

**Nova Classical Academy  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
January 29, 2024**

**Directors Present:** Nneka Constantino (via Zoom), Colleen Hansen, Jeremy Hubbell, Becky Lund, Suzanne McInroy, Theresa Nelson, Sasha Ross, Todd Sample, Bavi Weston

**Directors Absent:**

**Advisors Present:** Brett Wedlund, Tamra Paschall, Missy Johnson, Kriscel Estrella (via Zoom), Patti Mumford (NPTO, via Zoom), Demekech Williamson (Student Representative)

**Others in Attendance:** Nova staff, parents, students (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. Nelson moved to approve the agenda. Ms. Hansen seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**III. Consent Agenda**

- A. Contracted services agreement with Oswald Transportation
- B. December 18, 2023 minutes
- C. November 27, 2023 minutes
- D. 2<sup>nd</sup> reading/potential approval of revised policy 801 (Equal Access to School Facilities)
- E. 2<sup>nd</sup> reading/potential approval of new policy 516.5 (Overdose Medication)
- F. 1<sup>st</sup> reading of new policy #TBD (Unpaid Meal Charges)
- G. 1<sup>st</sup> reading of revised policy NP 206 (Board Orientation, Training)

Ms. Hansen moved to approve the consent agenda. Ms. Nelson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**IV. Public Comment**

Marcos Odegard spoke against curtailing a teacher's creative liberty and the effect it has on student learning.

Sasha Fraser spoke about supporting teachers as they push students and not shutting down conversations, in particular in support of Dr. Hubbell.

Emma Peklo spoke in support of Dr. Hubbell's teaching.

Diane Ruday spoke about bereavement leave for teachers being three consecutive days and asked that the word "consecutive" be removed.

Marta Pereira spoke about her disappointment with the administration's response to student concerns with actions taken regarding a video in Civics and the lost opportunity to continue to help students develop.

Oliver Hungs spoke regarding the ELI report and asked the Board to consider that equity is also about receiving a classical education while also accommodating all students.

Sarah Dumont Brown spoke about Dr. Hubbell and her concern that in the efforts to not dehumanize people we may have demoralized ourselves and she asked that we trust each other to foster conversation.

Tim Odegard shared concerns that Nova Classical's attempt to create an equitable environment sacrifices conversation and classical values; he is concerned that the ELI report did not include raw numbers nor understand what Nova Classical is.

Josh Garvin shared a letter in support of Dr. Hubbell.

## **V. NPTO Report**

Mrs. Mumford gave an update on the family directory; only a third of families have signed up so far, so the NPTO will do a push over the next month to get more families to join. She gave an update on past and upcoming events such as winter treats on December 19<sup>th</sup>, an event at Chuck E. Cheese on January 5<sup>th</sup>, the next NPTO meeting on February 6<sup>th</sup>, Opera for the Young on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, LS Family Game Night on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, and Comedy Sportz coming in early April.

## **VI. Student Report**

Ms. Williamson gave several extra-curricular updates including the ongoing Battle of the Books in the Lower School, competitions in spelling and history bees, and student-directed one acts. One Act plays competed last week and came in fourth. She also spoke about Green Team, Robotics, and Letters of Love (members made cards for kids in the hospital and raised money for St. Jude's.) Ms. Williamson also spoke about students wanting to be included in conversations about their instruction and to have input in decisions that impact their learning.

## **VII. Piper Sandler Bonding Projections**

Dr. Wedlund gave background information introducing Nick Hagen from Piper Sandler. Mr. Hagen has been a part of all three of Nova Classical's bonds. Mr. Hagen started his presentation with information about Nova Classical's outstanding debt from two separate bonds. In looking at Nova Classical's possible funding options, he looked at maximizing lease aid (plus 10% as required by state statute) with current enrollment, lease aid plus an additional \$50,000, and lease aid plus an additional \$100,000. There was discussion. A rough estimate is that we could spend approximately \$6 million. There was further discussion. Mr. Hagen briefly spoke about some limitations on additional indebtedness and other possible options. There was discussion.

## **VIII. Reports received by the Board**

### **A. Executive Director Report**

Dr. Wedlund gave two updates. First, that he is working on revisions with the FY24 budget and bringing it to Budget and Finance and then the Board in February. This will in turn inform the FY25 budget, which he is anticipating bringing for a first reading in March. The second is regarding the ERC and the mixed guidance as to if charter schools qualify for it. Another charter school was asked by the IRS to pay it back, but after submitting further information to the IRS, the IRS withdrew that demand. There was discussion about items in the report including the report from the Equity Literacy Institute. There was also discussion about next steps about what to do with the information in the report and to form the Equity Committee to help determine next steps.

**B. Board Chair Report**

Ms. McInroy spoke about training on Special Education coming in February and that she will be reviewing the board goals and committee goals in the next month. Ms. McInroy also spoke about the Equity Team's information night on February 8<sup>th</sup>. Finally, she spoke about the MACS Charter School Day at the MN state capitol on March 13<sup>th</sup>.

**C. Board Committees**

**i. Governance Report**

There was no discussion.

**ii. Finance and Budget Report**

There was no report this month. They will be looking at the revised budget as well as next year's budget in the next month.

**iii. ED Review Committee**

Ms. Hansen reviewed a few items from the report.

**iv. Academic Excellence Report**

There was no discussion.

**IX. Business**

**A. 2024-2025 Calendar**

Dr. Wedlund gave brief background information regarding the proposed calendar. There was discussion regarding input from families including how our calendar matched or didn't match the SPPS calendar. We do look at any district where over 10% of our population is from.

Mr. Sample, "Resolved that the Board approves the 2024-2025 calendar." Ms. Ross seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**B. Definition of Classical Education**

Pedagogical Leads Brandon Foat, Becky Lund, and Sara Seal presented their revised [definition](#) of classical education at Nova Classical. They gave background information regarding what it does and does not mean. There was discussion about the process and the timing of the presentation.

Ms. Lund, "Resolved, that the Board extend its meeting time until we finish the presentation on classical education." Ms. Nelson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Lund, "Resolved, that the Board approves the definition of classical education at Nova Classical." Ms. Nelson seconded. Ms. Hansen, Ms. Lund, Ms. McInroy, Ms. Nelson, Ms. Ross, Mr. Sample, and Ms. Weston voted in favor. Ms. Constantino voted against. Dr. Hubbell abstained. The motion passed.

**X. Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items**

The next regular board meeting will be on Monday, February 26, 2024.

**XI. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Becky Lund.