

**Nova Classical Academy
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting
May 20, 2024**

Directors Present: Nneka Constantino, Colleen Hansen, Becky Lund, Suzanne McInroy, Todd Sample, Bavi Weston

Directors Absent: Jeremy Hubbell, Sasha Ross, Theresa Nelson (attended via Zoom, but did not give 3 days notice)

Advisors Present: Brett Wedlund, Tamra Paschall, Brooke Tousignant (via Zoom), **Missy Johnson, Kriscel Estrella** (via Zoom), **Demekech Williams** (Student Representative via Zoom), **Heather Meeker** (NPTO Representative)

Others in Attendance: Nova staff, parents, students (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. Suzanne McInroy chaired the meeting.

II. Business Meeting: Approval of Agenda

Ms. Lund moved to approve the agenda. Ms. Weston seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Consent Agenda

- A. FY 25 Contracted Services agreement with Indigo Education for Special Education Director services
- B. Transportation Services agreement with St. Paul School of Northern Lights for SY25
- C. Contracted Services agreement with Teachers on Call for substitute teachers for SY25
- D. Upper School Principal contract with Tamra Paschall for SY25-27
- E. Contracted Services agreement with Playworks for SY25
- F. Accept the results of the 2024 Board Election: Heather Meeker for the 3-year Parent Seat and Chris Shepard for the 3-year Teacher Seat
- G. 2nd reading/potential approval of revised policy NP 707 (Health Insurance)
- H. 2nd reading/potential approval of revised policy 807 (Health and Safety)
- I. 1st reading of revised policy 533 (Wellness)
- J. 1st reading of revised policy NP 304 (Gifted and Talented Services)
- K. April 2024 minutes

Ms. Weston moved to approve the consent agenda. Ms. Lund seconded. There was discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Board Training

Laura Buri presented [information](#) about the work being done by Nova Classical's Equity Team and some of their future work. There was discussion.

Ms. Hansen arrived at 6:20.

V. Public Comment

Parent Heather Meeker spoke about Comedy Sportz and having opportunities for the School of Logic to gain some social skills practice (like Playworks with the Lower School).

VI. Reports received by the Board

A. Executive Director Report

Dr. Wedlund highlighted the update on the progress with the Strategic Plan and how there are only four remaining items out of the 21 that were goals set for this year. He also spoke about hiring and how we're seeing many more applicants for instructional positions than we have since the pandemic. Dr. Wedlund gave a brief legislative update including charter schools still not receiving safe schools funding, several READ Act changes, a delay to the civic graduation requirement, World's Best Workforce was renamed, at least 5 new policies are required including a requirement for charter schools to do competitive bidding for any contract of \$25,000 and if we don't, MDE can dock funding for the amount of the contract. Dr. Wedlund also spoke about the MACS Innovation award and that Nova Classical was a finalist with our Retain the Best initiatives. There was discussion regarding the MCAs and legislative changes.

B. Board Chair Report

Ms. McInroy mentioned that she's reviewed the Board goals and that we're on track to complete them; we'll look at them in June.

C. Board Committees

i. Governance Report

There was no discussion.

ii. Finance and Budget Report

There was no discussion.

iii. ED Review Committee

There will be a closed session at the end of the meeting to discuss the ED review.

iv. Academic Excellence Report

There was no report this month. They will meet in June.

D. Student Representative Report

Ms. Williams spoke about the hard work to wrap up the school year as well as the rewards and things to look forward to. She mentioned the Battle of the Books, the Fun Run/Color Run, AP testing, the upcoming Ascott, *Macbeth*, and the NHS's clothing drive. Seniors are preparing for the early end of the school year and will celebrate Decision Day on Wednesday and graduation on June 2.

E. NPTO Report

Mrs. Meeker spoke about the last meeting of the year last Tuesday, which included a presentation about the history of charter schools from Dr. Wedlund. The NPTO also spoke about their budget, nominating new people to their committees, the need for a Vice Chair, disbanding the US Parent Advisory Council and doing a Senior Committee instead. Mrs. Meeker also spoke about Great Gatherings and creating an event that speaks to a larger amount of our community. Finally, they are looking for volunteers for ice cream for the last day of school.

VII. Business

A. Defining Classical Education (Components 2 – 4)

Dr. Johnson and Ms. Lund [presented](#) a definition of classical education written at/below an 8th grade reading level, an example of what classical education would look like if someone were learning how to play soccer, and a series of questions to help faculty determine if what they're doing is classical or not.

Ms. Weston, “Resolved, that the Board approves the presented items on classical components 2 - 4”. Ms. Hansen seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

B. FY25 Board Meeting Calendar

Ms. Hansen, “Resolved, that the Board approves the SY25 board meeting dates.” Ms. Lund seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Reporting on SY24 Communication Goals.

Dr. Wedlund gave background information regarding the communication goals, starting with the audit and plan. He also shared information from this year's communication survey and which goals have been met, partially met, or not met. There was discussion. Future opportunities include creating channels for students and families to share highlights with social media and sharing items for the various newsletters. There was discussion about prospective families navigating our website.

D. Dissolution of Extracurricular Co-ops

Dr. Wedlund gave background information regarding co-ops in general and Nova Classical's co-ops specifically in the motion below. There was discussion.

Ms. Lund, “Resolved, that the Board approves the dissolution of the football co-op with Nova Classical, St. Croix Lutheran Academy, Unity High School, and Meadow Lake Woods Academy.

Further resolved, that the Board approves the dissolution of the girls soccer, boys cross country, girls cross country, boys basketball, girls basketball, and boys soccer co-ops with Fit Academy.” Ms. Hansen seconded. Ms. Hansen, Ms. Lund, Ms. McInroy, Mr. Sample, and Ms. Weston voted in favor. Ms. Constantino abstained. The motion passed.

E. Resolution for Membership in the MSHSL

Ms. Lund, “Resolved, that the Governing Board or Entity of Nova Classical Academy located in the state of Minnesota delegates the control, supervision, and regulation of interscholastic activities and athletics (referred to in MN Statutes, Section 128C.01) to the Minnesota State High School League, and so hereby certifies to the State Commissioner of Education as provided for by Minnesota Statutes.

Further resolved, that the school listed is authorized by this, the Governing Board of said school district or school to renew its membership in the Minnesota State High School League; and to participate in the approved interscholastic activities and athletics sponsored by said League and its various subdivisions.

Further resolved, that this Governing Board or Entity hereby adopts the Constitution, Bylaws, Policies, Rules and Regulations of said League and all the amendments thereto as the same as are published in the latest edition of the League's *Official Handbook*, on file at the office of the school district or school, or as appears on the League's website, as the minimum standards governing participation in said League-sponsored activities and athletics. Further, the administration and

responsibility for determining student eligibility and for the supervision of such activities and athletics are assigned to the official representatives identified by this Governing Board or Entity.” Ms. Hansen seconded. There was discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Lund, “Resolved, the Board appoints Brett Wedlund and Colleen Hansen as our official representatives.” Ms. Weston seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Lund, “Resolved, that the meeting be extended until the end of the closed session.” Ms. Hansen seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Closed Session

The meeting was closed as permitted by section 13D.05, subdivision 3(a) to evaluate the performance of the Executive Director. When the meeting was reopened, the following summary was given:

The Board finds that Dr. Wedlund is highly effective in completing the duties of the Executive Director and in meeting the goals set for SY24.

IX. Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items

The next regular board meeting will be on Monday, June 24, 2024.

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Becky Lund.