

**Nova Classical Academy
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting
September 30, 2024**

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

Directors Absent:

Advisors Present: Brett Wedlund, Tamra Paschall (via Zoom), **Missy Johnson** (via Zoom), **Krisel Estrella, Mona Camara** (Student Representative), **Emily Santa** (from Friends of Education)

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. Consent Agenda

- A. 2nd reading/potential approval of revised policy NP 305 (Enrollment Numbers), formerly "Section Size"
- B. Renewal of contracted services agreement with #SocialSchools4Edu (2024-2027)
- C. September 2024 HR Updates
- D. 2nd reading/potential approval of revised policy NP 503 (Tele-related Services)
- E. 2nd reading/potential approval of revised policy NP 702 (Fund Balance)
- F. 2nd reading/potential approval of revised policy 505 (Speech and Distribution of Materials)
- G. 2nd reading/potential approval of revised policy 515 (Protection and Privacy of Student Data)
- H. 2nd reading/potential approval of revised policy 521 (Student Disability Nondiscrimination)
- I. 2nd reading/potential approval of revised policy 609 (Religion)
- J. 2nd reading/potential approval of revised policy 807 (Health and Safety)
- K. 2nd reading/potential approval of revised policy NP 202 (Expectations...of Board Members)
- L. 2nd reading/potential approval of revised policy NP 203 (Board Meetings)
- M. 2nd reading/potential approval of revised policy NP 204 (Election of Board Members)
- N. 2nd reading/potential approval of revised policy NP 206 (Board Training, Orientation)
- O. 2nd reading/potential approval of revised policy NP 210 (Board Member Conflict of Interest)
- P. 2nd reading/potential approval of revised policy NP 301 (Application and Enrollment)
- Q. 2nd reading/potential approval of revised policy NP 306 (Enrollment Practices)
- R. 2nd reading/potential approval of revised policy NP 501 (Curriculum)

- S. 2nd reading/potential approval of revised policy NP 502 (Parental Curriculum Review)
- T. Yearly review/potential approval of revised policy 402 (Disability Nondiscrimination)
- U. Yearly review/potential approval of revised policy 410 (Family and Medical Leave)
- V. Yearly review/potential approval of revised policy 413 (Violence and Harassment)
- W. Yearly review/potential approval of revised policy 414 (Mandated Reporting)
- X. August 2024 board minutes
- Y. Special September 2024 board minutes

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

IV. Public Comment

Kimberly Strand (teacher) spoke about class sizes and how the chemistry and physics rooms are too small to allow classes of more than 21 students to operate safely. She is concerned that she cannot teach safely; she requested that the Board consider this as we look at building additional space.

V. Student Representative Report

Ms. Camara spoke about the Lower School's upcoming Battle of the Books and the start of fall activities. She also spoke about last week's Homecoming, the upcoming fine arts fair on October 10, the NHS's Dimes for Disaster fundraiser, and highlighted the National Merit Scholar finalists. She also spoke about the start of the year in general, especially for seniors; it's busy, but so far going pretty well.

VI. Reports received by the Board

A. Executive Director Report

Dr. Wedlund spoke about the expansion funding portion of his report and the list of things that have to happen before we can do any bonding. He added that this is the busiest year of the Strategic Plan and that the items involved in bonding/expansion will require some shifting within the plan as not everything can be accomplished in one year. Dr. Wedlund wanted the Board to be prepared to readjust as the year goes on as needed. There was discussion about the funding/bonding process including about timing. There was also discussion about the articles in the Star Tribune regarding charter schools and other current political information which may affect our building project.

B. Board Chair Report

Ms. Meeker arrived at 6:35 pm.

Ms. McInroy mentioned three things: we have plans for board training in October (finances with Joe Aliperto) and November (with Mike Lovett). She also spoke about a meeting or training in December or January for an update on the Strategic Plan and asked if board members have thoughts about scheduling. There was discussion. The Board will meet on 12/16 at 6:00 pm. Her last item was pointing out some upcoming classical education training opportunities on October 8 and October 16.

C. Board Committees

i. Governance Report

There was no discussion.

ii. **Budget and Finance Report**

Mr. Sample gave a brief update.

Mr. Sample, “Resolved that Heather Meeker be added as a member of the Budget & Finance Committee.” Mr. Shepard seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sample gave a few additional highlights including that we have a strong fund balance, though interest rates are coming down so we’ll earn less on it. There was discussion. Mr. Sample mentioned that we have spent 15% of our budget so far, which is reasonable given that there were expenses that we didn’t have in July or most of August. There was further discussion.

iii. **ED Review Committee**

Ms. Weston gave an update on the work of the committee drafting a new ED contract. They should have something to present to the Board next month.

iv. **Academic Excellence Report**

There was no discussion.

D. NPTO Report

Ms. Meeker spoke about the bookfair from last weekend and other fundraising opportunities that the NPTO has done this fall. She also spoke about carnival volunteer signups opening for teachers/staff and soon they’ll be open to everyone. Ms. Meeker gave an update on the t-shirt design contest and sponsorships for the carnival. There was discussion.

VII. Business

A. Benefits Renewal Options

Ms. Estrella and Margaret Kolb-Tavis presented the renewal costs as well as changes to the offered plans (two options with different high deductibles). There was discussion. Ms. Estrella said that the recommendation is to approve the 10% increase from Health Partners, but have Nova cover most of the increase because we left cushion in the budget to do so. There was further discussion.

Ms. Hansen, “Resolved, that the Board approves renewing all employee benefits at the proposed amounts and also having Nova Classical increase their monthly contribution to \$575 per month per employee for the medical benefits.” Ms. Weston seconded. A roll call vote was held. Ms. Hansen, Mr. Hooge, Ms. Lund, Ms. McInroy, Ms. Meeker, Mr. Sample, Mr. Shepard, and Ms. Weston voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Overview of 2023-2024 MCA Results

Dr. Johnson presented the results and how we’re meeting the academic goals we have with Friends of Education. (This is part one of two.) We are not on track to meet our goal to be no less than 22 points higher than the state average in third grade. We were on track to demonstrate higher school-wide proficiency rates than St. Paul and Edina school districts, but we were slightly below Edina in reading last year. We are remaining above them in school-wide proficiency rates in math and in science. We are mostly on track to meet our calculated growth scores. Finally, we

are on track to meet growth goals in math for FRP students, but not for Black/African American students. However, both groups improved to meet the goal in reading growth.

Dr. Johnson then presented on what Nova Classical is doing to address the gaps, including focusing on tier 1 instructional strategies for all teachers and LETRS training (through the READ Act) for all reading teachers as well as others. There was discussion.

C. FY2025 Assurances of Compliance

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

Ms. Lund, "Resolved, the Board approves the assurances of compliance." Mr. Hooge seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Proposal for Communication Services for Schematic Design

Dr. Wedlund gave background information. There was discussion regarding the need to have this done by an outside firm.

Ms. Weston, "Resolved, that the Board approves the contract for communication services for schematic design from CEL Marketing PR Design." Ms. Hansen seconded. A roll call vote was held. Ms. Hansen, Mr. Hooge, Ms. Lund, Ms. McInroy, Ms. Meeker, Mr. Sample, and Ms. Weston voted in favor. Mr. Shepard voted against. The motion passed.

VIII. Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items

The next regular board meeting will be on Monday, October 28, 2024.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Becky Lund.