

Executive Director's Report to the Board

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8th Annual Minnesota Classical Education Conference: Staff Participation and Highlights

I'm pleased to share that several Nova Classical Academy staff members presented at the 8th Annual Minnesota Classical Education Conference, "Deepening Inquiry: Cultivating Seekers of Knowledge." Their sessions were well-received, and I'd like to take a moment to recognize their outstanding contributions.

Becky Lund and Sara Seal led a session titled *The Full Spectrum of the Trivium*, where they explored how the trivium's stages can ebb and flow based on student needs. Their presentation, aimed at newer classical educators, offered valuable insights into making the most of pedagogical approaches at different learning stages.

Jacob Larson and Shannon Hooge presented *From Architecture to Class Structure: Utilizing David Dewane's Eudaimonia Machine as a Class Structure for Fostering Deep-Inquiry and Focus*. They demonstrated how this architectural concept can be applied to classroom structures to foster deep focus and inquiry among students. The session was particularly beneficial for educators working with both general and special education students.

Finally, Dr. Missy Johnson co-presented *Deepening Inquiry Using Qualitative Data* with Dr. Steven Bourgeois, providing valuable strategies for gathering and analyzing qualitative feedback from students to improve teaching methods. She also led a session on *The Great Conversation*, focusing on how classical education helps students reflect on their place in the world through key themes from historical literature.

I want to thank all the Nova staff for their hard work and dedication to advancing classical education practices. Their contributions not only showcase the excellence of our educators but also position Nova as a leader in the classical education community.

Legal Counsel Engagement

As mentioned in previous updates, we have continued to consult with Craig Kepler from Best & Flanagan, who has historically represented Nova in real estate and expansion-related legal matters. This ongoing relationship has provided continuity in addressing zoning concerns for the project, and we anticipate his assistance will continue to streamline the legal processes as we move forward.

CAP Grant and Site Assessment

I'm pleased to report that Nova Classical Academy has secured a \$25,000 CAP Grant from Ramsey County, which will fund a thorough site assessment of the vacant property. Many thanks to Jesse Prins for his diligent work on the grant application process. We are working with Braun Intertec to conduct the necessary site evaluations, including soil borings that took place last week. This is a crucial step in assessing the site's viability for future development.

Overall Communications Plan with CEL PR

We are collaborating with CEL PR to create a comprehensive communications plan for the expansion project. Earlier this week, Jesse and I met with the CEL team to establish a timeline and develop strategies for keeping our community informed throughout the process. This plan will use multiple communication channels, including Nova News, and provide transparency on key Board decisions. We aim to ensure that parents, staff, and the wider community understand the project's objectives and progress.

Project Timeline and Next Steps

We are targeting a November presentation to the Board to review the schematic design and funding proposals. This may occur during a regular or special Board meeting. Once feedback is gathered, we hope to position the Board for a final decision by the end of January. We are nearing completion of the building design and will soon shift focus to the mechanical and material details. RA Morton has been engaged to provide detailed cost estimates, which will aid in making bonding projections for the project. Additionally, I plan to present a proposal for restructuring the management team and updating our strategic action plan if the Board decides to move forward with the expansion.