

NOVA CLASSICAL ACADEMY
MANUAL OF POLICIES APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

POLICY NP 206:

BOARD MEMBER ORIENTATION AND TRAINING

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy 206 is to provide for the orientation of new board members and ongoing training for all board members.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

Nova's Board has an obligation to provide a thorough orientation process for new board members and an effective, ongoing training process for all board members to ensure that board members have access to the knowledge, skills, and resources to effectively govern the school. The Board Chair or designee is responsible for the implementation of this Policy NP 206.

III. ORIENTATION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Recognizing its obligation to provide a proper orientation to new board members, the Board shall provide an orientation for each new board member. The orientation shall consist of:

- A. Upon their election or appointment, each new board member is required to read documents including, but not limited to the following:
 - a. Nova's Bylaws
 - b. Nova's policies NP 201 – NP 210
 - c. *The Lost Tools of Learning by Dorothy Sayers*
 - d. Nova's overviews of the Grammar, Logic, and Rhetoric stages or similar Nova-created materials such as the Parent Education Night videos on the three stages
- B. The Board Chair shall appoint a mentor to assist each new board member with orientation during the new member's first year of board service;
- C. Within 90 days of the commencement of each new board member's service, the Executive Director shall meet with the new member(s) and may take such additional steps as reasonably necessary to familiarize the new board member(s) with the school;
- D. The chair of each standing, ad hoc, and advisory committee and/or task force, and a representative of the Nova Classical Academy PTO shall meet with and/or invite new board member(s) to attend a regular meeting of their group.

IV. TRAINING OF BOARD MEMBERS

- A. **New Board Members.** As required by Minnesota charter school law, every charter school board member shall attend Minnesota Dept. of Education approved training on board governance, the board's role and responsibilities,

employment policies and practices, and financial management. A board member who does not begin the required training within six months of being seated and complete the required training within 12 months of being seated on the board is ineligible to continue to serve as a board member.

- B. **New and Experienced Board Members.** As required by Minnesota charter school law to provide and require ongoing education, reflection and training opportunities for all board members, the Board Chair, in consultation with the chair of the Governance Committee, shall propose an annual list of goals and training to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Board's role in school governance. These trainings are recommended to include:

1. Updates on legislative changes to charter school law.
2. A training segment or segments at the December Board retreat on topics relevant to Board needs.
3. Additional training and required readings throughout the year on topics relevant to Board needs.

- C. **Classical Education**

Each year, the entire Board shall receive training that gives an overview of Classical Education and includes a reading on Classical Education. All Board members must participate in some form of Classical Training each year; if they are unable to attend the training developed for the entire Board, they must seek out another option such as attending a Parent Education Night on Classical Education or a faculty training session.

- D. **Periodic Reports.**

The Board Chair or chair of the Governance Committee shall provide periodic reports to the Board throughout the school year on the implementation and effectiveness of this Policy NP 206.

- E. **Additional Training**

Board members desiring additional training in governance, communication, strategy, efficiency, effectiveness, or other areas, are encouraged to discuss their suggestions with the Board Chair or the chair of the Governance Committee.

In addition to the above areas of training, Board officers such as the Chair, Chair-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer shall complete additional training in best-practices for their position. This training will focus on best-practices for each role and may be done through readings, videos, or other training.

Legal References: Minnesota Statutes, section 124E.07, Subd. 7.

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD: 06/15/2009

REVISED BY THE BOARD: 07/30/2018
EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/30/2018