

**Nova Classical Academy  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Regular Meeting – HELD ONLINE/REMOTELY  
December 5, 2020**

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

**Directors Absent: None**

**Advisors Present: Brett Wedlund, Missy Johnson (morning), Brooke Tousignant (afternoon), Ginger Gabor (NPTO)**

**Others in Attendance: None**

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:06. Theresa Nelson led the meeting.

**II. Board Training – Cultural Competency**

Dr. Johnson led the Board in Cultural Competency training and a discussion of two case studies from *Case Studies on Diversity and Social Justice Education* by Paul C. Gorski and Seema G. Pothini. Dr. Johnson's slide presentation is available [here](#).

**III. Academic Excellence Report**

Mr. Belter and Dr. Johnson spoke about the Academic Excellence report. They said that much of the language in the Annual Report regarding no data due to Covid came from our Authorizer. Mr. Belter added that they are trying to look at different data sources such as the parent surveys and DDI data from teachers. There was discussion about meeting our academic goals from our Authorizer. Dr. Wedlund said that he has talked with Beth Topoluk and that we won't be held responsible for things we can't control (such as the cancellation of MCAs) and that we'll have to see what happens in the spring. There was discussion about our contract with Friends of Education being up for renewal in 2022.

Ms. Karan left at 9:55 and returned at 10:45.

**IV. Board Training – Governance: Staying Strategic**

Ms. Lund led the Board in Governance training, focused on best practices in remaining strategic as a board. Her slide presentation is available [here](#). Along with the presentation, there was discussion about communication: encouraging communication with the whole Nova community, how to speak as a board member or not as a board member, and how to be an advocate for Nova especially outside our community.

**V. State of the School**

Dr. Wedlund gave a presentation on the state of the school. He shared information from the Upper and Lower School principals about successes and highlights from their respective schools and spoke about his work on his goals as well as the Board goals over the past year. He also shared two main focus areas for 2021: long term financial sustainability and leadership succession planning. There was discussion about the presentation. There was also discussion about removing fundraising from our operational budget. There was also discussion regarding hiring and creating a more diverse pool of applicants.

## **VI. Business**

### **A. Size of the Board**

Ms. Lund reviewed the process and information regarding reducing the size of the Board. She shared some further data requested at the November meeting [here](#). There was discussion about possible sizes and processes.

Ms. Lund, “Resolved, that the Board eliminate one parent seat up for election in 2021.” Ms. Gumbiner Hungs seconded. There was discussion. A role call vote was held. Mr. Belter, Ms. Hernandez, Ms. Gumbiner Hungs, Ms. Karan, Dr. LaRusso, Ms. Lund, Ms. Nelson, Mr. Ross, Ms. Ruday, and Ms. Winter voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

### **B. Extension of Distance Learning Model**

Dr. Wedlund shared some data and background information. There was discussion. Mr. Belter, “Resolved that the Board approves remaining in the distance learning model until at least January 18, 2021.” Ms. Lund seconded. A role call vote was held. Mr. Belter, Ms. Hernandez, Ms. Gumbiner Hungs, Ms. Karan, Dr. LaRusso, Ms. Lund, Ms. Nelson, Mr. Ross, Ms. Ruday, and Ms. Winter voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Wedlund gave a brief update regarding the MNHSL possibly resuming on December 18. There was discussion.

## **VII. Board Meeting Evaluation**

The evaluation was not discussed at this meeting.

## **VIII. Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items**

The next regular board meeting will be January 31, 2021.

## **IX. Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Becky Lund.