

**Nova Classical Academy
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting
May 19, 2025**

Directors Present: Teo Flesher, Shannon Hooge, Becky Lund, Suzanne McInroy, Heather Meeker, Todd Sample, Chris Shepard, Bavi Weston

Directors Absent: Colleen Hansen

Advisors Present: Brett Wedlund, Tamra Paschall (via Zoom), Mona Camara (Student Representative), Missy Johnson (via Zoom)

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. 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. Spotlight Award:

Coach John Carrier is being recognized for his work as the Varsity Boys Basketball Head Coach. He goes far beyond coaching, working hard to instill Nova Classical's core values in his players and modeling them himself. He connects with his players on and off the court and strives to include more players by leading developmental camps and practices for younger students. His players learn life lessons and achieve high standards thanks to his dedication, his leadership, and his mentorship.

The Board recognizes Mr. Carrier's achievements and service to Nova Classical and congratulates him on receiving the Spotlight Award!

IV. Student Representative Report

Ms. Camara spoke about the Fun Run and the performances of *James and the Giant Peach*. AP exams are over except for make-up tests. She mentioned the Nova Classical students who qualified for Nationals in the American Rocketry Challenge. She also highlighted SoR graduation and 8th grade promotion.

The Board thanks Ms. Camara for her service as the Student Representative this year. We appreciate her advocacy for student events and her service to Nova Classical.

V. **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

VI. **Consent Agenda**

- A. May HR Update
- B. Contracted services agreement with Playworks for FY26
- C. Contracted services agreement with Teachers on Call
- D. Contracted services agreement with Dieci School Finance for FY26-28
- E. Contract for Retrofit of Light Fixtures
- F. Transportation agreement for SY26 with Northern Lights School
- G. Amendment to FY Contracted services agreement with Uptick Education
- H. 2nd reading/ potential approval of revised policy NP 705 (Procurement)
- I. 2nd reading/ potential approval of revised policy NP 701 (Establishment of the Budget)
- J. Accept the results of the 2025 Nova Classical Board Election: Shannon Hooge and Becky Lund were both elected to three-year teacher seats. Teo Flesher was elected to a three-year community member seat.
- K. Renew Missy Johnson's tenure on the Friends of Nova board for a second three-year term beginning July 1, 2025.
- L. Add Jyotsna Sivaguru to the Friends of Nova board for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2025.
- M. April 28, 2025 regular meeting minutes

Ms. Weston moved to approve the consent agenda with the correction of the two Friend of Nova board terms beginning July 1, 2025 and removing the Playworks contract agreement. Ms. Lund seconded. There was discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

There was discussion about Playworks and what the program adds to Nova Classical including leadership opportunities for 4th and 5th graders, consistent training for recess paraprofessionals, and reinforcing problem-solving skills for students. The concerns were that recess shouldn't be so highly structured, it can lead to a hierarchy of who gets to do what, and we could do more ourselves without paying someone else to do it. There was further discussion.

Ms. Meeker, "Resolved, that the Board approves the contracted services agreement with Playworks for FY26." Ms. Lund seconded. There was discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Reports received by the Board

A. Executive Director Report

Dr. Wedlund gave a legislative update; they will need to call a special session to approve the state budget. The House and Senate passed changes to teacher pensions so that there's less of a penalty if a teacher retires after the age of 60. He shared a few other updates including that a lot of the work now is happening behind closed doors so we won't have a good idea of what's going on unless we hear from somebody in the room. Dr. Wedlund also highlighted where the building process is and next steps including the likelihood of presenting the Design and Development plan to the Board in June.

Dr. Wedlund spoke about the formal review of our Special Education program from MDE and that they found us in complete compliance and had no corrective actions. He thanked Abby Kelley-Hands and the SpEd department for their hard work.

There was discussion about the administrative leadership team and about the plan to on-board the new LS principal.

B. Board Chair Report

Ms. McInroy spoke about giving an update on the board goals next month. She'll also be reaching out to people about board officers and committee assignments for next year. She added that she's been doing the summary of the board meeting in the Nova News each month and it could be a vehicle for feedback on things like Playworks.

C. Board Committees

i. Governance Report

There was no discussion.

ii. Budget and Finance Report

Mr. Sample spoke about the recommendation from the committee to approve the FY26 budget. He also spoke about the interest rate environment for municipal bonds becoming more challenging which will increase the amount of our surplus that we will need to put towards the expansion if interest rates don't come down. Right now it's something to be aware of, but it's not so pressing that we need to make a decision about it right now. He also spoke about reviewing the April financials as a team and that they didn't find any irregularities; they do that regularly. Mr. Sample added that our find balance is

about 49% of our annual budget and the interest we're being paid on it has gone up (a silver lining to the raised interest rates). Dr. Wedlund gave some additional information regarding how much the interest rate matters to our expansion project. There was discussion.

iii. **ED Review Committee**

Ms. Weston gave a brief update. She's met with Dr. Wedlund to go over his goals and possible goals for next year and will schedule a meeting with the committee soon.

iv. **Academic Excellence Report**

There was no discussion.

D. NPTO Report

Ms. Meeker shared the many things the NPTO did for Staff Appreciation Week at the beginning of May. She also spoke about working on sponsorships in return for logos on sports warmup shirts. The NPTO will host last day treats for students. They are currently looking for people to fill several officer and committee positions. There was discussion.

VIII. Business

A. Second Reading of FY26 Budget

Dr. Wedlund shared a few updates including a net income of \$172,000. It meets all of our covenants.

Ms. Meeker, "Resolved, that the Board approve the FY26 budget." Mr. Sample seconded. A roll call vote was held. Mr. Flesher, Mr. Hooge, Ms. Lund, Ms. McInroy, Ms. Meeker, Mr. Sample, Mr. Shepard, and Ms. Weston voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Review of FY25 Communications Goals

Dr. Wedlund gave an update and spoke about where we missed our goals; most were quite high and we only missed them by a little. There was discussion about items in the report.

C. Licensed Instructional Staff (LIS) Evaluation Handbook FY26

Dr. Johnson went over the major changes.

Ms. Lund, "Resolved, that the Board approve the Licensed Instructional Staff Evaluation Handbook." Mr. Hooge seconded. There was discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Resolution for MSHSL Membership

Ms. Lund, “Resolved, that the Governing Board of Nova Classical Academy located in the State of Minnesota delegates the control, supervision and regulation of interscholastic activities and athletics (referred to in MN Statutes, Section 128C.01) to the Minnesota State High School League, and so hereby certifies to the State Commissioner of Education as provided for by Minnesota Statutes.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the school listed is authorized by this, the Governing Board of said school to renew its membership in the Minnesota State High School League; and to participate in the approved interscholastic activities and athletics sponsored by said League and its various subdivisions.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Governing Board hereby adopts the Constitution, Bylaws, Policies, Rules and Regulations of said League and all amendments thereto as the same as are published in the latest edition of the League's Official Handbook, on file at the office of the school, or as appears on the League's website, as the minimum standards governing participation in said League-sponsored activities and athletics. Further, the administration and responsibility for determining student eligibility and for the supervision of such activities and athletics are assigned to the official representatives identified by this Governing Board.

Further resolved, that the Board names Colleen Hansen as our official representative.” Ms. Meeker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

E. 2nd Reading of the Student Handbook

There was discussion of the new requirement for a language access plan.

Mr. Hooge, “Resolved, that the Board approve the Student Handbook with the addition of an upcoming language access plan.” Mr. Sample seconded. There was discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Appoint Two Parents to Fill the Two Parent Seats for SY26

Ms. Lund reviewed the background information from the Governance report.

Ms. Lund, “Resolved, that the Board appoints Colleen Hansen and Lisa Gomez to fill the Parent Seats that will be vacated at the end of the school year for terms to begin July 1, 2025 and end June 30, 2026.” Mr. Shepard seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items

The next regular board meeting will be on Monday, June 23, 2025.

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Becky Lund.