

## NSPA MEETING MINUTES, 01/18/07

**1. Call to Order:** NSPA President Anne Heald called the meeting to order at 7:42 p.m.

**Attendees:** Susan Bennett, Peg Boyne, Richard Delmar, Janet Dopsovic, Sarah Flanagan, Anne Heald, Maril Levy, and Jean Pacelli.

**2. Approval of Minutes:** The December meeting minutes were approved.

**3. Treasurer's Report.** There was no Treasurer's report.

**4. Old/Ongoing Business.**

**a) Adopt-a-Program.** Anne Heald presented some information on how this could work. She has been consulting with Michael Oliver. The program would have its own webpage on the NSPA website. There would be 5 academic areas (to be determined by faculty), and 3 after school activity areas: theatre, athletics and community service. Parents would be recruited to head up the individual areas and coordinate. The webpage would have teachers' wish lists, which would include materials and resources as well as volunteer time and talents. There was general consensus that this was a promising idea but that a final decision on it would have to wait until we had clarification of what kinds of donations from the NSPA to the New School are consistent with our nonprofit status.

**b) Legal Advice.** David Dopsovic graciously prepared a letter to the Board (pro bono) with advice on our 501(c) (3) status. (Thank you, David!) After reviewing the document and discussing, the Board agreed that it would be in the best interests of the NSPA to solicit paid legal advice from the law firm that did our articles of incorporation in 1996. The Board voted to authorize spending up to \$3,000 to receive legal advice from G&G law firm. Anne will form a small committee to pursue.

**5. New Business.**

**a) Darfur Conference.** Beth Porterfield and Sam Massa gave a very comprehensive presentation to the Board about the upcoming Save Darfur Conference. This is a student-generated project which came out of Beth's Community Service Lab. The conference will be held Feb. 10-12 at school. The purpose of the Conference is to raise awareness about the issue among high school students and provide them with training and guidance on how they can become active on the issue. They expect 200-250 area high school students to attend. The 1<sup>st</sup> day of the Conference will be a teach-in on the issue and will include the showing of a documentary film on Darfur, as well as bringing in a wide array of issue experts. The second day will focus on solutions and will

include education on how to lobby. The third day will be a trip to Capitol Hill to speak to elected representatives. The Conference has a budget of \$1,500 to \$1,800 which includes money for sound muffling drapes for the gym, movie screens, and a stage, which are being rented at a great discount. The students are raising money by selling advertising space in the program, pizza, and fair trade chocolate. They requested that the NSPA donate \$500. This donation was approved by the Board, and a check was written.

**b) Parental Attendance at Exhibitions.** There was a discussion of how to increase parental attendance at exhibitions.

**c) Newsletter.** Anne shared some information about the newsletter. There was discussion of what was the best process for this, whether it should be just on the website or emailed or both. No decisions were made on moving forward.

**d) Funding Request Form.** The Board approved the Funding Request Form which had been drafted by Lorie Nierenberg, designed for use by faculty, staff, and/or students for requesting NSPA funding for school-related activities. (Kudos to Lorie for a job well done!) Beth and Sam used the new form to request \$500 for the Darfur Conference (subsequently discussed and approved), and the form worked very well. No changes are needed.

**e) February Agenda.** Items postponed from the January agenda to the February agenda are:

- 1) NSPA dues
- 2) All NSPA activities for the second half of the year
  - a. What volunteer leaders do we still need to identify?
  - b. What help do existing leaders need for success in their work?
  - c. New positions – communications, career/community service connections
- 3) Amount of allocation for long-term fund
- 4) Prom

**6. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.