

**Nova Classical Academy
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting
September 27, 2021**

Directors Present: Mel Hernandez, Claudia Gumbiner Hungs, Divya Karan, Nick LaRusso (participated via Zoom), **Becky Lund, Frank Ross, Sasha Ross, Diane Ruday, Jennie Winter**

Directors Absent: None.

Advisors Present: Brett Wedlund, Michael Pelofske, Brooke Tousignant, Missy Johnson, Joe Aliperto (Dieci School Finance), **Heather Gray** (NPTO), **Evan Odegard** (Student Representative)

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. Frank Ross led the meeting.

II. Business Meeting: Approval of Agenda

Ms. Lund moved to approve the agenda. Ms. Ross seconded. All present members and Dr. LaRusso voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Consent Agenda

- A. Adopting the Post-Issuance Compliance Procedure
- B. SchoolAdmin Contract Renewal
- C. 2nd reading/ potential approval of revised policy NP 301 (Application and Enrollment)
- D. 2nd reading/ potential approval 1st reading of revised policy NP 302 (Early Admission to Kindergarten)
- E. 2nd reading/ potential approval of revised policy NP 303 (Whole Grade Acceleration)
- F. 1st reading of revised policy NP 101 (Board Authority)
- G. 1st reading of revised policy NP 102 (Legal Definitions)
- H. Accept the 2021 Election Report
- I. Addition of Sara Seal and Chris Shepard to the Governance Committee
- J. August 23, 2021 Board Minutes

Ms. Gumbiner Hungs moved to approve the consent agenda. Ms. Winter seconded. There was discussion. All present members and Dr. LaRusso voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

V. Board Training

Ms. Lund, Mr. Foat, and Ms. Seal provided training regarding the three stages of the Trivium – Grammar, Logic, and Rhetoric – and what that looks like throughout the schools. There was discussion during the presentation. The [slides](#) are available online.

VI. Reports received by the Board

A. Executive Director Report

Dr. Wedlund pointed out the tracking of Covid cases and that we're not seeing ourselves moving towards distance learning; our mitigation strategies seem to be preventing the spread of Covid in our school. There was discussion.

B. Board Chair Report

Mr. Ross spoke about participating in Back-to-School Information Night and thanked the staff for putting that together. He also thanked the Executive Director Review Committee for their work on Dr. Wedlund's goals and added that when we discuss the goals later in the meeting, we want to take the approach that we look at the bigger picture of what we want to accomplish with the goals and not word-smithing. Finally, he also spoke about renewing the strategic plan and how do we frame the work we're going to do since it will become our "northern star" to keep us headed in the direction we need to go.

C. Board Committees

i. Governance Report

There was no discussion.

ii. Finance and Budget Report

There was no discussion.

iii. Academic Excellence Report

Ms. Gumbiner Hungs spoke about the committee's proposed goals.

D. Ad Hoc Committees

E. NPTO Report

Ms. Gray spoke about upcoming meetings and the upcoming Books, Etc. Book Fair which will begin on October 2. It is being done virtually through Amazon this year and Ms. Gray reminded families to do it through Amazon Smile as that further donates things to Nova. The NPTO Board approved going forward with Great Gatherings, though it won't be in November. The Treasurer and former Treasurer are working on an electronic reimbursement system. The family directory is up and running, but only families who are listed in it will have access. (Families can join at any time.) There was discussion about fundraising and about how the Board can support the NPTO. The NPTO can always use more volunteers, especially with Great Gatherings.

F. Student Report

Mr. Odegard gave an update on student life at Nova including this week being Homecoming week, an outdoor party on Saturday, and Club Rush next week to encourage student participation in groups and clubs. Lots of athletics are in progress as are a lot of lunch clubs. Students are settling in to new habits and routines with in-person learning, but some students (especially seniors) are feeling stressed out. He also spoke about student-led initiatives to encourage safe Covid practices. There was discussion about the Senior Thesis and its current structure as a graded course for 1st semester. Mr. Pelofske gave background information and history about the Senior Thesis.

VII. Business

A. Approve the Academic Excellence Committee's Goals

Ms. Lund, "Resolved, that the Board approves the Academic Excellence Committee's goals for 2021-2022 as presented in the board packet." Ms. Gumbiner Hungs seconded. All present members and Dr. LaRusso voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

B. 2021-2022 Board Goals

There was discussion about the proposed goals and thanks for the restructuring and clarifying them based on last month's discussion.

Ms. Lund, "Resolved that the Board approves the six Board goals for 2021-2022 as follows:

1. Take concrete steps to continue to fulfill Nova's Mission and Strategic Priorities in support of excellence, traditions, inclusion, and engagement across the school experience.
2. Develop clear/ measurable Executive Director goals and perform quarterly reviews in order to consistently assess progress and provide direction and resource support as needed.
3. Maintain Nova's long-term financial stability.
4. Develop contract renewal offer for Dr. Brett Wedlund.
5. Successfully renew Nova's contract with Friends of Education.
6. Develop a five-year strategic plan." Ms. Gumbiner Hungs seconded. There was discussion. Mr. Ross also spoke about prioritization and there was further discussion. All present members and Dr. LaRusso voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

C. 2021-2022 Executive Director Goals

There was discussion about prioritization with the presented goals and it was decided the Mr. Ross and Ms. Gumbiner Hungs will check-in with Dr. Wedlund regularly to see if prioritization guidelines are needed from the Board. There was also discussion about 3% or 2% within the final revised budget. The Board kept 3% in the goal. There was further discussion.

Ms. Lund, "Resolved, that the Board approves the Executive Director goals for 2021-2022 as presented in the September board packet." Ms. Karan seconded. There was discussion. All present members and Dr. LaRusso voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Discussion of Enrollment Reporting

Ms. Gumbiner Hungs and Dr. Wedlund gave background information about past practices for the Board to receive regular information regarding enrollment numbers. There was discussion, especially regarding the purpose for having the information. The data that the Board wants in the reports, and how frequently that data is reported, needs more thought based on our strategic plan. Mr. Ross said that the Board would like attrition data for the next board meeting and we can then see if that meets our needs. There was further discussion.

Ms. Hernandez left at 8:19 pm.

VIII. Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items

The next regular board meeting will be on October 25, 2021.

IX. Adjournment:

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

Minutes submitted by Becky Lund.