

**School Climate Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2015**

Members in attendance: Karen Groppe, Laura Hobbs, Jo Chung, Mari Bergerson, Eric Williams, Brooke Tousignant, Chad Long, Ann Brodeur (chair).

Members absent: Claudia Hungs, Jen Danforth

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 PM.

Karen motion to approve the agenda, Laura seconded; the motion carried.

Laura made a motion to approve the minutes from August 2015, Karen seconded; the motion carried.

SSSA compliance

Mari reported that the upper school is nearing completion of their evaluation of the virtues program as it relates to the mandates set forth by SSSA. She said that they are going to work on developing virtue lessons that discuss bullying for implementation in house families in order to ensure that it is discussed in age-appropriate ways.

Brooke reported that the AES committee had done valuable work on evaluating the virtues program in the lower school last year. However, because of the transition in lower school leadership, the lower school is still mapping where bullying-specific virtues are discussed at the lesson level. Grade leads will continue to do this throughout the year.

Because October is bullying prevention month, both the upper school and the lower school are planning assemblies to talk about what bullying is and to talk about virtues that create positive welcoming climate in our school. Also, the Nova student conduct pledge will be sent home with every student to be discussed and signed by parents and students.

Eric, Mari and Brooke also wish to examine the current disciplinary programs and policies in effect at Nova. They expressed a desire to move toward a positive behavioral model in keeping with our efforts at creating a positive school learning environment. Eric feels that this committee is a good venue for examining alternative programs to see which would fit best with Nova's mission and vision.

Technology policy review

Ann and Karen both suggested that the committee split the technology policy in two. One policy would deal with technology in general at the school, while the other would be a personal electronic device policy. Karen will adapt the MSBA model policy to Nova's specific needs. Mari noted that the upper school faculty agreed that personal electronic devices could be used before school in the mezzanine and after school in the mezzanine and hallways. Personal electronic devices may not be used by students at school during the school day. Mari will introduce this rule at back-to-school night. Karen will adapt the draft policy to reflect this change. Both policies will be presented for a final read-through at the next meeting and then passed to governance.

Faculty / staff satisfaction

Chad presented an executive report of the recent faculty staff satisfaction survey. Going forward, much of the survey's results will be addressed by the new staff development committee that Eric is creating. Those aspects of the survey touching on family and student satisfaction will continue to be handled by the SCC.

New student and family orientation

It was recommended that this new subcommittee involve Jen Danforth, Angela Whited, Mari and Brooke. A parent member is yet to be named. Their first task will be an evaluation of current

practice.

Playground safety evaluation

Brooke reported that the new protocols and training put in place last spring seem to be reducing incidences of conflict and accidents on the playground. A more formal evaluation and data will be collected in January or December.

Other business

Ann asked members to look at their calendars to consider an alternate day and time for meeting as many parents cannot make the existing meeting time, and the committee needs to boost parent membership. Ann will send out a Doodle poll in the coming weeks.

The meeting adjourned at 5:25.

Karen motion to adjourn; Jo seconded.

The next meeting will be determined on the basis of the Doodle poll.