

**Nova Classical Academy  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
February 26, 2024**

**Directors Present: Nneka Constantino, Jeremy Hubbell, Becky Lund, Suzanne McInroy, Theresa Nelson, Sasha Ross, Todd Sample, Bavi Weston**

**Directors Absent: Nneka Constantino, Colleen Hansen**

**Advisors Present: Brett Wedlund, Tamra Paschall, Abby Kelley Hands, Missy Johnson, Joe Aliperto** (Dieci Finance, via Zoom), **Kriscel Estrella** (via Zoom), **Ginger Gabor** (NPTO, via Zoom), **Demekch Williamson** (Student Representative, via Zoom)

**Others in Attendance: Nova staff, parents, students** (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. Suzanne McInroy chaired the meeting.

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

Ms. Lund moved to approve the agenda. Ms. Weston seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**III. Consent Agenda**

- A. 2<sup>nd</sup> reading/potential approval of new policy #TBD (Unpaid Meal Charges), to be given the number 534
- B. 2<sup>nd</sup> reading/potential approval of revised policy NP 206 (Board Orientation, Training)
- C. 1<sup>st</sup> reading of new policy 504 (Student Appearance)
- D. 1<sup>st</sup> reading of revised policy NP 301 (Application and Enrollment)
- E. January 29, 2024 board minutes

Mr. Sample moved to approve the consent agenda. Ms. Lund seconded. There was discussion regarding the Unpaid Meal Charges policy; two minor changes were agreed upon (change “withdrawn” to “withheld” and change “free or reduced-price” to “students receiving educational benefits”).

Theresa Nelson arrived at 6:05.

There was discussion about the minutes of the January 29, 2024 meeting and including more information in the minutes to serve as more of a memory device instead of mainly a record of actions taken by the Board.

Dr. Hubbell made a subsidiary motion, “I move to table the January 29, 2024 meeting minutes until the regular March meeting.” Ms. Ross seconded. There was discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

The motion to approve the consent agenda (with the removal of the January 29 minutes and the two small policy changes) passed unanimously.

**IV. Board Training**

Abby Kelley Hands presented on Special Education at Nova Classical. She began with a brief history of special education in the United States and various laws and statutes that now apply to special education. Ms. Kelley Hands then walked through the process of federal and state mandates and the process that is followed to refer a student for possible special educations, noting that this process does not always lead to special education services. She also highlighted ways that families are involved in this process. Ms. Kelley Hands finished with some of the challenges faced in Special Education and the steps being taken to address those as well as many of the successes that are also occurring. There was discussion.

## **V. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

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

### **A. Executive Director Report**

Dr. Wedlund highlighted the legislative session update including that 40 education bills were introduced on the first day of the session. He also gave an update on Charter School Day at the capitol in March. There was discussion. Board members were encouraged to attend graduation on June 2, 2024.

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

Ms. McInroy spoke about the need for a special meeting in March for the facilities report from Hay Dobbs and suggested March 11 or some other dates around that period. There was discussion. She also let the Board know that she has reached out to people who submit public comment. Finally, she's looking forward to attending Charter School Day at the capitol along with three SoR scholars and Ms. Paschall.

### **C. Board Committees**

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

Ms. Lund highlighted that nominations start on March 1.

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

Ms. Ross highlighted the updated budget.

#### **iii. ED Review Committee**

There was no report this month.

#### **iv. Academic Excellence Report**

Dr. Johnson spoke about the reasoning behind using FastBridge data including that it's a nationally normed assessment as required by our contract with Friends of Education, it's used to identify students who may need additional supports or instruction or to exit them from those additional pieces, and it's a tool to track general student progress and growth in math and reading. There was discussion.

### **D. Student Report**

Ms. Williamson spoke about the Lower School donation drive to help homeless communities and how they collected over 2000 items. She also mentioned the LS Game Night last Friday which had nearly 400 attendees. Spring clubs and sports are beginning this week. In the Upper School, the mock trial team were regional champions and the robotics team will compete in the Worlds first tech challenge. There is work to highlight Black History Month including projecting information

during lunch. Juniors have ACT prep, auditions for *MacBeth* are occurring and many other activities are underway.

E. **NPTO Report**

Mrs. Gabor highlighted several activities including pizza for equity nights, Opera for the Young's presentation of *Beauty and the Beast*, and the Lower School's Advisory committee hosting the Family Game Night. She also spoke about upcoming meetings and several items including Multicultural Night on April 11 and the last meeting of the year in May. Finally, Mrs. Gabor gave an update on the NPTO school directory and how it represents nearly half of the student body at this time.

VII. **Business**

A. **2024-2025 Overenrollment Numbers**

Dr. Wedlund gave brief background information regarding the proposed numbers.

Ms. Lund, "Resolved, the Board approves the following overenrollment through the last day of summer: 8 in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, 3 in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, 3 in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, 8 in 9<sup>th</sup> grade, 3 in 10<sup>th</sup> grade, 5 in 11<sup>th</sup> grade, and 5 in 12<sup>th</sup> grade." Mr. Sample seconded. There was discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. **FY Budget Revision**

Dr. Wedlund gave some background information to some of the proposed spending before Mr. Aliperto walked through the revised budget and highlighted some of the reasons behind the major changes. There was discussion and further clarification of items. There was also discussion about retention bonuses being the same amount for all employees as well as how we figure out yearly raises to make things more equitable for staff members who have lower salaries.

Ms. Ross, "Resolved, that the Board approve the revision to the FY24 budget as presented. Further resolve that a retention bonus be paid to all benefit eligible salaried employees who are employed by Nova Classical on June 6, 2024 and remain employed at Nova Classical on September 6, 2024 in an amount equivalent to 10% of their FY23 salary and a retention bonus be paid to all benefit eligible hourly employees who are employed by Nova Classical on June 6, 2024 and remain employed at Nova Classical on September 6, 2024 in an amount equivalent to 150 times their FY23 hourly wage." Ms. Lund seconded. There was discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. **Girls Lacrosse Co-op Approval**

Dr. Wedlund gave background information.

Ms. Lund, "Resolved, that the Board approves the girls lacrosse co-op with SPA." Mr. Sample seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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

The next regular board meeting will be on Monday, March 25, 2024.

IX. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Becky Lund.