

**Nova Classical Academy  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Regular Meeting – HELD ONLINE/REMOTELY  
October 26, 2020**

**Directors Present: Jason Belter, Claudia Gumbiner Hungs, Nick LaRusso, Becky Lund, Theresa Nelson, Frank Ross, Diane Ruday, Jennie Winter**

**Directors Absent: Mel Hernandez**

**Advisors Present: Brett Wedlund, Michael Pelofske, Brooke Tousignant, Missy Johnson, Kriscel Estrella, Ginger Gabor (NPTO), Sarah Jeong (Student Representative)**

**Others in Attendance: Nova staff and parents**

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm. Theresa Nelson led the meeting.

**II. Business Meeting: Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Belter moved to approve the agenda. Ms. Gumbiner Hungs seconded. A role call vote was held. Mr. Belter, Ms. Gumbiner Hungs, Ms. Lund, Ms. Nelson, Mr. Ross, Ms. Ruday, and Ms. Winter voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

**III. Consent Agenda**

- A. Purchasing Card Agreement
- B. 1<sup>st</sup> reading of revised policy 504
- C. 2<sup>nd</sup> reading/ potential approval of replacement policy 522 (Title IX Policy)
- D. September 28, 2020 Regular Minutes

Ms. Lund moved to approve the consent agenda. Ms. Ruday seconded. A role call vote was held. Mr. Belter, Ms. Gumbiner Hungs, Ms. Lund, Ms. Nelson, Mr. Ross, Ms. Ruday, and Ms. Winter voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

**IV. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**V. Cultural Competency Training**

Dr. Johnson spoke about continuing professional development on Cultural Competency training as well as Safe Schools which covered mandated reporting earlier this year, but will also be used for EL and instructional strategies, PBIS, differentiated instruction and dyslexia awareness later in the year. She also highlighted the classical focus of the year on Truth, Beauty, and Goodness. Dr. Johnson then spoke about Nova's Equity Board, coordinated by Laura Buri and Brendan O'Hara. Their goal this year is to ascertain equity needs of Nova from students, families, and alumni. There was discussion. Dr. Johnson spoke more about the process and the sources for information as we develop a baseline and more goals for moving forward.

**VI. Reports received by the Board.**

- A. **Executive Director Report**

Dr. Wedlund spoke about St. Paul's proposed moratorium on Conduit Bonds to charter schools. There was discussion about possible next steps such as asking the Nova community to reach out to city council members as well as educate others about what charter schools do.

Dr. LaRusso arrived at 6:25.

#### **B. Board Chair Report**

Ms. Nelson said that Mr. Ross is going to organize an ED Review team. She also spoke about the goal to determine dates to re-evaluate instructional models and that the way it is phrased has caused some confusion. She said that if the data changes, we would call a special board meeting to reevaluate our model. Otherwise, the Board will receive updates at regular board meetings. Reviewing information at board meetings does not mean that the Board is considering changing the model. There was discussion.

#### **C. Board Committees**

##### **i. Governance Report**

There was discussion about the recommendation to reduce the size of the Board to 7 seats over the next three elections. Ms. Lund will prepare a more detailed report of the information reviewed by the Governance Committee as well as the pros and cons of the decision for November. The Board will have a discussion in November.

##### **ii. Finance and Budget Report**

Ms. Winter highlighted a few details including that health insurance premiums are a 0% increase for the next year. She also said that the next Budget & Finance committee meeting will be in January. There was discussion.

##### **iii. Academic Excellence Report**

Mr. Belter spoke about looking at some different data for the school year so that we can still consider academic progress for the school year. They will meet again in November and have a report for the Board either in November or December.

#### **D. Ad Hoc Committees**

#### **E. NPTO Report**

Mrs. Gabor gave an update about the virtual bookfair; 22 videos were submitted by faculty and staff members and the NPTO was able to buy nearly \$1,000 worth of books for teachers. She gave a big thank you to Jess Faulken and the bookfair team. Great Gatherings has been cancelled for this year, but they are working on some other fundraising opportunities. Lastly, they are exploring other ways to support teachers, staff, and families and would love additional ideas.

#### **F. Student Report**

Ms. Jeong spoke about several of the activities, clubs, and athletics in which Nova students are currently active. Our Cross Country team is going to State. She also spoke about some virtual dress-up days, the Senior breakfast, and other activities done by the Student Senate to connect students. Ms. Jeong also spoke about some of the positive feedback from students as well as areas for more improvement with distance learning.

## VII. Business

### A. Assurance of Compliance

Dr. Wedlund gave a brief overview of this report; it is tied to funding and needs to be completed yearly.

### B. 2021 Health Insurance Renewal

Dr. Wedlund and Ms. Estrella gave background information and highlighted the 0% cost increase. All of the providers will also stay the same. Additionally, no matter what happens next year, we won't have more than a 12% increase. There was discussion.

Mr. Belter, "Resolved, that the Board accepts the 2021 Health Insurance Renewal." Ms. Ruday seconded. A roll call vote was held. Mr. Belter, Ms. Gumbiner Hungs, Dr. LaRusso, Ms. Lund, Ms. Nelson, Mr. Ross, Ms. Ruday, and Ms. Winter voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

### C. Revision of the 2020-2021 School Year Calendar

Dr. Wedlund spoke about the change due to fall conferences needing to be digital. The proposal is to cancel the Thursday evening conferences and make Friday a non-instructional day so that conferences can be held on Friday and Monday. This would allow more time for conferences. There was discussion.

Ms. Ruday, "Resolved that the Board approve this change." Ms. Winter seconded. A roll call vote was held. Mr. Belter, Ms. Gumbiner Hungs, Dr. LaRusso, Ms. Lund, Mr. Ross, Ms. Ruday, and Ms. Winter voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

### D. Review of Learning Model

Dr. Wedlund gave an overview of the revised K-5 Hybrid plan. There was discussion about not being able to ability group during hybrid learning. There was further discussion. Dr. Wedlund also shared data from the family survey and well as county health data. There was discussion about several items from the presentation as well as some issues that other schools have had with hybrid learning. Ms. Tousignant, Dr. Johnson, and Mr. Pelofske spoke about some additional considerations with bringing students into the building. There was discussion. Dr. Wedlund shared information from St. Paul Public Schools' current plan as well. He then shared Nova's dates for review and walked through the hybrid checklist about Nova's progress to be ready to implement a hybrid model. Dr. Wedlund spoke about staffing; currently 81% would most likely be available to complete their assignments in a hybrid model, but we're looking for 90%. (SPPS need 95%.) He also added that some of the items that aren't checked off aren't deal-breakers in transitioning to the hybrid model. However, the projected county Covid-19 rates are a concern. His recommendation is to not changing the learning model at this time, but recommend that the administration create a fully developed K-5 hybrid model to present on December 7<sup>th</sup>. There was discussion of the information and the recommendation.

Ms. Ruday, "Resolved, that the Board approves continuing in the current distance learning model. Ms. Lund seconded. A roll call vote was held. Mr. Belter, Ms. Gumbiner Hungs, Dr. LaRusso, Ms. Lund, Mr. Ross, Ms. Ruday, and Ms. Winter voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

Further updates, including to the K-5 hybrid plan, will be present at the December 5<sup>th</sup> Board Retreat.

**VIII. Board Meeting Evaluation**

Ms. Nelson acknowledged the work of the administration to go below the surface, to continue to gather information, and to continue to look at ways to improve. Dr. Wedlund added that everyone at Nova is going above and beyond, including families.

The meeting was focused on board goals and plans, but the members worked hard to stay at a strategic level. Board members were prepared to have solid discussions and ask questions for further clarification and options. There was discussion.

**IX. Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items**

The next regular board meeting will be November 30, 2020 beginning at 6:00 pm.

**X. Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Becky Lund.