

**Nova Classical Academy
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting
October 28, 2024**

Directors Present: Shannon Hooge, Becky Lund, Suzanne McInroy, Heather Meeker, Todd Sample, Chris Shepard, Bavi Weston

Directors Absent: Colleen Hansen

Advisors Present: Brett Wedlund, Tamra Paschall (via Zoom), **Missy Johnson, Mona Camara** (Student Representative), **Ginger Gabor, Jesse Prins**

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 6:00 pm. Suzanne McInroy chaired the meeting.

II. Business Meeting: Approval of Agenda

Ms. Lund moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Shepard seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Consent Agenda

- A. October 2024 HR Updates
- B. Accept the 2024 Election Report
- C. Yearly review/potential approval of revised policy 514 (Bullying Prohibition)
- D. 1st reading of revised policy 506 (Discipline)
- E. 1st reading of replacement policy 522 (Title IX)
- F. September 20, 2024 board minutes

Ms. Weston moved to approve the consent agenda. Ms. Meeker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

V. Student Representative Report

Ms. Camara shared that Dimes for Disaster raised over \$1,600 give to the max in November, Zana Miller was the winner of NPTO Carnival t-shirt design contest (the Carnival is 11/9), conferences are coming up on Nov. 21, the Fine Arts Fair was cancelled, winter sports are open, and Friday is the HOSA fall leadership conference. There was discussion. Mr. Shepard shared that there will be a student vote (grades 9 – 12) on Monday where students will be able to complete an actual ballot at lunch.

VI. Board Training

Joe Aliperto walked the Board through the October financials with more details and highlighted different areas of revenue versus expenses. He mentioned the importance of Nova Classical's strong enrollment numbers and strong fund balance. There was discussion along the way. Mr. Aliperto also highlighted areas that are crucial to maintain such as fund balance, days cash on hand, and debt service cover ratio in order to meet our bond covenants. There was discussion regarding lease aid and the financials of Friends of Nova.

There was also discussion regarding what might be areas of weaker financial areas such as food services where we had much greater expenditures than expected last year. (This is an issue most MN public schools are also facing.)

VII. Reports received by the Board

A. Executive Director Report

Dr. Wedlund highlighted that he's working to put the Board in a position by January to vote on expansion which means thinking about how to restructure the leadership team and strategic plan/ action plan to be ready for that. He also highlighted the MN Classical Education Conference. There was discussion regarding when the Board would know about the restructuring; most likely in January. There was discussion regarding the social media report.

B. Board Chair Report

Ms. McInroy mentioned that we will have a special meeting on November 18 beginning at 6:00 pm for the presentations from HayDobbs and PiperSandler regarding the expansion project.

C. Board Committees

i. Governance Report

There was brief discussion about voter turnout and past elections.

ii. Budget and Finance Report

Mr. Sample shared that they did a review of the financial audit and that Nova Classical ended last year with an increase to our fund balance. He also gave an update about lower interest rates. There was discussion.

iii. ED Review Committee

There was no discussion at this time.

iv. Academic Excellence Report

There was no discussion.

D. NPTO Report

Ms. Meeker shared that the Barnes and Noble bookfair raised about \$1,000 in B&N gift cards. She also shared about the new NPTO website including spirit wear, the family directory, and upcoming events. Over 1,000 people have registered to come to the Carnival already. Ms. Meeker shared a few more details about the Carnival. There was discussion.

VIII. Business

A. FOE Academic Goals Presentation

Dr. Johnson shared [information](#) regarding Nova Classical's current progress on more academic goals including students showing growth in math and reading from 1st through 5th grade, goals for students taking the ACT, school culture, and staff training. There was discussion regarding concerns; Dr. Johnson shared that she'd like our community to be mindful about all the plates our staff are spinning to achieve these goals. There was also discussion about data gathering including the Fastbridge nationally normed assessments and the teacher-created DDI assessments.

B. Administrative Guidance for Read Act Compliance

Dr. Johnson shared what is happening with staff regarding LETRS training and the things the administration is doing to support teachers. There was discussion regarding what the LETRS training comprises and frustrations and benefits coming from the training.

Ms. Weston, “Resolved, that Nova Classical approves the administrative guidance plan for Read Act compliance.” Mr. Sample seconded. There was discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Schematic Design Process Update

Mr. Prins gave an update from the Facilities Committee. The package is being looked at to determine costs and should be done in early November so that PiperSandler can give further financing options at the November 18th meeting. The goal is for the Board to vote in January if we should move forward or not. In the meantime, Nova Classical was approved for a \$25,000 CAP grant from Ramsey County including soil samples from the Triangle. There was discussion.

D. Enrollment Report

Mrs. Gabor highlighted some exciting data: enrollment is the highest it’s ever been and one-third of our current seniors were here as kindergarteners. She also highlighted numbers on our current wait list. There was discussion about the exit survey; it’s sent to all families who withdraw, but we don’t get many returned. The main reasons we hear about are families moving or students exiting in 6th or 9th grade because there are a lot of other options in the area. There was further discussion.

E. Executive Director Employment Agreement (FY26-FY28)

Ms. Weston presented the proposed Executive Director Employment Agreement between Nova Classical and Dr. Wedlund. She shared the goals of the committee were to have our salary within market value range, to recognize the many areas of excellence Dr. Wedlund has brought to Nova Classical, and to have solid leadership with our potential building project. There was discussion about how this relates to equity goals in paying all staff their market value.

Ms. Weston, “Resolved, that the Board approves the presented employment agreement between Nova Classical and Dr. Wedlund for SY26-28.” Ms. Lund seconded. There was discussion. A roll call vote was held. Mr. Hooge, Ms. Lund, Ms. McInroy, Ms. Meeker, Mr. Sample, and Ms. Weston voted for. Mr. Shepard voted against. The motion passed.

F. Formation of Boys Volleyball Cooperative

Dr. Wedlund presented background information.

Ms. Meeker, “Resolved, the Board agrees to enter into a cooperative with ISM, Eagle Ridge, Heritage, Chesterton Academy, Providence Academy, and West Lutheran High School for Boys Volleyball.” Mr. Hooge seconded. There was discussion. Mr. Hooge, Ms. Lund, Ms. McInroy, Ms. Meeker, Mr. Shepard, and Ms. Weston voted for. Mr. Sample voted against. The motion passed.

G. Permission for Braun Intertec to Submit MPCA Voluntary Brownfields Program Application on Behalf of Nova Classical Academy

Dr. Wedlund presented background information.

Ms. Lund, “Resolved, that the Board approves Braun Intertec to submit MPCA Voluntary Brownfields Program Application on behalf of Nova Classical Academy.” Ms. Weston seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

H. Reimbursement Resolution

Dr. Wedlund presented background information including that this is the standard first piece of bonding and came from our attorney, Craig Kepplar. There was discussion.

Ms. Meeker, “WHEREAS, Nova Classical Academy, a Minnesota nonprofit corporation (the “Charter School”), is an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, exempt from the payment of income taxes under Section 501(a) of the Code;

WHEREAS, the Charter School has determined to undertake a project (the “Series 2025 Project”) pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 469.152 to 469.1651, as amended, to: (i) finance the construction of a schoolhouse facility on land owned by Friends of Nova Classical Academy (the “Company”) and located on Otto Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota, 55102 which facility, when completed, will be leased to the Charter School for use as a public charter school facility; (ii) finance capitalized interest during the construction of the Series 2025 Project, if necessary; (iii) fund any required reserves; and (iv) pay costs of issuance of the Series 2025 Bonds.

WHEREAS, to provide financing for the Series 2025 Project, the Company expects to borrow proceeds of tax-exempt revenue bonds in an amount to yet to be determined (the “Series 2025 Bonds”); and

WHEREAS, the Charter School has made and will be advancing payment of certain costs of the Project in advance of the issuance of the Series 2025 Bonds and desires that proceeds of the Series 2025 Bonds be applied to the reimbursement of any of such prior expenditures and desires to express an official reimbursement intention with respect to all such expenditures to be reimbursed from the proceeds of the Series 2025 Bonds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL, AS FOLLOWS:

1. It is desirable that certain expenditures for or relating to the Project be incurred and paid prior to the issuance of the Series 2025 Bonds;
2. The Charter School reasonably expects to reimburse the above-described expenditures with the proceeds of the Series 2025 Bonds; and
3. No funds (from sources other than the Series 2025 Bonds) are, or are reasonably expected to be, allocated on a long-term basis, reserved or otherwise set aside pursuant to the Charter School’s budget or financial policies for such expenditures at this time.” Ms. Lund seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items

The next regular board meeting will be on Monday, November 25, 2024. There will be a special board meeting on Monday, November 18, 2024.

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Becky Lund.