

**Nova Classical Academy
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Special Meeting
March 11, 2022**

Directors Present: Mel Hernandez, Divya Karan (via Zoom), Becky Lund, Frank Ross, Sasha Ross, Diane Ruday (via Zoom), Jennie Winter

Directors Absent: Claudia Gumbiner Hungs, Nick LaRusso

Advisors Present: Brett Wedlund, Michael Pelofske (via Zoom), Brooke Tousignant (via Zoom), Missy Johnson (via Zoom), Ginger Gabor (NPTO, via Zoom), Evan Odegard (Student Representative)

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 6:16 pm. Frank Ross led the meeting.

II. Business Meeting: Approval of Agenda

Ms. Lund moved to approve the agenda. Ms. Ross seconded. A roll call vote was held. Ms. Hernandez, Ms. Lund, Mr. Ross, Ms. Ross, Ms. Ruday, and Ms. Winter voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment

Amy Gleason submitted electronic public comment asking that the Board rescind the mask mandate as soon as possible.

Jennifer Bateman Grover submitted electronic public comment asking that the Board delay removing the mask mandate until after Spring Break to better protect students going on the Capstone trip.

Susan Olshanski submitted electronic public comment asking that the Board delay removing the mask mandate until after Spring Break to better protect students going on the Capstone trip.

Renee Miller submitted electronic public comment asking that the Board delay removing the mask mandate until after Spring Break to better protect students going on the Capstone trip. She also asked that the Board improve other mitigation strategies.

Kimberly Strand submitted electronic public comment asking that the Board delay removing the mask mandate until April 8.

Laura Olmstead submitted electronic public comment asking that the Board delay removing the mask mandate until after Spring Break to better protect students going on the Capstone trip.

Janine Kimble submitted electronic public comment asking that the Board delay removing the mask mandate until after Spring Break to better protect students going on the Capstone trip.

Chad Hope submitted electronic public comment stating that he was in favor with the proposed mask mandate removal timelines.

Petra Kohler Riedi submitted electronic public comment stating that she was in favor with the proposed mask mandate removal.

Brendan O'Hara submitted electronic public comment asking that the Board delay removing the mask mandate until April 1.

Ella Bucher-Dagen submitted electronic public comment asking that the Board not remove the mask mandate.

Emma Koland submitted electronic public comment asking that the Board not remove the mask mandate.

Ann Walsh submitted electronic public comment asking that the Board not remove the mask mandate.

Mary Corrigan submitted electronic public comment asking that the Board delay removing the mask mandate until after Spring Break to better protect students going on the Capstone trip.

Arian Bové submitted electronic public comment asking that the Board rescind policies NP 802 and NP 803 and make face coverings a matter of personal choice.

Divya Karan arrived at 6:19 pm.

IV. Business

A. Covid-19 Mitigation Strategies

Dr. Wedlund gave background information including that Nova has seen a consistent decline in Covid cases in students and staff since January. He also spoke about information from St. Paul, MDH and the CDC including that none of these entities are saying that masks are mandatory, though they are still recommending masks. Dr. Wedlund also shared some information from other schools that have already removed their mask mandates and have not seen an increase in Covid cases. The administration made six recommendations to become effective tomorrow:

- Rescind policy NP 802.
- Rescind policy NP 803.
- Automatically reinstate NP 803 if 25 or more student and staff members test positive for COVID-19 in any 7-day period or the Ramsey County COVID-19 Community Level is designated as 'high' by the CDC.
- Automatically reinstate NP 802 if 25 or more student and staff members test positive for COVID-19 in any 7-day period or the Ramsey County COVID-19 Community Level is designated as 'high' by the CDC.
- Stop the practice of contact tracing.
- Automatically reinstate contact tracing if policy NP 802 is reinstated.

There was discussion regarding the background information that led to the specific recommendations from administration. There was discussion about the date for the rescinding and the reasons behind it. There was further discussion.

Ms. Hernandez, "Resolved, that the Board rescind policies NP802 (Face Coverings) and NP803 (Employee Vaccination), effective March 12, 2022.

Further resolved that the Board automatically reinstates policy NP 802 (Face Coverings) should 25 or more student and staff members test positive for COVID-19 in any 7-day period or the Ramsey County COVID-19 Community Level is designated as 'high' by the CDC.

Further resolved, that the Board directs that the practice of contact tracing positive cases of COVID-19 within the school setting be discontinued effective March 12, 2022.

Further resolved that the practice of contact tracing positive of COVID-19 within the school should be reinstated should 25 or more students and staff test positive for COVID-19 in a 7-day period or the Ramsey County COVID-19 Community Level is designated as 'high' by the CDC." Ms. Ruday seconded. There was discussion. A roll call vote was held. Ms. Hernandez, Ms. Lund, Mr. Ross, Ms. Ross, and Ms. Winter voted in favor. Ms. Karan and Ms. Ruday voted against. The motion passed.

V. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Becky Lund.