

**Nova Classical Academy
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting – HELD ONLINE/REMOTELY
September 28, 2020**

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

Directors Absent:

Advisors Present: Brett Wedlund, Michael Pelofske, Brooke Tousignant, Missy Johnson, Ginger Gabor (NPTO), Sarah Jeong (Student Representative), Shannon Hinz (FoE)

Others in Attendance: Nova staff and parents

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm. Theresa Nelson led the meeting.

II. Business Meeting: Approval of Agenda

Mr. Belter moved to approve the agenda. Ms. Lund seconded. A roll call vote was held. Mr. Belter, Ms. Hernandez, Ms. Gumbiner Hungs, Dr. LaRusso, Ms. Lund, Ms. Nelson, Mr. Ross, Ms. Ruday, and Ms. Winter voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Consent Agenda

- A. 2nd reading/ potential approval of new Policy Tele-related Services, given the number NP-503
- B. 1st reading of replacement policy 522 (Title IX Policy)
- C. Approve Executive Director 2020-2021 Compensation (1% raise)
- D. August 24, 2020 Regular Minutes
- E. September 2, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes

Ms. Gumbiner Hungs moved to approve the consent agenda. Ms. Lund seconded. A roll call vote was held. Mr. Belter, Ms. Hernandez, Ms. Gumbiner Hungs, Dr. LaRusso, Ms. Lund, Ms. Nelson, Mr. Ross, Ms. Ruday, and Ms. Winter voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Public Comment

Ryan Dowhower submitted electronic public comment. He had three questions for the Board regarding following MN Open Meeting Law, not receiving a response from the Leadership Team, and how parents should be involved in the decisions regarding Nova's learning model.

V. Cultural Competency Training

Dr. Johnson gave an overview of the Cultural Competency training program for the Board for the next four months, which is our response to the new MN statute that became effective January 1, 2020. She also highlighted what the teachers have been doing with their Cultural Competency training over the past few years including work to better define terms, challenges and opportunities, and racial justice training. In October, we'll look at where we're going. There was discussion regarding faculty training from Dr. Cushing Leibner back

in February 2020. There was discussion regarding the trainers. Ms. Nelson spoke about case study books that will be shared with the Board for our work in November and December.

Divya Karan arrived during the presentation.

Dr. Johnson's slides are available here:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1SZvVMekKF5E4gnwxHhclStS8b5ZwLOhdYx28bCxT2Sg/edit?usp=sharing>.

VI. Reports received by the Board.

A. Executive Director Report

Dr. Wedlund added that Nova made a wire transfer last week for about \$73,000 to a technology vendor to buy cameras and other equipment to record and stream lessons. The money came from our CRF fund. There was a question about Covid and sports. The MNSHL will meet next week to decide about winter sports. There was a question about which classrooms will be outfitted with cameras; all of them will be.

B. Board Chair Report

Ms. Nelson gave a reminder that the Board should be very supportive of the Administration. She also recognized the work being done to be fiscally responsible as well as doing all that we can to ensure students don't fall behind. Ms. Nelson spoke about attending an Administrative Team meeting with a few other board members and the amounts of information they have gathered from other schools as well as MDE and MDH so that they can make informed decision.

C. Board Committees

i. Governance Report

There was discussion about the recommended replacement policy 522 (Title IX); the details are required by law, but are consistent with what we're already doing. The details have been checked by the administration and compared to current policies as well.

ii. Finance and Budget Report

Ms. Winter spoke about the quick work to double-check the security with the wire transfer to ensure a \$10,000 discount with the price and thanked Mr. Ross and Mr. Aliperto for their work with it. There was discussion. Ms. Winter also highlighted a few other areas in the report. The audit is continuing; most of the field work should be done by the end of this week and Dr. Wedlund is anticipating that the audit and the covenant report will go well with no surprises.

iii. Academic Excellence Report

Ms. Gumbiner Hungs and Mr. Belter gave a brief update about their work to gather data to use to provide a report to their Board.

D. Ad Hoc Committees

E. NPTO Report

Mrs. Gabor spoke about some of the struggles and the work the NPTO is doing to support the school and the students. She highlighted the Bookfair starting this

Saturday including teachers reading books via video. Their next meeting is on Tuesday via Zoom.

F. Student Report

Mr. Pelofske introduced Sarah Jeong as the new student representative from the Student Council.

VII. Business

Mr. Belter, Ms. Hernandez, Ms. Gumbiner Hungs, Ms. Karan, Dr. LaRusso, Ms. Lund, Ms. Nelson, Mr. Ross, Ms. Ruday, and Ms. Winter voted in favor.

A. 2020-2021 Charter School Assurances

Dr. Wedlund gave a brief overview of the need to sign these assurances annually. There was discussion.

Ms. Lund, “Resolved, that the Board approves the 2020-2021 Charter School Assurances.” Ms. Gumbiner Hungs seconded. A roll call vote was held. Mr. Belter, Ms. Hernandez, Ms. Gumbiner Hungs, Ms. Karan, Dr. LaRusso, Ms. Lund, Ms. Nelson, Mr. Ross, Ms. Ruday, and Ms. Winter voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

B. 2020 Election Report

Ms. Lund gave brief background information about the report.

Ms. Lund, “Resolved, that the Board accepts the 2020 Election Report as presented by the Governance Committee.” Mr. Belter seconded. A roll call vote was held. Mr. Belter, Ms. Hernandez, Ms. Gumbiner Hungs, Ms. Karan, Dr. LaRusso, Ms. Lund, Ms. Nelson, Mr. Ross, Ms. Ruday, and Ms. Winter voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

C. 2020-2021 Learning Model

Dr. Wedlund presented on the status of Nova and making decisions regarding learning model. He shared the multiple sources for data including family and staff surveys, information from MDH, and conversations with other school leaders. Dr. Wedlund then gave a brief overview of some of the information and trends that came from that data. There was discussion.

Ms. Nelson left the meeting at 7: 21. Mr. Ross led the meeting.

Dr. Wedlund presented on dates for reviewing Nova’s decisions towards possibly changing to a different learning model. (Making a decision on October 12th, could lead to a change on 11/2; October 26th for a change on 11/30, December 7th for 1/4, and December 28th for 1/19.)

He then shared the Hybrid Model Checklist developed by the Administrative Team including where they feel we are right now. They feel they need to have these 17 things in place to make the decision to go to hybrid; additional items will need to happen once the decision is made. Currently, 12 of the 17 areas have been met. There was discussion.

Dr. Wedlund shared the administration’s recommendation to not take action to change the learning model at this time. They recommend that the Board have a special meeting around October 12 to consider beginning a hybrid model on

November 2nd if there is more data to consider. This includes a change to the hybrid plan, meeting more of the checklist items, or new information from MDE/MDH.

He also spoke about beginning a review process to evaluate distance learning to be able to implement recommended changes at the start of 2nd quarter. They also want to work on an alternate hybrid model that would utilize alternating student cohorts to see if that would push us closer to meeting the criteria needed to change to the hybrid model. There was discussion about several areas of the presentation. Ms. Tousignant and Mr. Pelofske spoke about some details regarding tracking student engagement and progress. Ms. Jeong also spoke about difficulties with balancing the workload and that it has helped when teachers are respectful of all their commitments and able to adjust the workload.

Dr. LaRusso, “Resolved that Nova will continue in distance learning.” Ms. Lund seconded. A roll call vote was held. Mr. Belter, Ms. Hernandez, Ms. Gumbiner Hungs, Ms. Karan, Dr. LaRusso, Ms. Lund, Mr. Ross, Ms. Ruday, and Ms. Winter voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Board Meeting Evaluation

Ms. Gumbiner Hungs encouraged the Board that even as we continue to adapt to the current circumstances, we should still take on some of the pieces of the Board’s work in a strategic way and to keep communicating with the community so they are aware of that work as well. The consensus was that people were prepared for the meeting and that the board members and administration still want to keep the school moving forward.

IX. Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items

The next regular board meeting will be October 26, 2020 beginning at 6:00 pm. Depending on updates from the administration and new data, there may be a special board meeting called mid-October.

X. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Becky Lund.