

Executive Director's Report to the Board

Date of the Report: April 24, 2025

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Strategic Plan Updates

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

Objective 9.4: Nova Classical will conduct a review of its class sizes.

Strategy: (1) Write a summary of available peer reviewed research related to class size which includes information from peer reviewed sources about class size in the classical education model or identifies if this body of research does not exist. (2) Compile data on class sizes at Nova Classical disaggregated by school and department. (3) Compile data on class sizes at schools with similar instructional models. (4) Compile all information from three strategies above into a format that allows for clear communication of findings to the Board.

Stage: In Progress (1, 3, 4)
Complete (2)

Update: We have completed the compilation of class size data for all grade levels in Nova's Lower School, as well as by department for the School of Logic and School of Rhetoric. Requests for class size information have been sent to comparable schools; one has responded, and we anticipate receiving data from the second by the end of the month. In addition, we have begun a search for relevant peer-reviewed research. Our goal is to have all data sources collected and compiled in time for presentation to the Board at the June meeting.

Communications Survey

As part of our ongoing efforts to measure progress on the goals outlined in Nova's Communications Plan—an objective also embedded within the 2023–2028 Strategic Plan—we have once again launched our annual communications surveys to both staff and the broader community. These surveys have been distributed, and we anticipate receiving the results next week. This will allow us to compile key findings and report on our progress toward our communications objectives at the May Board meeting.

HRA Approval for Conduit Bonding

We are preparing to begin the process of submitting Nova's application to the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) for conduit bonding. This process typically takes two to three months.

The HRA allows for approval in a "not to exceed" amount, giving us flexibility as we move through the design development phase. While we will need to have a clear understanding of the project scope, final cost estimates are not required to start this work. This means we can seek authorization for a higher bonding amount than we may ultimately need. Once approved, Nova will have a period of at least 12 months to close on the bond. If we are unable to close within that window, a new approval would need to be sought from the city.

Media Coverage of Charter Schools

The *Star Tribune* has released another article in its ongoing series critiquing charter schools. This most recent piece continues the broader conversation around charter school governance and public accountability. A link to the article has been included in the Board packet for your review and awareness.