

NSPA MEETING MINUTES, 9/24/08

1. Call to Order: NSPA President Tom Grumbly called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. He distributed the meeting agenda previously sent via email (copy below).

Other Board Attendees: Melissa Dana, Clare Dean, Kathy Ginsberg, Ross Gorte, Donna Kraemer, Maril Levy, Mike McGurrin, Brenda Mutchler, Patti Oehmke, Betsy Sue Scott and Nancy Vibert

Other Attendee(s): Donnalyn Adams, Lyn Goodman, Ann Karp, Robin Spivak, Kathy Welty

2. Approval of the August Meeting Minutes: The August Meeting minutes were approved. Vice President Nancy Vibert will forward a copy to new Webmaster Mike McGurrin for posting on the NSPA website. Secretary Betsy Sue Scott requested that the President forward an electronic copy of the June approved minutes so that the Webmaster could post those also on the NSPA website.

3. Old Business – The President opened a discussion of upcoming events.

a. Rudolph Run Race – Race Chair Lisa Doyle reported on the preparation for the December 6th 10K running event. A new introduction this year, the 22nd annual race, will be a 5K in lieu of the 1K family run. The Race Chair is still looking for volunteers, including Publicity and Prize Chairs and a shadow to head the race next year. She set a mid-October goal to send out flyers to Metro area runners. The President volunteered to assist in this mailing and thanked the Race Chair for heading the Run for three years. The Board discussed the evolution of the Run from one sponsored by the school to that handled almost exclusively by the NSPA and parents. A question was raised whether the NSPA should continue this event after this year.

b. November 14 Event – NCISR - Assistant Treasurer Patti Oehmke clarified that NCISR, the National Center for Independent School Renewal, will cover all expenses for its November Conference to be held at the School. John Potter has requested volunteers to assist with serving a light breakfast, snacks and box lunches.

c. 20th Anniversary Celebration – Vice President Nancy Vibert and the Assistant Treasurer met with John Potter on September 20th to discuss his request that the NSPA host a New School Party. A possible date for the event is April 25th. Options that the Board discussed included an outdoor event with children and families and then possibly a formal dinner at the restaurant *2941*. A possibility involved the invitation of faculty, staff and significant others as guests in lieu of holding a Faculty/Administration Appreciation Day. Other venues mentioned were the Barns at Wolf Trap and Meadowlark Gardens. Kathy Welty, who is an event planner, and the Vice President will research venues, run cost comparisons and report back to the Board.

d. Halloween Party – Faculty Advisor Maril Levy related that the children have yet to decide whether they wanted a Halloween Party. The Board asked for feedback by mid-October in order to have time to organize the party. Melissa Dana offered to take on the organization if it goes forward. Suggestions for the party included a request that the NSPA provide a pizza lunch prior to serving candy and other sweets.

4. Scholarship Process Update - The Board noted that the budget contained an allocation of \$10,000 for scholarships. The Secretary reported that, to date, the Scholarship Committee had received one scholarship application. The application was incomplete and the applicant will be asked to answer all questions. The Board discussed the issue of deadlines for applications and criteria for the award of scholarships. The current NSPA Scholarship Guidelines, posted on the website, provide for rolling decisions for new and returning students. The President tasked the Scholarship Committee with the drafting of recommendations on those two issues.

5. Treasurer's Report: The Board reviewed the proposed budget for this year running from September 2008-August 2009 and discussed how to find the funds to pay for the 20th Anniversary Celebration. The Assistant Treasurer deleted the amount of \$500 for the NCISR event that appeared on the proposed budget. Other revisions were made and the Board then voted to approve the revised proposal. The Treasurer reported that he arranged for statements for the Vanguard account holding the Long-Term Fund now to go to the school. He and the Assistant Treasurer will obtain the Vanguard statements since March 2008. The Board reiterated its earlier vote to have the Vanguard account manager attend a Board meeting and speak with members. The Assistant Treasurer also reported on the status of paid members of the NSPA and the Secretary asked for a list of members. Expenses for the NSPA Potluck, deemed a success with over 100 in attendance, are still coming in. The Student Orientation was also considered a successful event.

6. New Business:

a. Parents Council of Washington – The Secretary reported that there had been a PCW representation Orientation earlier in the day at Landon School, Bethesda. The school is entitled to have a second rep to serve with Lisa Doyle. Lyn Goodman, a new parent, volunteered to serve as the second rep to the PCW.

b. New website chat room – The webmaster has set up a chat room on the NSPA website and invited all to participate. The President and he will monitor the site for appropriateness of language and general tone/content. If it becomes overly negative, he will close it down.

c. Field Day and Prom - The Faculty Rep advised that there is no calendar entry for either event. The School has told the students that if they want these events to happen, they will need to work on them with the teachers, in particular Liam and Billy.

7. Open Discussion: The President reminded all attendees that the NSPA is a conduit to the School and asked if there were any issues that parents wished to convey to the School. New parent Robin Spivak asked for guidance as the family entered the School. The Board identified the lack of coordination between the School and the NSPA on the entrance of new families each year. Kathy Ginsberg and the Faculty Rep agreed to work with the School to obtain names of entering students and families before the School term begins. The President asked how the School's bus service works and why there was a stop at the local 7-11. The Faculty Rep offered to speak with John Potter about this. Another inquiry addressed the status of clubs. They are established by the students and meet during lunch, during Essential Time, and after school. The Board discussed a possible Faculty Q&A in lieu of a full Board meeting next month. The President stated that he would get back to the Board on the matter.

8. Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Board will take place at 6:30 p.m. on October 22nd if the Faculty Q and A is scheduled for that evening.

9. Adjournment: The President adjourned the Board meeting at 9:07 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Betsy Sue Scott, Board Secretary

Agenda

New School Parents Association

September 24, 2008

1. Minutes from August Approval
2. Discussion of Upcoming Activities
 - a. Rudolph Run
 - b. November 14 Event – NCISR
 - c. 20th Anniversary Celebration
 - d. Halloween Party
3. Scholarship Process Update
4. Treasurer's Report
5. New Business
6. Open Discussion
7. Adjourn