

Executive Director's Report to the Board

Date of the Report: January 30, 2023

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Proposed State Budget from Governor Walz

In mid-January, Governor Walz shared [his budget proposal](#) for the state for next two years. His proposal includes a massive increase in spending for children in Minnesota. Much of the proposed money would be earmarked for specific uses, but his budget proposal does contain a 4% increase to the general education formula for schools for FY24 and a 2% increase for FY25. We will continue to monitor this as the legislative session moves forward.

Friends of Education Meeting

On Friday January 27th, I participated in a Friends of Education (FOE) meeting attended by the Executive Directors at each of the schools in the network. Attorney Amy Mace lead a discussion about compliance with Open Meeting Law. There was also significant discussion about how schools are working to ensure that there is a succession plan in place for the Executive Director in case of emergency. As we have not covered this with the currently seated Board, I will plan to share the steps taken at Nova Classical with you in one of our next meetings. Finally, there was discussion about the science of reading. There has been increasing discussion about the move to phonics in education which is a practice included in charter agreements with FOE. The recent release of the podcast series Sold a Story has brought this into awareness for a broader population. If you want a quick overview of the conversation being had around reading science, I would recommend listening to [Hard Words: Why Aren't Our Kids Being Taught to Read?](#) by Emily Hanford which is about an hour long and summarizes many of the major issues.

Instructional Leadership Team Book Study

As the strategic plan was being developed, Nova's Leadership Team was discussing areas that we felt certain would be included based on the stakeholder input. One of the areas that we identified as likely to be in the strategic plan was implementing broad supports for students. To prepare for this strategic plan work, Dr. Johnson has been facilitating a study of [Leading Equity-Based MTSS for All Students](#) with our instructional leadership team.

Nova Finance Training for Staff

Over the past four years, we have tried to increase transparency with our staff on the operations of the school and the decisions that leadership and the Board make. In November, we provided staff with a one-hour training focused on Nova's Finances. We have received positive feedback from many staff members who have shared that it provided helpful context for them. While it will not provide the full context of the conversation, I am attaching the slides from the training to the ED Report in the agenda so that you can see what was shared.