

**Nova Classical Academy
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Special Meeting – HELD ONLINE/REMOTELY
September 2, 2020**

Directors Present: Jason Belter, Mel Hernandez, Claudia Gumbiner Hungs, Divya Karan, Becky Lund, Theresa Nelson, Frank Ross, Diane Ruday, Jennie Winter

Directors Absent: Nick LaRusso

Advisors Present: Brett Wedlund, Michael Pelofske, Brooke Tousignant

Others in Attendance: Nova staff and parents

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Theresa Nelson led the meeting.

II. Business Meeting: Approval of Agenda

Ms. Lund moved to approve the agenda of public comment followed by discussion of Nova's learning scenarios. Ms. Hernandez seconded. A role call vote was held. Mr. Belter, Ms. Hernandez, Ms. Gumbiner Hungs, Ms. Karan, Ms. Lund, Ms. Nelson, Ms. Ruday, and Ms. Winter voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment

Electronic public comment was submitted by six Lower School teachers sharing several questions they had regarding switching to a hybrid model of education.

IV. Business

A. Covid Update and Learning Scenario Discussion

Dr. Wedlund presented on Nova's current situation (through September 25) and information on Covid rates and guidelines for the five different learning scenarios from MDE. Nova looks at Covid data from Ramsey, Hennepin, and Dakota counties. Dr. Wedlund also shared that most schools are opening in a more restrictive scenario than what the state requires.

Mr. Ross arrived.

There was discussion regarding the Covid data and sources.

Dr. Wedlund shared staffing considerations for Nova's hybrid scenario including that we must still provide childcare for Tier 1 workers, the hiring process for new teachers takes at least three weeks, and that Nova would need to provide for distance learning as well as in person. This will take weeks of planning to implement, as would any switch to a different learning scenario. He also said that MDE allows schools to change their learning model plans as long as they give 14 days notice. There was discussion.

Mr. Belter, "Resolved, that the Board approves extending distance learning through the end of first quarter (October 23)." Ms. Karan seconded. A role call vote was held. Mr. Belter, Ms. Hernandez, Ms. Gumbiner Hungs, Ms. Karan, Ms. Lund, Ms.

Nelson, Mr. Ross, Ms. Ruday, and Ms. Winter voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

There was discussion about what it would take to implement the hybrid model. A large concern is that if more than two-thirds of the students are in-person, we would need to hire more staff which could be a significant cost. There was also discussion about an expansion to the hybrid model to include older students, especially if we were to have students in the Lower School return to in-person learning. Another area of discussion was regarding bringing even one grade back for hybrid learning.

There was further discussion about data needed to make informed decisions such as new surveys with families, staff, and older students. Current data is from surveys given at the beginning of August.

There was discussion about supporting struggling students and staff mental health.

There was discussion about retention of students and staff. As of last week, we are at our budgeted numbers for students. There has been some turnover, which is to be expected with the start of any school year, but it has been happening later in the summer than usual.

When asked how the Board can support the administration, staff, and families at this time, Dr. Wedlund spoke about the importance of hearing the stories from different members of Nova's community as everyone is having a unique experience.

There was some discussion about Nova's hybrid model; more will be discussed at the September 28th regular meeting.

V. Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items

The Board will receive an update on the logistics of the hybrid learning scenario at the regular September 28 board meeting and continue to discuss what scenario Nova will be in after first quarter.

VI. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Becky Lund.