

NSPA Meeting , October 19, 2005

Kay Flanagan, NSPA Vice President, opened the meeting at 7:50 p.m. There had been a College Night Meeting for parents in the common room just previously.

Attending the meeting were: Pam Liebig, Peg Boyne, Joan Bardee, Jean Pacelli, Rich Delmar, Susan English, Toni Townes, Susan Bennett, Maril Levy, Eileen Debicki, Lorie Nierenberg,, Ann Heald, John Potter, and Kay Flanagan.

Minutes of 9-21-05: The minutes from the September 21, 2005 meeting were approved as amended. These minutes were finished late in the month. The rough draft is usually available on all our e-mail for possible editing previous to meeting again, but tonight's minutes were handed out for quick review by all present after some editing done kindly by Susan English (Roz Silverwood is out of town.). A copy of these minutes will be posted on the school's web site.

President's Report: Kay, chairing the meeting on behalf of Rozanne Silverwood, introduced herself, saying there wasn't much to report, and mentioned that a parent has let NSPA know that she wanted to do the PSAT day lunch on her own. Peg Boyne brought up the point that a school secretary had presented the idea of providing lunch for the teachers on PSAT Day to this parent, confusing days that NSPA parents are expected to provide lunch. Actual times NSPA expects to provide lunch for teachers, two days a year on conference days, was then briefly discussed, as was the idea of considering other days lunch or refreshments would support the teaching staff. Voting on such possible additional days, at Joan Bardee's suggestion, was then postponed until after the Treasurer's Report was to be presented.

Committee Reports and/or Announcements: In lieu of Committee and Representative Reports tonight, John Potter, later in the agenda, presented the current NSNVA scholarship needs and intentions, and asked for feedback from the NSPA Board members and parents attending.

Treasurer's Report: Rich Delmar reported that the present bank balance is \$18, 200,00; the long term fund (three different Vanguard Mutual Funds) balance is \$78,000.00 as of 9-30-05. An example of use of this money would be funding for the library. Phil Herrick, one of the originators of the long term fund, wished to allow alumni to contribute to these mutual funds. Every school/ budget year NSPA makes decisions that trade off between the current need for scholarships and other long term needs for the school. This year John has recommended four students for scholarships: three to receive \$2,000, and one to receive \$1,000.. Their names are kept anonymous. The school matches contributions made by NSPA, doubling each student's scholarship award. A copy of guidelines on scholarships is filed with other corporate materials.

Kay asked if there were any more questions; Pam asked about possibly giving more than

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\$7,000. this school year. Joan Bardee reminded us of the consensus of last year's Board being that we possibly wanted to give more than \$7,000.. Kay said that the expenses for Rudolph Run led her to think it best that we wait and see in January once it's known what amount the race brings into the NSPA. Rich suggested payments spread out over time; he anticipates we will pull in just under \$31,000. for the year. He mentioned the Silent Auction and buffet dinner held in years previous to spring '05. A "no fuss" fundraiser was held instead last year because NSPA couldn't do the usual auction and dinner.

Overall, the budget is a close extrapolation from the previous year's actual figures. The Al Fresco figure is high. The teacher training and NCISR participation figure is matched by the school. Rich went to each line of the budget with some discussion. Susan noted that the Talent Show is also funded by the sophomore students.; NSPA pays half. Teacher/staff gifts are a separate solicitation from parents near the end of school, so don't need to be budgeted. John Potter sent out a letter curtailing planning for any extravagant Prom this year. The anticipation of Graduation taking place in the new building, a savings on rental costs, was mentioned.

Old Business: Kay returned to the earlier discussion about providing more than two dinners for teachers. Susan framed the question "do we want to provide food for teachers and when?" Clear communication to the office about what is expected of parents on snack or lunch days was reemphasized. Maril thought of NSPA assigning three families vs. one. Jean stated that she and Val have gone through the list together. Joan thought it more important for parents to contribute to the long term fund vs. allotting more money to the lunches budget. This could also possibly reduce the amount of money transferred from the NSPA account balance to the long term fund. Peg and Jean were in favor of getting three or four families involved instead of adding to the budget needs. This was voted on and approved. Joan moved to accept the 2005-2006 Budget, and it was accepted. It was voted to keep the NSPA scholarship donation at \$7,000. for the present, with the option of voting on increasing this amount later in the year if needed.

New Business

John Potter: Financial Contributions to NSNVA; the New School's Future

John Potter then began his discussion on financial contributions to NSNVA by NSPA, starting with some of the history of the school. An educational consultant was approached by a group of parents; they were referred to John who then started the school. It began as a reg VA corporation school, vs. a 501 C-3 nonprofit, due to John's previous experience with a board run school during which time he spent more time making peace among its board members than administering the school. It is not his intention to be dictatorial, but rather to be able to accomplish the goals and philosophy bringing about the school's origination, utilizing more delegating of responsibilities. Accreditation efforts have been successful, and John would like to preserve the school philosophy as it is. A trend which concerns him is that many progressive schools are becoming less progressive as they evolve. He is looking to the future to preserve the present nature of the New School as an enriching educational experience. Where will the school be 15 years from now?

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The new building is being financed through a loan from the SBA. SBA has a policy of not allowing loans to not-for-profit organizations. Consequently it will be 5 years before SBA will be comfortable with NSNV becoming a 501(c)3. If we were to convert from a corporation to a 501 C-3 nonprofit, it would have to be done in the next five years. We need to find ways to protect the philosophy of the New School in this new possible framework.

Presently the new building is resulting in cost overruns; the school will increase its SBA loan by a small amount because of the overruns. There will be also added on to present expenses new items needed soon within the building. Would NSPA/parents (?) consider paying for this as a budget item this year. In return, a plaque(s) in the vestibule(?) of the new addition would acknowledge this important contribution. John is looking forward to a possibility that the NSPA or other school organization would like to purchase the school from him (operations vs. property). It would be preferred that this take place as a gentle transition where John could slowly delegate more so that the New School doesn't substantially change. He shared this with us to generate questions about this process.

Anne Heald brought up a "foundations" trend (with 501(c)3). Joan said NSPA is not a vehicle for accepting gifts from parents for the school. She suggested John send an e-mail to parents to see if someone who is a lawyer acquainted with these issues could help the school. Anne volunteered to look into the possibility of forming of a foundation. Kay mentioned that with a foundation, tax deductibility gets a higher total amount from people wishing to contribute. Joan Bardee suggested John could write a letter to clarify any foundation donations as counted in the future sale. Rich said giving to NSPA is tax deductible; filing a 1040X happens if past donations which are not tax deductible become tax deductible.

Rudolph Run: Anne Heald was voted in as our new Rudolph Run Coordinator.

Announcements: Kay announced our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 9 due to timing issues

Susan English announced two things: 1) Tyler Hart is in touch with Ann Gates about the seniors wanting to do a spring Silent Auction. Originally this was a senior students project, followed by the school parents growing it and taking it over. The students would like to have their own student event in a separate room the same evening NSPA would do their silent auction fundraiser. This moony moves with the students and enables them to make a class gift to the school, etc. This was voted on and approved and Ann will follow up with Tyler on the fundraiser. 2) Susan passed out revised Guidelines to the Prom. This item will carry over to the next meeting.

Kay asked about the Open House on the 23rd. Daphne Grosh has taken care of this.

Peg Boyne asked Susan to get together with her to plan Question and Answer Night, and Susan agreed. It was briefly discussed that a parent helper was needed, as was a good announcement, and e-mail announcement and deciding how to MC it.

Kay adjourned the meeting at 9:16 p.m.

