

**Nova Classical Academy
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting
March 27, 2023**

Directors Present: Colleen Hansen, Mel Hernandez, Nick LaRusso (via Zoom), Becky Lund, Suzanne McInroy, Sasha Ross, Diane Ruday, Bavi Weston, Jennie Winter

Directors Absent:

Advisors Present: Brett Wedlund, Michael Pelofske (via Zoom), Missy Johnson (via Zoom), Joe Aliperto (Dieci Finance, via Zoom), Kriscel Estrella (via Zoom), Ginger Gabor (NPTO Representative, via Zoom), Oliver Hungs (student representative)

Others in Attendance: Nova staff, parents (Note: While this meeting was held in-person at 1455 Victoria Way, it was also made available on Zoom.)

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm. Jennie Winter chaired the meeting.

II. Business Meeting: Approval of Agenda

Ms. Lund moved to approve the agenda with the change to move the student report to before the board training session. Ms. Hansen seconded. Ms. Hansen, Dr. LaRusso, Ms. Lund, Ms. McInroy, Ms. Ross, Ms. Ruday, Ms. Weston, and Ms. Winter voted in favor. Ms. Hernandez abstained. The motion passed.

III. Consent Agenda

- A. February 27, 2023 Regular Minutes
- B. Oswald Transportation Consulting Services Contract
- C. 1st reading of revised policy 406 (Public and Private Personnel Data)
- D. 1st reading of revised policy 407 (Employee Right to Know – Exposure to Hazardous Substances)
- E. 2nd reading, potential approval of revised policy 505 (Speech and Distribution of Materials)
- F. 2nd reading, potential approval of revised policy 515 (Protection and Privacy of Student Data)
- G. 2nd reading, potential approval of revised policy NP 601 (Gender Inclusion)
- H. 2nd reading, potential approval of revised policy 401 (Equal Employment)

Ms. Ross moved to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Ruday seconded. Ms. Hansen, Dr. LaRusso, Ms. Lund, Ms. McInroy, Ms. Ross, Ms. Ruday, Ms. Weston, and Ms. Winter voted in favor. Ms. Hernandez abstained. The motion passed.

IV. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

V. Board Training

Gail Gilman from MSBA presented training on the Strategic Plan and how to move forward from a governance perspective. She recommended that the Board meet at least once a year with the purpose of doing a deeper dive to see what is being done or not done regarding the Strategic Plan, in addition to monthly updates from the Executive Director. There was discussion. An action plan is an internal plan that doesn't need to be shared as it should be

an adaptable work-in-progress and be led by the administration. There was further discussion.

VI. Reports received by the Board

A. Executive Director Report

Dr. Wedlund highlighted a few items from his report. He's meeting with someone from MDE tomorrow to talk about what the free lunch program will actually look like. He also spoke about updates from the state legislature regarding funding as well as other items. There was discussion.

B. Board Chair Report

Ms. Winter spoke about her training document and asked for further feedback. Jim Martin and Mike Lovett will present on staff supervision/ data privacy at the May board meeting.

Ms. Winter also mentioned that she will be absent in April and possibly May.

Ms. Winter reminded board members that people have the right to abstain from voting, though it's a good idea to do research regarding best practices for abstentions. Abstentions are actually a vote with the majority.

C. Board Committees

i. Governance Report

Ms. Lund reminded people that the nomination period has started and will end at 4:00 pm on Friday, April 7.

ii. Finance and Budget Report

Ms. Ross spoke about the recommended motion from the committee as well as the first look at the FY24 budget.

iii. ED Review Committee

Dr. LaRusso stated that the focus is how we can support the Executive Director and that we will be reviewing his goals for the year in May. There was discussion.

iv. Academic Excellence Report

There was no report this month; Ms. Ruday shared that they will meet again after the end-of-the-year Fastbridge assessments.

v. NPTO Report

Ms. Gabor shared about fundraisers, Opera for the Young, and planning for Teacher/Staff Appreciation. They're also helping with graduation and senior baskets. She added that they're working on a directory and designing some spirit wear. There is an open position – Secretary – and some open committee leadership roles well.

vi. Student Representative Report

Mr. Hungs spoke about the start of spring sports and the wrapping up of winter sports. Mock Trial is prepping for Nationals. NHS had a blood drive last week and they are working with the Equity Committee for an International Night in May. Student Senate is looking forward to Ascot and Prom. Students are still in

a slog with lots of things including prepping for AP tests and starting to feel like they're getting closer to the end of the year.

VII. Business

A. First Reading of the SY23-24 Student Handbook

Dr. Johnson presented the SY23-24 Student/Parent Handbook and highlighted the redline changes as well as some of the processes behind them. There was discussion.

Ms. Weston, "Resolved, that the Board approved the SY23-24 Student/Parent Handbook with a slight clarification under 'Referrals'." Ms. Ruday seconded. Ms. Hansen, Dr. LaRusso, Ms. Lund, Ms. McInroy, Ms. Ross, Ms. Ruday, Ms. Weston, and Ms. Winter voted in favor. Ms. Hernandez abstained. The motion passed.

B. Strategic Action Plan Draft

Dr. Wedlund presented the action plan supporting the approved strategic plan. He shared that it is meant to be a work guide for his team. He also clarified the "approver/decision maker" term as being who gets to say that the objective has been achieved at the level it needed to be. He also spoke about how the steps were structured and the responsible parties on the work plans. Dr. Wedlund then spoke about the cadence for these action steps and for the Board to review the Strategic Plan; he suggested a six months period beginning in July and then coming back to it in December. This would help arrange the bigger picture and help all of us continue to think about a 12-month plan. He would use the monthly ED report as a more regular checkpoint. There was discussion.

C. First Reading of the FY24 Budget

Mr. Aliperto and Dr. Wedlund presented the first draft of the FY24 budget to give the Board a high-level overview. We are still waiting for specific information from the state, but didn't want to be delayed in the process. They asked for guidance from the Board regarding this budget including areas that the Board feels could be financial priorities for unallocated funds. There was discussion.

Ms. Lund, "Resolved, that the Executive Director be given powers to refill existing positions that are currently or become vacant at the amount budgeted in next year's budget." Ms. Ross seconded. Ms. Hansen, Dr. LaRusso, Ms. Lund, Ms. McInroy, Ms. Ross, Ms. Ruday, Ms. Weston, and Ms. Winter voted in favor. Ms. Hernandez abstained. The motion passed.

VIII. Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items

The next regular board meeting will be on Monday, April 24, 2023.

IX. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Becky Lund.