

## Executive Director's Report to the Board

**Date of the Report:** September 13, 2023

**Report Prepared By:** Dr. Brett Wedlund



### Strategic Plan Updates

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**Goal 8:** Provide classroom and extracurricular facilities which support our mission.

**Objective 8.1:** Nova Classical will complete a comprehensive facilities review analyzing current and projected educational and extracurricular needs as well as identifying scenarios and options to address current and future facility needs.

**Strategy:** Research and select vendor for facility needs analysis.

**Stage:** In progress.

**Update:** A facilities made up of 2 Board members, 2 members of the leadership team, and 2 members of the building company has vetted and met with multiple vendors. They will be bringing an agreement with a vendor to the Board tonight. Upon approval, we will consider this strategy to be completed and will be moving on to begin work of the facilities needs analysis.

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**Goal 9:** Recruit develop and retain a diverse highly skilled staff who exemplify the virtues of Nova Classical.

**Objective 9.1:** All staff will receive personalized support and professional development to help them thrive and succeed.

**Strategy:** New staff members receive additional meeting times with their supervisors during the first 6 months of their employment at Nova to ensure expectations are understood and questions are answered.

**Stage:** Complete

**Update:** All Nova Classical supervisors, with new hires who have started employment with Nova Classical for the 2023-2024 year, have scheduled meetings with new staff in accordance with this strategy. For staff hired for roles within the instructional day, these meetings are at least bi-weekly. For extracurriculars, there are meetings taking place early in each season with the Activities Director.

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**Goal 6:** Identify and transform systems that contribute to inequities.

**Objective 6.1:** Nova Classical will evaluate the fairness of its policies, programs and practices.

**Strategy:** Complete and equity audit.

**Stage:** In progress.

**Update:** Work has begun on the audit being conducted by the Equity Literacy Institute. They have reviewed several of Nova's Board policies and provided their written feedback to the Governance Committee and also had a debrief with the committee on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Between now and the October Board meeting, additional work will be completed including surveys being distributed to Nova staff, families and students in 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades. In addition, during this time period, the Equity Literacy Institute will have staff members on site at Nova to complete walk throughs of the building and hold focus group sessions with multiple stakeholder groups.

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### Enrollment

As of this Tuesday September 12 Nova Classical Academy has 1038 students enrolled for the 2023-2024 school year. This figure demonstrates an increase from the projected 1012 students outlined in the FY24 budget. As the academic year commences for St. Paul and several other school systems next week, we anticipate the potential for further student movement in the upcoming week and anticipate that we will end up with an enrollment of around 1033. It's important to note that official student counts are to be submitted to the Department of Education on October 1st. That official count will be incorporated into our next budget revision.

### SchoolDigger Results

School Digger serves as a widely utilized school ranking website for families exploring enrollment options. Annually, they update their rankings, taking various factors into account, including MCA test scores. Just this week, SchoolDigger unveiled their 2023 rankings, which positioned Nova Classical Academy impressively. Specifically, the rankings designated Nova Classical Academy as the third-ranked district in Minnesota out of 448, the 35th-ranked elementary school out of 845, the 8th-ranked middle school out of 529, and the top-ranked high school out of 476.

While our organization's primary objective doesn't revolve around achieving high rankings, these outcomes underscore the efficacy of our instructional approach and the unwavering dedication of our staff and students.

### **Facilities Needs Analysis**

During the past few weeks, the Facilities Needs Analysis Committee has engaged in meetings with potential vendors to assist us in conducting a comprehensive facility needs analysis for this year. The team comprises representatives from the school's administration, the school board, and Friends of Nova (our landlord). Following these productive discussions, the committee is looking forward to presenting a selected vendor for approval to the Board during the September Board meeting.

### **Student Article**

We're excited to share that Maria Odegard, a 10th-grade student of ours, recently achieved a remarkable milestone. Her article, spotlighting the crucial topic of student mental health, was published in MinnPost. You can read her insightful piece by following this link: <https://www.minnpost.com/threesixty-journalism/2023/08/minnesota-dhs-prioritizes-teen-mental-health/>