4th and 5th graders