

**Nova Classical Academy  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
January 31, 2022**

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

**Directors Absent:**

**Advisors Present:** Brett Wedlund, Michael Pelofske, Brooke Tousignant, Missy Johnson, Joe Aliperto (via Zoom), Kriscel Estrella (via Zoom), Heather Gray (NPTO), Evan Odegard (Student Representative), Shannon Hintz (FOE Representative, via Zoom)

**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 6:07 pm. Frank Ross led the meeting.

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

Ms. Lund moved to approve the agenda with the small change of moving FY22 Budget to be first in the business agenda. Ms. Gumbiner Hungs seconded. All present members, Ms. Karan, and Ms. Winter voted in favor. Dr. LaRusso was having technical difficulties and could not vote. The motion passed.

**III. Consent Agenda**

- A. 2<sup>nd</sup> reading/ potential approval of revised policy NP 500 (Electronic Devices)
- B. 2<sup>nd</sup> reading/ potential approval of revised policy 110 (Data Retention)
- C. 2<sup>nd</sup> reading/ potential approval of revised policy NP 204 (Election of Board Members)
- D. November 29, 2021 Board Minutes

Ms. Hernandez moved to approve the consent agenda. Ms. Ross seconded. There was discussion. All present members, Ms. Karan, and Ms. Winter voted in favor. Dr. LaRusso was having technical difficulties and could not vote. The motion passed.

**IV. Public Comment**

Electronic public comment was submitted by Petra Kohler Rieke. She was in favor of changing Nova's quarantining policy to match the updated guidance from MDE and CDC.

**V. Board Training**

There was no training at this meeting.

**VI. Reports received by the Board**

**A. Executive Director Report**

Dr. Wedlund highlighted several items in his report including staff retention, renewing our contract with FOE for five years (the maximum allowed), and the communications audit. There was discussion regarding hourly-paid employees.

There were also congratulations on the work to renew our contract with FOE. There was discussion regarding a Community Engagement Coordinator position.

Nick LaRusso left at 6:29 pm and rejoined the meeting at 6:31 pm.

There was discussion regarding the development of the communications plan. There was also discussion regarding what might be an issue towards finalizing our renewal contract (none of which we're anticipating).

## **B. Board Chair Report**

There was no report this month.

## **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 discussion.

## **D. Ad Hoc Committees**

## **E. Executive Director Review Committee**

Ms. Gumbiner Hungs spoke about the survey to get board member feedback on Dr. Wedlund's goals for the year. A link has been sent to board members. There was discussion.

## **F. NPTO Report**

Ms. Gabore highlighted that the NPTO served winter treats to the US and hosted a Davanni's fundraiser. She also mentioned that the Great Gatherings Kick-Off has been moved to May 14 so we can enjoy gathering outside. Upper School Advisory continues to meet online. The NPTO is looking for a few more volunteers and will be meeting again tomorrow. (That Zoom link is in the Nova calendar.)

## **G. Student Report**

Mr. Odegard spoke about lots of school events and activities including the switch to semester 2, the SoL game night, boys and girls basketball, one act plays, and that our top mock trial team is undefeated so far. Lunch clubs are going strong. NHS has been running ACT tutoring and the student Senate is gearing up for Snow Days. Students are reporting a fairly stress-free transition to semester 2 although Covid (omicron) has caused some stress with quarantining. There was discussion about senior stress, which has lessened now that all college applications are done. There was discussion regarding how student stress with Covid is manifesting during the day. Mr. Odegard highlighted a few areas, but said that most students are feeling hopeful, especially since we haven't had to switch to distance learning.

## **VII. Business**

### **A. Revisions to the FY22 Budget**

Mr. Aliperto and Dr. Wedlund gave background information regarding the revisions. There was some clarifying discussion.

Ms. Ross, “Resolved, that the Board approves the revised FY22 budget.” Ms. Lund seconded. All present members, Ms. Karan, Dr. LaRusso and Ms. Winter voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

**B. FY22-23 School Calendar**

Dr. Wedlund presented the FY22-23 school calendar and the process to gather information to develop it. There was discussion.

Ms. Ruday, “Resolved, that the Board accepts the proposed FY22-23 school calendar with the change that Wednesday, November 23, 2022 would be a school closed day instead of a staff work day.” Dr. LaRusso seconded. All present members, Ms. Karan, Dr. LaRusso and Ms. Winter voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

**C. Revised Policy NP 803 (Quarantining)**

Dr. Wedlund gave background information about why we’re removing any referral to the MDE’s decision tree (they’re not updating it) and what the changes to follow current MDE and CDC guidelines would mean. There was discussion.

Ms. Hungs, “Resolved, that the Board approves revised policy NP 801 (Quarantining) beginning immediately for any staff member and for any currently quarantining student scheduled to return February 7 or later.” Ms. Ruday seconded. All present members, Ms. Karan and Ms. Winter voted in favor. Dr. LaRusso was having technical difficulties and could not vote. The motion passed.

**VIII. Closed Session**

The meeting was closed as permitted by section 13D.05 for the purpose of preliminary negotiations for the Executive Director contract.

The meeting was reopened and the following summary of the closed session was given: Dr. LaRusso, “Resolved, that the Board agreed to move forward in adding the two requested provisions to Dr. Wedlund’s contract.” Ms. Winter seconded. There was discussion. Ms. Hernandez, Ms. Hungs, Dr. LaRusso, Ms. Lund, Mr. Ross, Ms. Ross, Ms. Ruday, and Ms. Winter voted for. Ms. Karan abstained. The motion passed.

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

The next regular board meeting will be on February 28, 2022.

**X. Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Becky Lund.