

**Nova Classical Academy  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
October 30, 2023**

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

**Directors Absent:**

**Advisors Present: Brett Wedlund, Tamra Paschall** (via Zoom), **Missy Johnson** (via Zoom), **Kriscel Estrella** (via Zoom), **Patti Mumford** (NPTO, 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 with the correction that the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of revised policy 609 should be in the Consent Agenda. Ms. Weston seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**III. Consent Agenda**

- A. Approve contract with #SocialSchool4EDU
- B. 2<sup>nd</sup> reading/potential approval of revised policy 502 (Search of Student...)
- C. 2<sup>nd</sup> reading/potential approval of revised policy 532 (Use of Peace Officers...)
- D. 1<sup>st</sup> reading of revised policy 609 (Religion)
- E. 1<sup>st</sup> reading of revised policy 102 (Equal Educational Opportunity)
- F. Regular September 18, 2023 minutes
- G. Accept the 2023 Election Report

Dr. Hubbell moved to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Sample seconded. There was discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

**IV. Board Training**

Ms. Cranberg presented training on counseling services at Nova Classical. She spoke about the role of the two counselors here and some of the things they do and don't do to support our students.

Ms. Nelson arrived at 6:04. Ms. Constantino arrived at 6:11.

There was discussion regarding ratios of counselors to students. At Nova Classical, it's roughly 1:500, which is slightly less than the MN state average. There was also discussion about the general mental health of our students as well as state and national trends and how to best address issues. There was further discussion about some more specific practices including supporting a sense of belonging and cultural responsiveness.

**V. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

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

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

Dr. Wedlund highlighted the work on systematizing practices (such as onboarding new staff). He also spoke about local optional revenue, a funding stream currently available to district public schools. If it is “aid”, charter schools are eligible to receive this funding. If it is “taxes”, we are not. There will likely be a coordinated effort to reach out to state legislators to clarify it as aid.

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

Ms. McInroy shared that she has been going to some of the parent education opportunities over the past month and encouraged all board members to take advantage of those sessions. She’s working on additional training opportunities for the Board as well.

### **C. Board Committees**

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

Ms. Lund stated that she will reach out to committee chairs about publicizing meeting information to make it easier for people to find information. There was discussion about the number of policies being presented each month; there will almost always be a few each month as our policies are on a three-year review rotation.

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

Ms. Ross spoke about starting to look at financial options for potentially building on the triangle or doing other building projects after the facilities review. Finance and Budget is starting the financial review process now so that we fully know what our options are. They’re also reviewing the budget and will provide an updated one a little later in the year.

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

There was no report this month.

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

Ms. Hansen highlighted a few items from the report.

#### **v. Student Representative Report**

There was no report this month.

#### **vi. NPTO Report**

Great Gatherings Kick-Off Party is this coming Saturday. New families may attend at half-price and there is babysitting available for the evening. Ms. Gabor highlighted that parent advisory teams are going well as is the directory.

## **VII. Business**

### **A. Presentation of Academic Data**

Dr. Johnson presented on the goals included in “World’s Best Workforce”. We met goal 1 (All students ready for school.), and goal 4 (All students are ready for career and college.) We did not meet goal 2 (All third graders can read at grade level.) nor goal 3 (All racial and economic gaps between students are closed.) We do not yet

have data for goal 5 (All students graduate from high school.) There was discussion about how we measure data for those goals and how we use the data.

**B. Engagement with Piper Sandler**

Dr. Wedlund gave background information including that the likely result of the facilities analysis will be that Nova Classical will want to do some kind of expansion. It is prudent to figure out our financial options before making further facilities decisions, so he reached out to some different people to find out more about the financial landscape for charter school expansion. Dr. Wedlund explained why he's recommending Piper Sandler; they have just completed another project and have a lot of the background information already and because they're able to look at potential funding sources beyond bonds. He's asking to engage them to do an analysis of financial options so that we can consider it alongside our facilities needs analysis. There was discussion.

Ms. Constantino, "Resolved, that the Board approves the engagement letter between Nova Classical and Piper Sandler." Ms. Nelson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**C. Enrollment Report**

Mrs. Gabor presented information on Nova Classical's enrollment. There was discussion regarding the number of open spots going to siblings or children of staff; a little more than half, especially in kindergarten. There was also discussion about the increase of spots in the high school since we first opened the high school.

**D. MDE Assurance of Compliance**

Dr. Wedlund presented these documents for the Board's information.

**E. Board Retreat Scheduling**

Ms. McInroy led a brief discussion of a date for the December board retreat, the focus being to review the strategic plan. The Board is planning to meet on December 18<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 8:00 pm.

**F. Designation of Identified Official with Authority for MDE**

Ms. Lund, "Resolved, that the Board designates Dr. Brett Wedlund as the Identified Official with Authority for the MDE External User Access Recertification System." Ms. Nelson seconded. There was discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

The next regular board meeting will be on Monday, November 27, 2023.

**IX. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Becky Lund.