

**Nova Classical Academy
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting – HELD ONLINE/REMOTELY
August 24, 2020**

Directors Present: Jason Belter, Mel Hernandez, Claudia Gumbiner Hungs, Becky Lund, Theresa Nelson, Diane Ruday, Jennie Winter

Directors Absent: Divya Karan, Nick LaRusso, Frank Ross

Advisors Present: Brett Wedlund, Michael Pelofske, Brooke Tousignant, Missy Johnson, Ginger Gabor (NPTO), Shannon Hinz (FoE)

Others in Attendance: Nova staff and parents

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm. Theresa Nelson led the meeting.

II. Business Meeting: Approval of Agenda

Ms. Lund moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Belter seconded. A role call vote was held. Mr. Belter, Ms. Gumbiner Hungs, Ms. Lund, Ms. Nelson, Ms. Ruday, and Ms. Winter voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Consent Agenda

- A. July Board Minutes
- B. Approve Updated Policy 402 - Disability Nondiscrimination
- C. Approve Updated Policy 410 - Family and Medical Leave
- D. Approve Updated Policy 413 - Violence and Harassment
- E. Approve Updated Policy 414 - Mandated Reporting
- F. Approve Updated Policy 506 - Student Discipline
- G. Approve Updated Policy 514 - Bully Prohibition
- H. Approve Updated Policy 515 - Protection and Privacy of Student Records
- I. Approve Updated Policy 521 - Student Disability Nondiscrimination
- J. Approve Updated Policy 522 - Student Sex Nondiscrimination
- K. Approve Updated Policy 524 - Internet Acceptable Use
- L. Approve Updated Policy 526 - Hazing Prohibition
- M. Approve Updated Policy NP 601 - Gender Inclusion
- N. Approve Updated Policy 806 - Crisis Management
- O. 1st Reading of NEW Policy (#TBD) Tele-related Services
- P. Approve Governance Committee Goals

Ms. Lund moved to approve the consent agenda with the addition of the Finance & Budget Committee Goals as presented in the F&B report. Ms. Winter seconded. There was discussion. A role call vote was held. Mr. Belter, Ms. Gumbiner Hungs, Ms. Lund, Ms. Nelson, Ms. Ruday, and Ms. Winter voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Public Comment

Patty Mathews suggested that the Board add a second time for public comment at the end of the board meetings.

V. Classical Education Training

Sara Seal and Becky Lund presented a synopsis of the classical education training given to the faculty during in-service week. They spoke about the importance of Truth, Beauty, and Goodness as classical ideals and as a necessary part of education. Their slide presentation, including some comments from the faculty during their training, is at [Truth, Beauty, Goodness Presentation](#).

Mel Hernandez arrived during the training.

VI. Reports received by the Board.

A. Executive Director Report

Dr. Wedlund gave an overview of the items in his report including the deadline for the annual report being moved to December, the delay in getting the line of credit as the money won't be needed at this time, and an update on the professional development for staff. He mentioned that 95% of his job has been around Covid-related items. There was discussion about the professional development for the year.

B. Board Chair Report

Ms. Nelson spoke about working with Dr. Wedlund to be aware of the ongoing things that impact the school and what they look like at a board level.

C. Board Committees

i. Governance Report

There was no discussion.

ii. Finance and Budget Report

There was discussion about the PPP money (1.2 million). Dr. Wedlund reviewed the process and the Board's decision to apply for the money. He said that there is still some ambiguity regarding qualifications for loan forgiveness, so we're waiting for the end of the grant application window for more clarity.

Ms. Winter gave the background behind the two motions proposed in the Finance and Budget report.

iii. Academic Excellence Report

Academic Excellence hasn't met like it typically would at this time of year as there isn't any data from spring standardized tests this year. They will try to meet once the school year has progressed and begin looking at what data is possible to review and go from there.

D. Ad Hoc Committees

E. NPTO Report

Mrs. Gabor said that the next NPTO meeting will be on September 1 and that they're still looking for a Vice Chair. She also said that they're working on directory and looking at other ways to do community events since the first day of school coffees weren't happening this year.

VII. Business

A. Budget Updates

Dr. Wedlund gave an overview of the Coronavirus Relief Fund money from the CARES Act and that it can become a grant. It will be used for equipment and supplies. There was discussion about the budget and what requires Board approval.

Ms. Winter, “Resolved, that the Board creates a \$246,000 Covid line item upon verification of the Coronavirus Relief Fund and that the Board renames and recodes the \$60,000 technology line item as a contingency fund.” Ms. Ruday seconded. There was discussion. A roll call vote was held. Mr. Belter, Ms. Hernandez, Ms. Gumbiner Hungs, Ms. Lund, Ms. Nelson, Ms. Ruday, and Ms. Winter voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Covid Update

Dr. Wedlund gave an update on the start of the school year in distance learning, which will continue at least until September 28. Today was the first day of school and only 23 out over 400 Lower School students were digitally absent; 94% had signed in to Google Classroom. Data for the Upper School was not available at this time, but the students had picked up their materials last week.

Technology and child care needs have increased since last spring. Nearly three times as many devices have been requested, including most of the 75 new Chromebooks that were purchased. There are also nearly three times as many children in child care (25 – 35 per day compared to 10 in the spring.) There has not been much of an increase in food service; the numbers are similar to what we saw in the spring.

Dr. Wedlund has been tracking what other schools and districts are doing for their learning scenarios. St. Paul Public Schools is doing distance learning to start and will review that decision in late September with a change possibly occurring in mid-October. MACS asked 104 school leaders about their charter schools and found that 35% are starting with full distance learning, 36% are doing some kind of hybrid plan, 11% are fully in-person, and 8% are still undecided. There was discussion.

There was discussion regarding a timeline and the data to be used to evaluate Nova’s learning model. Dr. Wedlund said that he’d want to see health data and trends that show we could stay in a less-restrictive model, needed to be sure that Nova could cover staffing and other real needs for plans, and knew that transportation would be covered. There was discussion about how to proceed with deciding Nova’s learning model going forward. It was decided that Ms. Nelson would call a special board meeting next week to discuss this further and for the Board to work with the administration to determine what Nova will do after September 28.

VIII. Board Meeting Evaluation

The Board agreed that members were prepared and that the strategic goals were discussed during the meeting, often as a part of the Corona updates, with the exception of reviewing Executive Director goals. There were no items that needed more attention at this time.

IX. Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items

The next regular board meeting will be September 28, 2020, beginning at 6:00 pm. There will be a special meeting called in the next two weeks for the Board to make a decision regarding which learning model Nova will be in after September 28.

X. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Becky Lund.