

## Committee Report

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### **Committee Name: Governance Committee**

Date of Report: October 19, 2020

Written/submitted by: Becky Lund

Date of last meeting: October 12, 2020

Next meeting date: Monday, November 9, 2020

### **Motions/ Action Items for the October Board Meeting:**

#### **FOR THE CONSENT AGENDA**

- I. 2<sup>nd</sup> reading/ potential approval of REPLACEMENT policy 522 – Title IX Policy (this would replace our current policy 522 – Student Sex Nondiscrimination)
- II. 1<sup>st</sup> reading of revised policy 504 (Student Appearance)

**Notes:** The replacement policy 522 is recommended by the MSBA based on required changes from the federal government.

Revised policy 504 now contains the content of NP 605 (Uniform Policy). The recommendation from the Governance Committee is that if/when the Board approves the revised policy, it also remove policy NP 605 to simplify the number of policies we have.

#### **Governance Committee Goals for 2020-2021**

**1. Work with the Executive Director to review and recommend policies that support Nova's mission.**

- a. Finish reviewing policies from SY2020
  - i. 2 policies (done by October 2020)
- b. Review policies last reviewed/ revised in 2017-2018
  - i. 16 policies (done by June 2021)
- c. Continue to work on policy process to ensure smooth oversight and revisal as needed (ongoing)

**While the GC is continuing to work on reviewing and revising policies, we may not follow the schedule in order to not overwhelm the administration with additional work at this time.**

**The GC is working on a "Counting All Students" policy as required by state statute. We are anticipating that it will be presented to the Board for its first reading in November.**

**2. Provide the 2020 Election Report and conduct the 2021 board election.**

(report due October 2020, election work begins December 2020 and ends May 2021)

- a. Continue a more robust and in-person recruiting of potential Board members, beginning with people serving on Board committees (December – March in particular)

**The Election Report was accepted by the Board in September.**

### **3. Implement and update the board training process**

- a. Review and revise as needed the documents that pass on best practices and general knowledge to form a complete Board resource specific to Nova
  - i. Develop a regular review process for the documents and add to a Governance calendar
  - ii. Update document
- b. Provide training and resources on Nova's governance practices and policies for all Board members as needed. Continue to look at monthly Board meeting evaluations for trends and areas of need (ongoing)
  - i. Ensure the Board training calendar is followed and update it as needed
  - ii. Find ways to share the training information with the Nova community as well as the Board

### **4. Review the current board structure and recommend potential ways to reduce the size of the Board**

- a. Review board structure requirements (MN statute & Nova Bylaws) (November 2020)
- b. Determine parameters for a reduction (best practices, current needs, expiring terms, etc.) (November 2020)
- c. Make a recommendation to the Board for approval BEFORE we publish election materials (done by February 2021; ideally done in January 2021)

**While the GC approved the following recommendation, we are not asking the Board to vote on anything until November. Instead, we're presenting it in October and seeking questions, concerns, and other input. It will be on the November GC agenda in case further discussion is wanted.**

**The proposal currently recommended by the Governance Committee: Nova's Board should be reduced to 7 people over the next three years; 1 community member, 2 teachers, and 4 parents. This will not require approval other than from the Board because it doesn't require a change in the Bylaws. The recommended process is to remove 1 community member seat (currently vacant right now) and 1 parent seat on July 1, 2021. Then remove 1 teacher seat on July 1, 2022 and remove 1 more parent seat on July 1, 2023. Resignations would not change this schedule; appointments to finish a year would continue to occur as written in the Bylaws. Instead, fewer spots would be up for election each year.**

**This recommendation was made for several reasons:**

- 1. It will make the size of our Board more in line with best practices. 11-member boards are more common with start-up schools. 7 – 9 member boards are more common with more seasoned schools.**
- 2. It will make it easier to avoid having a quorum of the Board at various committee meetings while still allowing all board members to participate at the committee level.**
- 3. It will ideally streamline our election process by having fewer seats up for election (approx. 2/year instead of 3-4/ year). This gives us more opportunities to grow board members through**

**work on board committees which in turn creates a stronger board when more new members are already familiar with some of the work of the board.**