

**Nova Classical Academy
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting
August 18, 2025**

Directors Present: Teo Flesher, Colleen Hansen, Shannon Hooge, Becky Lund, Heather Meeker, Todd Sample, Chris Shepard, Bavi Weston, Lisa Wikman

Directors Absent:

Advisors Present: Brett Wedlund, Tamra Paschall, Abby Kelley-Hands, Carolyn Farrell (via Zoom), Missy Johnson (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 5:59 pm. Bavi Weston chaired the meeting.

II. Business Meeting: Approval of Agenda

There was discussion to see if there was a financial statement included in the board packet. Dr. Wedlund will add it.

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

III. Future Training Topics

Ms. Weston presented three topics for upcoming board trainings including a budget deep-dive in September, training with the Pedagogical Leads in October of November, and then a training on advocacy for Nova Classical specifically and charter schools in general. There was discussion. Some other topics suggested included more from Friends of Education, fundraising, and what classical education looks like at a classroom level. There was also discussion of past trainings that were especially helpful.

IV. Public Comment

Sarah Rogers-Tanner, former Nova Classical faculty, submitted electronic public comment explaining her frustrations with low pay and high workload. She stated that 27 students are too much for a first grade class.

V. Consent Agenda

- A. Contracted Service Agreement with Summit Property Services for Snow Removal
- B. August HR Report
- C. June 30, 2025 Board Minutes
- D. Approve Budget and Finance Committee goals

Mr. Hooge moved to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Shepard seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. **Reports received by the Board**

A. **Executive Director Report**

Dr. Wedlund highlighted a few items in his report including staffing (we're currently fully staffed for the school year) and an enrollment update. There was discussion.

B. **Board Chair Report**

Ms. Weston spoke about four proposed board goals; one on training and development, one on making decisions regarding the expansion, one supporting the Executive Director with the expansion, and one on academic progress. There was discussion. Mr. Sample suggested adding a goal regarding the progress of the strategic plan. She will present these for next month for the Board to vote on.

C. **Board Committees**

a. **Governance Report**

There was no report.

b. **Budget and Finance Report**

Mr. Sample highlighted that the committee spent most of their time this month looking at the June financials as that was the end of the financial year. Nova Classical ended enrollment on budget; our actual revenue matched our budgeted. Our expenditures were 101% of budgeted, but we still currently have a surplus of approximately \$184,000. Our two areas that continue to operate at a loss are athletics/ extracurriculars and school lunch. Scholar Zone consistently runs a surplus. Mr. Sample also reviewed the B&F goals for SY26. There was discussion.

c. **ED Review Committee**

Ms. Hansen presented the committee goals and the calendar for the year. There was discussion.

d. **Academic Excellence Report**

There was no report. They will meet in September and set their goals at that time.

D. **NPTO Report**

Ms. Meeker shared that there is a new NPTO board chair, Joshkin Sezer, and committee members. She also spoke about other amazing volunteers and the work they've been doing over the summer including finding corporate sponsors, developing a new NPTO website, upgrading their membership toolkit, and staffing tables at the back-to-school open houses this week. She also spoke about the adults-only Great Gathering kick-off and looking for more people to host gatherings. She also highlighted the Carnival and the Bookfair. There was discussion.

VII. **Business**

A. **Expansion Update**

Dr. Wedlund shared that the work continues to be fast and furious. He shared that our variance requests zoning request went to the St. Paul Zoning Committee and they were unanimously approved to be recommended to the Planning Committee, which hasn't met yet.

On the project side, they've been very busy on the project manager at large and have moved the deadline back to get more potential bids. Dr. Wedlund shared some more specifics about addendums that have been added to the RFP, which are a typical part of this process. He also ran through the next steps including several other contracts. Ultimately, the hope is that the contracts would be ready no later than the September board meeting.

On the bonding side, they had a conversation with S&P the first week of August. They will bring it to committee likely this week and we'll get their written draft mid-week next week. We're asking that they affirm our BB+ rating, which determines our interest rates on any bonding.

Last week we had our HRA meeting and presented our project and bonding. Their questions were mainly about increasing enrollment. The next step with this is a public hearing this coming Wednesday before they can vote on conduit bonding. Dr. Wedlund gave some more details about that meeting. The HRA will vote to recommend bonding to the St. Paul City

Council; 4 of their 7 members must vote to approve. If that happens, it goes on the consent agenda of the City Council. Dr. Wedlund gave a few more updates on other continuing work.

Dr. Wedlund spoke about draw schedules and how long we might be holding money that could earn interest. He gave some potential examples. Dr. Wedlund also spoke about working with PiperSandler on other areas for helping with funding.

He finished by saying that this project continues to take up two-thirds of his and Mr. Prins' time. There was discussion.

B. Board Member Oath of Office

To meet the requirements of MN Statute 358.05, all members of a charter school board must take an oath of office. Nova Classical board members promise to uphold three duties: duty of care, duty of loyalty, and duty of obedience.

Mr. Shepard raised a question about rediscussing class size at the board level. There was discussion. Ms. Weston suggested looking at potential next steps at our December retreat. Dr. Wedlund reviewed the strategic plan and the goal being "Nova Classical will review its class sizes.", not to make recommendations based on the review. There was further discussion. The Board will add possible next steps to our December agenda.

VIII. Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items

The next regular board meeting will be on Monday, September 29, 2025.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Becky Lund.