

**Nova Classical Academy
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting – HELD ONLINE/REMOTELY
January 25, 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, Joe Aliperto (Dieci School Finance), Shannon Hinz (FoE), Ginger Gabor (NPTO), Sarah Jeong (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. Update on Covid

Dr. Wedlund spoke about today's announcement about the number of vaccines available for metro educators including 48 for Nova educators.

III. Business Meeting: Approval of Agenda

Frank Ross arrived at 6:07 pm/

Mr. Belter moved to approve the agenda. Ms. Ruday 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. Consent Agenda

- A. 2nd reading/ potential approval of revised policy NP 707 (Health Insurance)
- B. 2nd reading/ potential approval of new policy NP 307 (Counting All Students)
- C. 1st reading of revised policy NP 206 (Board Orientation/Training)
- D. Contracted Services Agreement with Oswald Transportation Consulting Services
- E. Regular December 5th minutes
- F. Special December 21st minutes

Mr. Belter moved to approve the consent agenda. Ms. Lund 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.

V. Public Comment

Electronic public comment was submitted by David and Anna Lipman suggesting options for Nova to consider to better support families regarding child care if Nova is not returning to in-person learning.

VI. Reports received by the Board.

A. Executive Director Report

Dr. Wedlund added a couple of other items. Normally in January we would begin talking about enrollment and over-enrollment based on the following year's budget. However, this will most likely have to wait until March because of information we don't have yet. Applications are down approximately 10-15% from last year, but they are still a healthy number. We are also not ready to present the academic calendar for next year. Dr. Wedlund also recognized the work of our paraprofessionals (EAs).

There was discussion regarding having a special board meeting to look at a plan for getting students back in school. There was further discussion about the additional items.

B. Board Chair Report

Ms. Nelson gave an update on funding from the state. She reviewed what happened in 2012 with the 40% holdback. Right now it looks like there might not be a holdback, but more information will come in the spring when the state looks at its budget. MACS is pushing hard for no holdback, especially for charter schools.

C. Board Committees

i. Governance Report

There was no discussion.

ii. Finance and Budget Report

There was no discussion.

iii. Academic Excellence Report

There was no report this month.

D. Ad Hoc Committees

E. NPTO Report

Mrs. Gabor gave an update on a grant for staff appreciation that was used by the administration to create some "cozy" gifts for staff. She also spoke about their advisory boards for Upper School and Lower School that meet every other month. She also highlighted the new parent coffees over Zoom including one this Thursday. Finally, there is a yard sign fundraiser coming up. The next meeting is February 2nd on Zoom.

F. Student Report

Ms. Jeong spoke about several school events including Student Senate events and reading buddies. Several extra-curricular activities are going on like Mock Trial, robotics, and theater, all of which have been working hard to adapt to meeting over Zoom. Boys and girls basketball teams are also doing well with practices and games. Students are working hard to participate in clubs and co-curriculars along with school work. Ms. Jeong also stated that a lot of students were ready for a fresh start mindset with the new semester, some are also struggling to stay on top of school work. Seniors have been discussing their year in general and feeling like they're losing their senior year.

Dr. Wedlund also spoke about Ms. Jeong's book which was written through her work on the Green Team and then presented to the Lower School in the January 11th daily announcements. Well done!

VII. Business

A. Revised Budget

Dr. Wedlund gave a quick overview of the revised FY 2021 budget. It is recommended by the Finance and Budget Committee. Some major changes include the state and federal grants and the loss of funds in several areas like donations and fees. He spoke about some reallocations to better reflect spending due to Covid. There is a \$350,000 net income projected at this time, which would result in a 40% fund balance. There was discussion.

Ms. Lund, “Resolved that the Board approve the revised FY 2021 budget.” Ms. Gumbiner Hungs 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.

B. Line of Credit Renewal

Dr. Wedlund spoke about the past recommendation to raise Nova’s line of credit and stated that we’d been waiting to have a better idea of what was going to happen at a state budget level before making a final determination. Given what we know now, we don’t need as large a line of credit as had been discussed.

Ms. Gumbiner Hungs, “Resolved that Dr. Wedlund has the authority to enter into negotiations with the bank to renew a \$1.5 million line of credit.” Ms. Ruday 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. Executive Director Review Committee

Ms. Lund, Resolved, that the Executive Director Review ad hoc committee be created to work with the Executive Director to set yearly goals and to support the Executive Director in achieving these goals. This committee shall be chaired by Frank Ross (the Chair-Elect) and include Claudia Gumbiner Hungs, Divya Karan, Nick LaRusso, and Becky Lund as members.” Ms. Ruday 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.

D. FY20 Financial Audit

Dennis Hoogeve presented the executive audit summary of the audit from CliftonLarsonAllenLLP for FY2020. They issued a clean, unmodified audit again this year. He gave some background information about the audit process and mentioned that we’re in a comparatively good place to meet the needs of an unknown future regarding state funding. Mr. Hoogeve also highlighted some areas of the report including our ending fund balance and final expenditures. There were no governmental findings for FY2020. The only legal compliance finding was late payment of bills, but the audit already includes a corrective action plan.

Mr. Belter, “Resolved, the Board accept the auditor’s report for FY2020.” Ms. Hernandez 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. Review of Learning Model

Dr. Wedlund reviewed the new information, but mentioned that it doesn't mean that we're able to change immediately; changes take time to implement. He then shared county health data, CDC guidance, data from staff and family surveys (done about two weeks ago), and Nova's original plan for prioritization of vaccines (which will now change based on new data). There was discussion. Dr. Wedlund asked to bring back K-12 students who receive special education services to receive services that are the hardest to provide in a distance learning model. These students would have multiple data points that show they are not making progress towards their goals. They would be brought back for services primarily on Wednesdays. There was discussion.

Dr. Wedlund shared the answers to some frequent questions he's been receiving including what he means by "consistent", why Nova has remained in distance learning when other schools are not, and is it true that Nova will not return to in person until all staff are vaccinated.

At this time, Dr. Wedlund recommended that most students remain in a distance learning model, but that the Board revisit this at the February 22nd board meeting. If new information comes in, a special board meeting could be held before then. He also asks that the Board approve the proposed addendum to begin bringing back qualifying students on February 15. There was discussion.

Ms. Lund, "Resolved, that the Board approves the addendum to the Safely ReuKNIGHTed plan to provide in-person services to qualifying students beginning February 15. At this time, all other students will continue in the distance learning model." Dr. LaRusso 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. Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items

The next regular board meeting will be on February 22, 2021. As more information is known about vaccines and other related plans, there may be a special board meeting before then.

IX. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Becky Lund.