

**Nova Classical Academy
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting
February 24, 2025**

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

Directors Absent: Shannon Hooge

Advisors Present: Brett Wedlund, Missy Johnson, Tamra Paschall, Mona Camara (Student Representative), **Beth Topoluk** (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 with the correction of item V. being a conversation with our authorizer instead of training. Ms. Meeker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Spotlight Award: Angelina Kabanuk

Angelina Kabanuk is the inaugural recipient of the Nova Classical Spotlight Award, which recognizes individuals who exemplify Nova Classical Academy's commitment to academic excellence, virtue, and a thriving school community. Angelina is the founder of Nova Classical's chapter of Letters of Love, a MSHSL Triple A Award nominee, captain of the Mock Trial and Volleyball teams, and a member of Una Voce and Harmonia choirs. She is an inspiration and a person who has made our school community stronger.

The Board recognizes Angelina's achievements and service to Nova Classical and congratulates her on receiving the Spotlight Award!

IV. Student Representative Report

Ms. Camara shared about last week's Snow Days and last weekend's dance. She also spoke about the senior retreat on March 14th. She shared about the National Merit honorees and the Mock Trial team that is advancing to state. She also shared several other upcoming events for students and families. She highlighted the Green Team's work to collect plastic wrap for recycling.

V. Board Conversation: Charter School Authorizing

Beth Topoluk from Friends of Education, Nova Classical's authorizer, spoke with the Board about the authorizer's role in general and the relationship between Nova Classical and Friends of Education in specific. Ms. Topoluk highlighted relevant portions of Mn statute 124E and the contract between Nova Classical

and Friends of Education. There was discussion.

VI. Consent Agenda

- A. Reschedule graduation for Sunday, May 31, 2026
- B. Approve the FY26 Testing Calendar
- C. 2nd reading/ potential approval of revised policy 516 (Student Medication)
- D. Rescind new policy 522 (Title IX) approved on 11/25/24
- E. Emergency approval of former policy 522 (Title IX)
- F. 1st reading of former policy 522 (Title IX)
- G. Emergency approval of new policy 519 (Interviews of Students by Outside Agencies)
- H. January 27, 2025 regular meeting minutes
- I. February 2025 HR Updates
- J. 1st reading of new policy 519 (Interviews of Students by Outside Agencies)

Ms. Lund moved to approve the consent agenda. Ms. Hansen seconded. There was discussion. Mr. Flesher, Ms. Hansen, Ms. Lund, Ms. McInroy, Ms. Meeker, Mr. Shepard, and Ms. Weston voted in favor. Mr. Sample abstained. The motion passed.

VII. Public Comment

Nicole Hoiland, teacher, submitted electronic public comment stating that she is disappointed with the lack of response to a comment made by a faculty board member and with the lack of action taken and the lack of support given to multiple concerns shared by Upper School faculty members regarding large class sizes which make them unable to educate students according to Nova Classical's mission.

VIII. Reports received by the Board

A. Executive Director Report

Dr. Wedlund added that our annual S&P rating has been shared and we're maintaining our BB+ rating. Additionally, the annual bondholder meeting was held today, but no bondholders attended which generally means they have no concerns.

There was discussion regarding the timing of goal 9.4 from the strategic plan; it will hopefully be finished by the end of the year. Nova Classical will use data from Brightworks to understand class sizes in traditional metro school districts, as Brightworks conducts an annual study on this topic. This will be compared with information from St. Croix Prep. and Eagle Ridge. There was further discussion regarding data points and the objective that was set by the Board. There was discussion regarding what will happen after the data has been collected; it will be shared with the Board for further direction regarding any next steps the administration should take.

There was discussion regarding Goal 9 of the strategic plan and how Nova Classical is recruiting a diverse and highly skilled staff.

B. Board Chair Report

Ms. McInroy gave an update regarding board goals for the school year; one is completed and two are half-completed at this time.

C. Board Committees

i. Governance Report

There was no discussion.

ii. Budget and Finance Report

Mr. Sample gave updates regarding the January financials and that we're maintaining a cash balance of \$6.1 million dollars for a fund balance of 51%. We are slightly behind with net income, but it's nothing to be concerned about at this time.

iii. ED Review Committee

There was no report.

iv. Academic Excellence Report

There was no discussion.

D. NPTO Report

Ms. Meeker shared information regarding an annual appeal and asking people to give money specifically to teacher appreciation week. The NPTO is also looking into doing a kick-off event for the Carnival at Homecoming next fall. She also spoke about several upcoming Great Gathering events and the senior celebrations. There is a LS Game Night on March 14.

IX. Business

A. Approve Revised FY25 Budget

Dr. Wedlund highlighted some changes in the budget. This budget currently has us finishing the year at \$105,000 better than projected. That money may be allocated to something else later in the year. Dr. Wedlund also spoke about the Community Service Fund. There was discussion.

Mr. Sample, "Resolved, that the Board approves the revised FY25 budget." Ms. Weston seconded. A roll call vote was held. Mr. Flesher, Ms. Hansen, Ms. Lund, Ms. McInroy, Ms. Meeker, Mr. Sample, Mr. Shepard, and Ms. Weston voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Contract with Ivy Camps

Dr. Wedlund gave background information. There was discussion regarding the proposal as well as the competitive bidding process and how much information the Board would like to see.

Ms. Weston, "Resolved, that the Board approves the contract with Ivy Camps." Ms. Hansen seconded. Mr. Flesher, Ms. Hansen, Ms. Lund, Ms. McInroy, Ms. Meeker, Mr. Sample, Mr. Shepard, and Ms. Weston voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Analysis of Extracurricular Offerings and Proposed Next Steps

Dr. Wedlund gave background information and highlighted some trends: we're comparable to other similar schools based on number of offerings; we do have some gaps such as offerings for students in K-2 and families would love an offering for instrumental music. He shared the recommendations from the administrative team including providing more offerings for the youngest students and expand current high-demand offerings.

There was discussion regarding the costs of starting an instrumental music program as well as general logistics to incorporate a program within the school day versus as an extra-curricular. There was also discussion regarding prioritization; is adding extracurricular activities and/or a music program more important than other items in the strategic plan? There was further discussion regarding potential extracurricular offerings and the processes to add clubs. There was discussion regarding next steps. The Board would like to have further exploration into offering more programs to K-2 and offering instrumental music as an extracurricular.

X. Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items

The next regular board meeting will be on Monday, March 24, 2025.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Becky Lund.