

**Nova Classical Academy
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting – HELD ONLINE/REMOTELY
February 22, 2021**

Directors Present: Jason Belter, Mel Hernandez, Claudia Gumbiner Hungs, Divya Karan, Nick LaRusso, Becky Lund, Theresa Nelson, Frank Ross, Diane Ruday, Jennie Winter

Directors Absent: None

Advisors Present: Brett Wedlund, Michael Pelofske, Brooke Tousignant, Missy Johnson, Chris Rovn, Kriscell Estrella, Ginger Gabor (NPTO), Evan Odegard (Student Representative)

Others in Attendance: Nova staff, parents, and students

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm. Theresa Nelson led the meeting.

II. Business Meeting: Approval of Agenda

Mr. Belter moved to approve the agenda with the addition of potential refinancing added to the Business section and adding the Budget and Finance Committee new member approval to the Consent Agenda. Ms. Gumbiner Hungs seconded. A role call vote was held. Ms. Hernandez, Ms. Gumbiner Hungs, Dr. LaRusso, Ms. Lund, Ms. Nelson, Mr. Ross, Ms. Ruday, and Ms. Winter voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Consent Agenda

Ms. Karan arrived at 6:04.

- A. 2nd reading/ potential approval of revised policy NP 206 (Board Orientation/Training)
- B. 1st reading of revised policy 709 (Student Transportation)
- C. 1st reading of revised policy 807 (Health and Safety)
- D. Regular January 25th minutes
- E. Special February 4th minutes
- F. Add Michael Waldman and Megan Hafner to the Budget and Finance Committee

Ms. Lund moved to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Belter seconded. A role call vote was held. Ms. Hernandez, Ms. Gumbiner Hungs, Ms. Karan, Dr. LaRusso, Ms. Lund, Ms. Nelson, Mr. Ross, Ms. Ruday, and Ms. Winter voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Public Comment

Nelly Konkin spoke about concerns with having the Upper School students return to any form of in-person learning.

Sarah Brown spoke about things she would like the Board and administration to consider with any plan to bring Upper School students back to in-person learning.

Jay Johnston spoke about the need to focus on getting Upper School students back in the building.

Steven Usitalo spoke in favor of a well-done distance learning model and making sure that Nova is truly ready for students to come back.

V. Board Training

Dr. Johnson provided an overview of the faculty training on curriculum and the Great Conversation. Her presentation is available at [Our Curricular Tapestry \(Board Presentation\)](#). There was discussion.

VI. Reports received by the Board.

A. Executive Director Report

There was brief discussion.

B. Board Chair Report

Ms. Nelson asked that if Board members have areas they would like more training in, they should let her know. She also spoke about the Governor's announcement and the importance of doing things well so that we can continue to have consistency. In addition, the Nova community includes parents, students, and faculty and staff and we have to ensure that all of them are safe.

C. Board Committees

i. Governance Report

Ms. Lund gave a brief update. There was no discussion.

ii. Finance and Budget Report

Ms. Winter reminded Board members to fill out their conflict of interest forms ASAP. There was no discussion.

iii. Academic Excellence Report

Mr. Belter gave a brief update. There was no discussion.

D. Ad Hoc Committees

E. NPTO Report

Mrs. Gabor spoke about their big project to sell yard signs. She also reminded people of their every-other-week online social gathering; the next one is this Friday. They are seeking a Treasurer and Vice-Chair; nominations are coming up and elections will be at the end of the year. Finally, the NPTO is continuing to fulfill teacher grants (\$100/ teacher). Mrs. Gabor reminded people to continue to connect to the Nova community and the NPTO.

F. Student Report

Mr. Odegard spoke about some school events like the virtual Valentine's Day event, Snow Days, the start of Reading Buddies, and Senior Stories via Nova's Instagram account. There are two upcoming NHS events including a blood drive. Juniors will be taking the ACT next week. He also spoke about several ongoing extra-curricular events like Mock Trial going to state and the current basketball season. Mr. Odegard gave an update on student discussions regarding the potential in-person learning, the flexibility of online learning, and academic challenges; there is a spectrum of responses. There was discussion.

VII. Business

A. 2021-2022 School Calendar

Dr. Wedlund gave a quick overview of the proposed calendar

Mr. Belter, “Resolved that the Board approve the 2021-2022 school calendar.” Ms. Lund seconded. There was discussion. A role call vote was held. Mr. Belter, Ms. Hernandez, Ms. Gumbiner Hungs, Ms. Karan, Dr. LaRusso, Ms. Lund, Ms. Nelson, Mr. Ross, Ms. Ruday, and Ms. Winter voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

B. FY22 Enrollments

Dr. Wedlund spoke about the recommended over-enrollments for students in 6th – 12th grade for fall of 2021. There was discussion.

Ms. Winter, “Resolved that the Board approves the over-enrollments for 6th – 12th grade as presented in the Board packet.” Mr. Ross seconded. A role call vote was held. Mr. Belter, Ms. Hernandez, Ms. Gumbiner Hungs, Ms. Karan, Dr. LaRusso, Ms. Lund, Ms. Nelson, Mr. Ross, Ms. Ruday, and Ms. Winter voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Update on Response to COVID-19 and Transition to the K-5 Hybrid Model

Dr. Wedlund spoke about the new state guidelines for secondary schools, current health data, and not currently making a recommendation to bring secondary students back on site. There was discussion.

Ms. Tousignant spoke about the timeline to bring K-5 students on site, the pre-planning work that has happened, and the work that still needs to occur. There was discussion about concerns with potentially having K-12 on site.

D. Revision of Safely ReunKNIGHTed Plan

Dr. Wedlund reviewed the updated Safely ReunKNIGHTed plan that was presented to the Board in early February.

Ms. Gumbiner Hungs, “Resolved, that the Board approves the revised Safely ReunKNIGHTED plan.” Mr. Belter seconded. A role call vote was held. Mr. Belter, Ms. Hernandez, Ms. Gumbiner Hungs, Ms. Karan, Dr. LaRusso, Ms. Lund, Ms. Nelson, Mr. Ross, Ms. Ruday, and Ms. Winter voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Letter Regarding Potential Refinancing

Dr. Wedlund gave background information regarding the engagement letter to refinance our bonds. This would allow us to start the process to decide the terms of refinancing. There was discussion.

Ms. Winter, “Resolved, that the Board approves engaging Piper Sandler to serve as an underwriter for Securities of approximately \$5 million.” seconded. A role call vote was held. Mr. Belter, Ms. Hernandez, Ms. Gumbiner Hungs, Ms. Karan, Dr. LaRusso, Ms. Lund, Ms. Nelson, Mr. Ross, Ms. Ruday, and Ms. Winter voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Closed Session

The meeting was closed pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.05, subdivision 3(s) to complete tasks related to the evaluation of its Executive Director.

When the meeting was reopened, the following summary was given: The Board discussed and unanimously approved Executive Director goals for the 2020-2021 school year.

IX. Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items

The next regular board meeting will be on March 29, 2021.

X. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Becky Lund.