

**Nova Classical Academy  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
October 25, 2021**

**Directors Present: Mel Hernandez, Claudia Gumbiner Hungs, Nick LaRusso** (participated via Zoom), **Becky Lund, Frank Ross, Sasha Ross, Jennie Winter**

**Directors Absent: Divya Karan, Diane Ruday**

**Advisors Present: Brett Wedlund, Michael Pelofske, Missy Johnson, Kriscel Estrella** (via Zoom), **Heather Gray** (NPTO), **Ava Jane Lynch** (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 6:02 pm. Frank Ross led the meeting.

**II. Business Meeting: Approval of Agenda**

Ms. Lund moved to approve the agenda. Ms. Gumbiner Hungs seconded. All present members and Dr. LaRusso voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

**III. Consent Agenda**

- A. 2<sup>nd</sup> reading/ potential approval of revised policy NP 101 (Board Authority)
- B. 2<sup>nd</sup> reading/ potential approval 1<sup>st</sup> reading of revised policy NP 102 (Legal Definitions)
- C. 1<sup>st</sup> reading of revised policy NP 201 (Board Roles and Responsibilities)
- D. 1<sup>st</sup> reading of revised policy NP 202 (Expectations...)
- E. 1<sup>st</sup> reading of revised policy NP 203 (Board Meetings)
- F. September 27, 2021 Board Minutes

Ms. Lund moved to approve the consent agenda. Ms. Ross seconded. All present members and Dr. LaRusso voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

**IV. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**V. Board Training**

There was no training at this meeting.

**VI. Reports received by the Board**

**A. Executive Director Report**

Dr. Wedlund added that there is a focus on needing to check in with people to see how they're doing now that we're on-site. Some groups are being put together to meet with students and to track student progress. There still needs to be work with faculty well-being. There was discussion.

There was discussion regarding the communication audit. Dr. Wedlund spoke about looking at communications and then looking at extra-curriculars; a lot of communications comes down to what is the deliverable. So we're doing a broader

audit to look at what messaging we've put out there, how the stakeholders feel about it, and then how we can best use our systems to support our communications as a whole. Dr. Wedlund also spoke about the group he's hiring and that they are the leaders among school communications groups. There was further discussion. There was appreciation for not trying to do the audit ourselves to hire experts and to avoid confirmation bias. There was discussion about the process and timeline. There was also a request to be mindful of inclusion and representation of all parts of our community including families of color during the process.

There was discussion about the Classical Conference. Nova was well-represented both in participants and in presenters. There was discussion about accessing some of the presentations and Dr. Johnson will look into that. (There will most likely be a cost.)

## **B. Board Chair Report**

Mr. Ross spoke about connecting with Dr. Wedlund and Ms. Gumbiner Hungs to talk about the strategic planning process, what our approach will be, what the deliverables might be, and so on.

## **C. Board Committees**

### **i. Governance Report**

There was no discussion.

### **ii. Finance and Budget Report**

Ms. Winter said that we're a quarter through the year and there are no surprises at this time.

### **iii. Academic Excellence Report**

Ms. Gumbiner Hungs gave a brief update from their last meeting.

## **D. Ad Hoc Committees**

## **E. NPTO Report**

Ms. Gray gave a reminder that their next meeting will be at 5:00 pm on November 9 via Zoom. The Nova Family Directory was sent to families that signed up for it; about 400 families have done so. The book fair was a success with 22 wish lists, about 3 videos per day, and at least 200 items were purchased. They have found a Great Gatherings Chair, but there are still needs for volunteers and project managers. There were thanks and discussion regarding the great work the NPTO has done.

## **F. Student Report**

Ms. Lynch gave an update regarding a successful Homecoming Week and Club Rush. It's a helpful way to introduce students (especially ninth graders) to the different clubs and there has been greater involvement due to it. The students also appreciated MEA Break. Ms. Lynch also spoke about the Senior Breakfast and a day dedicated to working on their thesis, students taking the PSAT, and mentioned several extra-curriculars wrapping up their seasons. Cross country and volleyball will hopefully do well in sectionals. The performance of *The Comedy of Errors* is this coming weekend. Finally, she mentioned a need to continue to be flexible with deadlines to help with students being overloaded to help with their overall mental health. There was discussion.

## **VII. Business**

### **A. 2022 Health Insurance Plan**

Ms. Estrella gave background information for this item and walked through her report in the board packet. There was discussion. Dr. Wedlund also spoke about the incredible planning that went into getting these lower bids and making the school more marketable. There was further discussion about the EDI feed and the process.

Ms. Lund, “Resolved, that the Board approves the recommended switch to Health Partners for employee benefits including the plan to use the savings to stabilize employee costs for the next two years. Additionally, Nova’s standard contribution will remain the same.” Ms. Gumbiner Hungs seconded. All present members and Dr. LaRusso voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

### **B. Executive Director Employment Agreement Process**

Mr. Ross gave background information.

Ms. Ross “Resolved, that the Board approves having the Board Chair, the Chair-Elect, and the Treasurer, along with input from our counsel, to work on a contract renewal with Dr. Wedlund.” Ms. Winter seconded. All present members and Dr. LaRusso voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

### **C. Strategic Planning Discussion**

Dr. Wedlund gave a big picture look at this as well as some background information. He asked the Board to discuss what we’re looking for in deliverables and what are our expectations of the process. This could be used to help us find a facilitator to work with us.

There was discussion about which example of a five-year plan did a good job of laying out its objectives that clearly supported its goals. There were lots of different pieces that the Board liked; overall the Board would like to see objectives to support the strategic goals, to include ways to involve our community (in the process, in achieving the goals, and in showing how the goals will support them), and to create a document that is understandable just by picking it up. Dr. LaRusso asked the Board to think about how well we’ve met/ used the goals from our current strategic plan; we need to be aware of the weeds without getting into the weeds. There was further discussion. Dr. Wedlund summarized the discussion by saying that the Board would like a plan that is concise, measurable, and link-in operations.

Dr. Wedlund asked the Board for additional input about the process. There was discussion. The Board would like to have facilitation rather than someone who fits our ideas into their framework.

He also asked the Board to think about what kind of commitments we’re willing to put into this regarding time and finances.

This discussion continued after the discussion of enrollment reporting (at 8:43). The Board is willing to spend around \$10,000, is thinking 10 – 15 hours, and wants to outsource expertise and have neutrality from a vendor. There was further discussion.

**D. Discussion of Enrollment Reporting**

There was discussion regarding the exit interviews and the data received in these. There was also discussion regarding what data is helpful and when to see it is helpful.

Ms. DeJesus Hernandez left at 8:16 PM.

There was further discussion regarding the information shown in the report and how to best utilize it. Dr. Wedlund suggested looking at the data mid-summer when all the numbers were in for the past school year and then in October to see how the current year is shaping up. The Board thought that would work well, especially if the administration gave an explanation of any story behind the numbers. There was further discussion.

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

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

**IX. Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Becky Lund.