

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

Directors Present: Teo Flesher, Colleen Hansen (via Zoom), Shannon Hooge, Becky Lund, Suzanne McInroy, Heather Meeker, Todd Sample, Chris Shepard, Bavi Weston

Directors Absent: None

Advisors Present: Brett Wedlund, Tamra Paschall, Mona Camara (Student Representative), Kriscel Estrella, Missy Johnson (via Zoom), Jesse Prins, Ginger Gabor

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. Mr. Sample seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Spotlight Award: Laura Buri

Fifth-grade teacher Laura Buri is this month's recipient of the Spotlight Award. She holds multiple roles in our community including Peer Coach, Lower School Literacy Lead, a member of the Governance Committee, a member of the Curriculum Committee, and Lower School Equity Coordinator. Laura provides training to staff and families, ensures a rigorous classical education for all students, and plans our Multicultural Night in collaboration with our National Honor Society.

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

Colleen Hansen arrived at 6:03 pm.

IV. Student Representative Report

Ms. Camara spoke about an upcoming Spirit Wear Day followed by Spring Break. She also shared about the Senior Retreat and it being a fun event. There is ACT testing tomorrow. She also spoke about Mock Trial, robotics, and the chess team competing at state.

V. **Public Comment**

LS Principal Brooke Tousignant submitted electronic public comment asking the Board to revise the Staff Handbook to allow administration and program support staff to receive a payout for accrued Paid Time Off upon resignation just as licensed and educational support staff do.

VI. **Consent Agenda**

- A. 2nd reading/ potential approval of former policy 522 (Title IX)
- B. 2nd reading/ potential approval of new policy 519 (Interviews of Students by Outside Agencies)
- C. 1st reading of revised policy NP208 (Policies)
- D. 1st reading of revised Bylaws
- E. February 24, 2025 regular meeting minutes
- F. March 2025 HR Updates
- G. Amendment to LS Program Coordinator Employment Agreement
- H. Contract for Field Concussion Testing
- I. Approve FY26 Testing Calendar
- J. FY26-28 Employment Agreement for Special Education Coordinator

Mr. Shepard moved to remove the March HR Update from the Consent Agenda. Mr. Sample seconded. The motion passed.

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

Ms. Lund moved to approve the March 2025 HR updates. Ms. Weston seconded. Mr. Flesher, 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.

VII. **Reports received by the Board**

A. **Executive Director Report**

Dr. Wedlund highlighted the work on the budget and the hope of having a draft to present to the Board in April. He spoke about compensation last year

being a flat dollar increase instead of a percentage increase. He also shared some compensation comparisons and stated that the plan is to do a similar increase again but wanted feedback from the Board first. There was discussion. The general consensus was that a flat dollar increase is preferred again.

Dr. Wedlund also gave some updates from the state legislature including a moratorium on charter school expansion, though it didn't make it through committee, and the email he sent to the Nova Classical community today about a potential reduction in charter school funding. There was discussion.

B. Board Chair Report

Ms. McInroy mentioned that Ms. Paschall emailed about participation in graduation and encouraged board members to participate.

C. Board Committees

a. Governance Report

Ms. Lund gave a brief election update and encouraged people to reach out to potential candidates for the five board seats up for election. Candidate Nomination forms are due by 4:00 pm on Friday, April 11.

b. Budget and Finance Report

Mr. Sample shared that the presented financials match the updated budget that was approved in February. He also corrected the fund balance to share that it has now passed \$7 million. Our net income is currently negative because the state holds back 10%; this will be rectified once we receive that money.

c. ED Review Committee

There was no report.

d. Academic Excellence Report

There was no report.

D. NPTO Report

Ms. Meeker shared information regarding the NPTO's switch from Great Gatherings to a Carnival this past year and that they'll do the same thing next year. The Carnival will be on November 11, 2025. However, the gatherings were bypassed, so the NPTO will do the Great Gathering adult-only event at Summit at the beginning of the year. They are also ramping up donations and

volunteers for Teacher Appreciation Week. The biggest need is for officers to serve next year. There was discussion.

VIII. **Business**

A. **1st Reading of the 25-26 Staff Handbook**

Ms. Estrella gave some background information and highlighted changes in this edition of the Handbook. There was discussion about several areas including the \$5.00 limit on teacher gifts from families and FLMA.

Mr. Hooge, “Resolved that the Board approves the 25-26 Staff Handbook.” Mr. Shepard seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

B. **Update on Development Design Phase**

Mr. Prins gave an update regarding applications and variances including a master plan amendment to change the zoning of the “triangle” space, a site plan review for St. Paul, an air rights easement, and a variance for the height of our proposed skyway. We also may need variances regarding building placement and the parking lot. We need approval from MDE on the project. A lot of crucial logistics are being addressed currently. There was discussion regarding timing and potential areas of more difficulty.

C. **Over-enrollment for SY26**

Ms. Gabor gave an overview of her enrollment report and highlighted that it’s easier to have students start at the beginning of the year with their cohort. The higher over-enrollment request in 11th grade is to close the PSEO gap. There was discussion.

Ms. Weston, “Resolved, that the Board approves the following over-enrollment numbers for SY26:

- 6th grade – 8 students
- 7th grade – 3 students
- 8th grade – 3 students
- 9th grade – 8 students
- 10th grade – 3 students
- 11th grade – 10 students
- 12th grade – 5 students.”

Ms. Lund seconded. There was discussion. Mr. Flesher, Ms. Hansen, Mr. Hooge, Ms. Lund, Ms. McInroy, Ms. Meeker, Mr. Sample, Mr. Shepard, and Ms. Weston voted in favor. Mr. Shepard abstained. The motion passed.

IX. **Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items**

The next regular board meeting will be on Monday, April 28, 2025.

X. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Becky Lund.