

## Executive Director's Report to the Board

**Date of the Report:** February 21, 2024

**Report Prepared By:** Dr. Brett Wedlund



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### Strategic Plan Update

**Goal 9:** Recruit, develop and retain a diverse highly skilled staff who exemplify the virtues of Nova Classical.

**Objective 9.5:** Nova Classical Academy will be an educational employer of choice: a school successful in attracting outstanding and diverse candidates who exemplify the school's values and are committed to the core components of the school's classical education model.

**Strategy:** A thorough review of the current practices in each touchpoint area will be conducted. This review will assess the existing practices and also identify the desired long-term state for each touchpoint.

**Stage:** In Progress

**Update:** Following our discussions at the December Board retreat, it has become apparent that extending the deadline is necessary to ensure the thorough implementation of this strategy. Consequently, we have rescheduled the deadline from June 30, 2024, to June 30, 2025. By the original deadline, we anticipate completing the review of 5 out of the 9 components essential to becoming an employer of choice, with plans to address the remaining 4 within the upcoming year.

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**Goal 9:** Recruit, develop and retain a diverse highly skilled staff who exemplify the virtues of Nova Classical.

**Objective 9.5:** Nova Classical Academy will be an educational employer of choice: a school successful in attracting outstanding and diverse candidates who exemplify the school's values and are committed to the core components of the school's classical education model.

**Strategy:** Identify and rectify any deviations from our accepted practices in each of these touchpoint areas to ensure that we are effectively implementing the practices we endorse as an employer.

**Stage:** In Progress

**Update:** Following our discussions at the December Board retreat, it has become apparent that extending the deadline is necessary to ensure the thorough implementation of this strategy. Consequently, we have rescheduled the deadline from June 30, 2024, to December 31, 2025.

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**Goal 8:** Provide classroom and extracurricular facilities which support our mission.

**Objective 8.1:** Nova Classical will complete a comprehensive facilities review analyzing current and projected educational and extracurricular needs as well as identifying scenarios and options to address current and future facility needs.

**Strategy:** Conduct facility needs analysis

**Stage:** In Progress

**Update:** We are on the verge of finalizing our facility needs analysis. Nova Classical has fulfilled all requested tasks, and we expect to receive the vendor's comprehensive report within the coming days. The vendor will discuss the report's findings and suggest possible next actions at a special Board meeting which will likely occur in March. Upon this presentation, we will deem this strategy as concluded.

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### Roundtable Knights: Student Advisory Boards

A key objective outlined in our strategic plan is to leverage student input to drive enhancements within our educational institutions at Nova Classical. While not explicitly stated as a strategy in our strategic action plan, I've spent recent months delving into effective practices for establishing communication channels between students and the superintendent/executive director within a school system. Consequently, we're

moving forward with the establishment of two groups known as the Roundtable Knights: Student Advisory Boards.

One of these groups will be composed of students from the School of Logic and the other will be composed of students from the School of Rhetoric. The groups will consist of 3-4 representatives from every grade level, ensuring a diverse cross-section of student voices. Quarterly meetings will be held with myself and our Upper School principal, during which students will have the opportunity to express their concerns and provide feedback on various school-related matters.

Our intention is for students to maintain their positions on the Advisory Board throughout their time in either the School of Logic or the School of Rhetoric. Furthermore, we anticipate selecting student representatives from the Advisory Board's junior and senior members to serve as the representatives to the School Board. We expect that the Advisory Board's will hold their first meetings in March.

### **Enrollment Lottery**

The enrollment lottery concluded last week, yielding 1136 applications for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year. This marks an approximate surge of 200 applications compared to the time of the lottery in any preceding academic year. This figure is expected to increase steadily throughout the year.

### **Legislative Session**

The Minnesota Legislative session is currently in progress. As you may be aware, this marks the second year of the biennial legislative cycle. Typically, the first year focuses on budgetary matters, while the second-year shifts attention towards policy issues. Occasionally, the second year may also involve consideration of a supplemental budget. However, both the chairs of the House and Senate education finance committees have stated that there should be no anticipation of new spending for this year.

Following [last year's substantial volume of passed bills](#), there was speculation regarding whether this year would maintain a similar pace or slow down significantly. However, the introduction of 40 education-related bills on the first day of this year's legislative session suggests that it will indeed be another exceptionally busy period.

### **Board Participation in Graduation Ceremony**

We are proposing a modification to our traditional graduation proceedings by having Board members present diplomas during the ceremony. This aligns better with the official protocol, where the administration recommends students for graduation and the school board confers diplomas. We extend an invitation to all Board members to participate in this significant event. Graduation is set for midday on Sunday, June 2nd. Further details will be provided as the event approaches.