

NSPA MEETING MINUTES, 6/15/06

1. Call to Order: The meeting began at 7:10 p.m. Anne Heald, new NSPA President, chaired, identifying this as a warm-up meeting for the new Board.

Attendees: Peg Boyne, Eileen Debicki, Rich Delmar, Janet Dopsovic, Lisa Doyle, Sarah Flanagan, Anne Heald, Lorie Nierenberg, and George Richard.

2. Approval of Minutes: The May meeting minutes were introduced, approved and seconded. Susan English had suggested a few minor edits via eMAIL, and these edits were incorporated in the final minutes.

3. General Discussion. Anne reported that she believes we're in pretty good shape for next year, with the exception of a Rudolph's Run coordinator. Our main task over the summer will be to get the summer welcome packets out in August.

Attendees introduced themselves, identified their children, and each spoke briefly about what they saw as unique strengths of The New School. Among the items noted: small class size; great student/teacher ratio; kindness of all; encouragement of feelings of self-worth among the students; flexibility; allowing kids to develop interests even if they're not strong in traditional academics, and dedication of teachers.

4. Treasurer's Report: Rich Delmar mentioned that he had to file an annual report with the Virginia Corporation Commission.

A funding request was received from Clara Saa for \$150 for a one day seminar on teaching Spanish to LD students, to be held at the Lab School. It was agreed that the regular procedure would be followed: the NSPA Board will front \$75 to Clara.

We made about \$9,000 on the silent auction (only minimal expenses).

The end of May balance in the NSPA account was \$24,800, but Rich later wrote several checks, including one for \$1,500 for prom expenses.

Following up on a Susan English suggestion, Sarah Flanagan (Volunteer Coordinator) was going to look for a Treasurer-in-Waiting, to make it easier for someone to succeed Rich next year.

5. Old/Ongoing Business:

a) New Board Members. Board positions for 2006-2007 have been filled as follows:

President	Anne Heald
Vice President	Susan Bennett
Treasurer	Rich Delmar
Secretary	Eileen Debicki and Lorie Nierenberg
Elementary Rep.	Lisa Doyle
Middle School Rep.	Kathy Levy

9 th Grade Rep.	
10 th Grade Rep.	Jean Pacelli
11 th Grade Rep.	Peg Boyne and Lorie Nierenberg
12 th Grade Rep.	Amy Mintz
Faculty Rep.	Maril Levy
Volunteer Coord.	Sarah Flanagan
At-Large & Alumni Reps.	Janet Dopsovic

A suggestion was made to add George Richard to the Board as NSPA Website Coordinator. It was also suggested, however, that there may be a problem with adding new positions to the Board, connected to paperwork that needs to be filed with the VA Corporation Commission.

6. New Business:

a) New Communities to Which to Appeal: It was mentioned that more could be done to reach out to constituent groups, including starting parents, single parents, Lower School parents, and the international community. There seemed to be a common sense among Lower School parents that they felt relatively disconnected from the school and had no clue as to just what was going on. There was talk of possibly having Big Brother/Sister relationships for the younger students; also, a New School storybook, to help us get to know one another better.

b) Use of New Space. There was discussion of possible dedication of the new building (a homecoming of sorts, which could include the planting of new trees by NSNVA alums) and use of the new space for dances and teacher-student basketball games. There was also discussion of generally sprucing up the school.

c) Technology. There was a brief discussion of an NSPA website, an on-line volunteer form, documentation of events, and an AMS system. There was also discussion of a monthly NSNVA newsletter, to include pictures and a hotlink to the school website; Anne volunteered to try her hand at this.

d) Partnership with Another School. The idea of a partnership with another school came up. It was thought that with larger numbers, we might be able to get involved (or greater involved) in such activities as Odyssey of the Mind, and Cappies.

e) Orientation. The sentiment was widely shared that orientation should be better – that there is too much emphasis on getting volunteers to sign up for various activities, and not enough information concerning where parents and students can go if they need help, and the fact that parents want hope/affirmation that they made the right choice in sending their kid(s) to NSNVA.

f) Communication. Anne indicated that she would talk monthly with John Potter and encourage the free flow of ideas between the NSPA and the school.

g) Future Auctions. It was felt that future auctions should be held earlier in the school year and perhaps be combined with something else (talent show?) in order to attract more people and raise more money.

h) Note of Thanks. Maril Levy's note of thanks to the NSPA Board and New School parents for the May luncheon and the gift card was read aloud.

i) 2006-2007 Board Meetings. We decided we would try for the third Thursday of each month, and begin meetings at 7:30 p.m.

7. Adjournment: The meeting ended at 8:30 p.m.