

**Nova Classical Academy
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting
September 26, 2022**

Directors Present: Colleen Hansen, Mel Hernandez, Becky Lund, Suzanne McInroy, Sasha Ross, Diane Ruday

Directors Absent: Nick LaRusso, Jennie Winter

Advisors Present: Brett Wedlund, Missy Johnson (via Zoom), **Abby Kelley-Hands** (via Zoom), **Michael Pelofske, Kriscel Estrella** (via Zoom), **Ava Jane Lynch** (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 6:00 pm. Becky Lund chaired the meeting.

II. Business Meeting: Approval of Agenda

Ms. Hernandez moved to approve the agenda. Ms. Hansen seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Motion to Add Bavi Weston to the Nova Board of Directors

Ms. Ruday, “Resolved, that the Board add Bavi Weston to the Nova Board of Directors for a term to begin immediately and ending on June 30, 2023.” Ms. Ross seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Consent Agenda

- A. 1st reading of revised policy 614 (School District Testing)
- B. 1st reading of **replacement** policy NP 402 (Reporting Unethical or Illegal Activity)
- C. Regular Board Minutes – August 29, 2022

Ms. Hansen moved to approve the consent agenda. Ms. Ruday seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Public Comment

Chris Shepard spoke about class sizes in 11th and 12th grade, the history behind it, and how the sizes are too large to really access a classical education. He would like the Board to consider reducing class sizes now that we’re in a financially stronger place and asked the Board to think about that during the upcoming strategic plan.

Josh Garvin spoke about the difficulty of doing his job with larger class sizes, that Nova was intended to have smaller class sizes, and asked the Board to consider that in future decision making.

Kim Strand spoke about smaller class sizes and that in science classrooms the number of students exceeds what is safe. She added that the larger class sizes means you can’t pitch to the top and pull the lower students up.

Margaret McCarney spoke about needing smaller class sizes to foster classical education and that she feels that we have watered down our mission and we are not who we say we are. She asks the Board to pause and think about who we are because teachers can’t do what we

say they will with so many students. She also asked that the Board consider what they're willing to give up to keep so many students.

VI. Board Training

Sara Seal and Becky Lund, two of Nova Classical's Pedagogical Leads, presented on the classical ideals of Truth, Beauty, and Goodness including the ongoing faculty training around those principles (four different Classical Education Certification courses).

VII. Reports received by the Board

A. Executive Director Report

Dr. Wedlund highlighted enrollment and that more specific details will be shared next month. He also shared that we have more students participating in fall sports this year than before. Dr. Wedlund also added that in November we participate in "Give to the Max", but that this year we're going to target specific things we'd like to acquire instead of just doing a general drive. We want things that help with community, student success, and culture in the building. There was discussion.

B. Board Chair Report

There was no report this month.

C. Board Committees

i. Governance Report

There was no discussion.

ii. Finance and Budget Report

Ms. Ross shared that we are in line with our budget at this time.

iii. ED Review Committee

There was discussion. Ms. Hernandez asked about the evaluation piece that is included in the ED contract. There are still some pieces of the process that need to be fleshed out. The committee is working to find a way to both encourage the ED to set stretch goals while also upholding the pieces of the contract.

iv. Academic Excellence Report

Ms. Ruday gave an update about what is coming up for the committee. There was discussion.

v. NPTO Report

There was no report this month.

vi. Student Representative Report

Ms. Lynch spoke about the upcoming assembly, Homecoming week, and extra curriculars. Nova's girls volleyball team is undefeated (18-0), we have large soccer teams, and sections are approaching. Additionally, NHS has held its first meeting and are planning a Club Rush and International Night. She also spoke about the new student newspaper, the work of the student EPA, and the Green Team's harvest day. Ms. Lynch also spoke about student life going fairly well; some sniffles, but no big Covid outbreaks, first tests are approaching, and excitement about returning to a more normal Homecoming.

VIII. Business

A. 2022 MCA Scores

Dr. Johnson presented on the 2022 MCA scores. Around 70 – 80% students at proficiency in most grades and most subjects. We are significantly above the state averages. Dr, Johnson also shared how the results compare to the goals in our Friends of Education contract even though that data is from before the latest contract started. (She wanted to share trends.) There was discussion. Dr. Wedlund highlighted a few additional points including that our students showed higher growth rates than the state average coming out of the pandemic. He also explained that our target groups are chosen because they have the largest gap within our school, not because they're significantly low compared to the state. There was discussion about (population) growth in our subgroups.

B. Updates on Strategic Planning Process

Dr. Wedlund gave an update on the strategic planning process and that he's been talking with Gail Gilman. He explained that it will feel pushed at the start because the Board only meets once a month. Data collecting via surveys will begin in early October. Then there will be a listening session day on October 11 and the facilitator will collect the information, not the Board. On Thursday, October 27, November 10, and November 28, the Strategic Planning Committee will meet to put together the plan. Dr. Wedlund gave some more details about the process including asking the Board to think about do we want to reevaluate or edit our mission statement.

Additionally, Dr. Wedlund has entered into a contract with CEL to help with communications during the strategic plan process including informing the community of the process along the way and presenting the final plan to the community.

Dr. Wedlund stated that the make-up of the strategic planning committee will be a group of approximately 35 people and should represent the different groups of our community. Dr. Wedlund asked board members to provide feedback regarding potential constituencies to include to get a good cross-section of our community. There was discussion. Dr. Wedlund will share some additional summary data about this process with the Board.

Ms. Ross, "Resolved, that Board delegates Brett Wedlund and Jennie Winter with putting together the Strategic Planning Committee." Ms. Ruday seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Friends of Nova Board New Members

Ms. Lund explained the current thoughts of the Governance Committee in recommending three people to start immediately as members of the Friends of Nova Board. There was discussion.

Ms. Hansen, "Resolved that the Board approves Duane Heidemann, Christina Geer, and Missy Johnson as members of the Friends of Nova board for terms to end June 30, 2025." Ms. McInroy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Line of Credit Extension

Dr. Wedlund gave background information regarding our line of credit in that the Board never approved the resolution to enter into the line of credit even though the Board approved seeking an extension of our line of credit. There was discussion.

Ms. Ross, “Resolved, that the Board approves extending our line of credit to \$1.5 million at Old National Bank and agrees to the resolutions presented by Old National Bank.” Ms. Hernandez seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

E. **ED Goals for SY22-23**

Ms. Lund and Ms. Ross presented background information regarding the process and the goals. There was discussion.

Colleen Hansen left at 8:24.

Ms. Hernandez, “Resolved, that the Board approves the proposed Executive Directors goals for 2022-2022.” Ms. Ruday seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items

The next regular board meeting will be on **Tuesday**, November 1, 2022 to avoid meeting on Halloween.

X. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Becky Lund.