

2022
Nova Board of Directors Election
Voter Packet



Know **Yourself**. Know **The World**.

NOVA CLASSICAL
ACADEMY™

Parent Candidates

(Running for two 3-year seats)

- Colleen Hansen
- Suzanne McInroy

Faculty Candidate

(Running for one 3-year seat)

- Becky Lund



April 22, 2022

Greetings, Nova Voters!

The 2022 election to fill seats on the Nova Classical Academy Board of Directors begins Monday, April 25, and concludes at 4 pm on Monday, May 9, 2022. Eligible voters include:

- Each natural parent, adoptive parent and court-appointed legal guardian of one or more students currently enrolled at Nova.
- Each staff member who is not also a parent.
- Finally, any current members of Nova's Board of Directors who are not a parent or staff member.

Nova's Board of Directors has legal responsibility for the overall care, management, and control of the school, and an ethical obligation to ensure that Nova carries out its mission to offer a public charter school classical education based on the *trivium*. Additional information about the Board may be found on the Nova [website](#).

INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTING:

1. Review the following Candidate Questionnaires, in which each candidate provided responses to questions of importance to Nova. These responses are also posted in the online ballot.
2. Use the information in an email that will be sent to you via Simply Voting to log in to our online ballot. If you do not receive an email by April 27th, please contact the Governance Committee at governance@novaclassical.org.
3. Once you've logged in to the online ballot, rank candidates within each category. Candidates ranked higher will earn more points. You do not need to rank all candidates; candidates not ranked will earn zero points. The candidates with the most points will win the seats up for election.
4. Ballots must be submitted via Simply Voting no later than 4 pm on Monday, May 10, 2021 to be considered. We do not recommend waiting until the last moment in case there is a problem with your submission.
5. The results will be determined at the Governance Committee meeting (held via Zoom) beginning at 6:00 pm on May 9. Anyone is welcome to observe. The results will then be presented at the Board meeting on Monday, May 23, 2021.

Thank you for your participation in this election!

The Governance Committee: Becky Lund (chair), Laura Buri, Mel Hernandez, Maria Marchand, Frank Ross, Sara Seal, Chris Shepard

2022 Board of Directors Election – Nova Classical Academy – Parent Seat
COLLEEN HANSEN

- 1. Please begin by introducing yourself and, if applicable, share if you have a connection to the Upper School and/or the Lower School.**

I am parent to 2 lower school scholars and 1 upper school scholar.

- 2. Have you served on any Nova committee(s), on the NPTO, or done other volunteering at Nova?**

NPTO: did social media and website maintenance

- 3. Please provide an example of your pertinent leadership or volunteer experience. Have you served in a board role with other organizations?**

- 4. Please describe your background or experiences in at least two of the following board topic areas: education, finance, fundraising and development, governance, human resources, legal, marketing and communications, project management, collaboration within a diverse group and listening to others' perspectives.**

2022 Board of Directors Election – Nova Classical Academy – Parent Seat
SUZANNE MCINROY

- 1. Please begin by introducing yourself and, if applicable, share if you have a connection to the Upper School and/or the Lower School.**

I am a parent of three Lower School students in Kindergarten, 2nd, and 4th grades.

- 2. Have you served on any Nova committee(s), on the NPTO, or done other volunteering at Nova?**

I have volunteered at Nova as a field trip chaperone (2018), occasionally in the classroom (2017-2019), and also with the Nova Carnival (2019).

- 3. Please provide an example of your pertinent leadership or volunteer experience. Have you served in a board role with other organizations?**

I have served on the board of my church (St. John's Episcopal Church in St. Paul) from 2013-2015 and attended board meetings as an employee as part of my current and past job. I work as a Director of Communications, formerly for Bethel University and currently for Westminster Presbyterian Church in downtown Minneapolis. I am also finishing a graduate degree in higher education leadership, which has provided an opportunity to study leadership from various perspectives.

- 4. Please describe your background or experiences in at least two of the following board topic areas: education, finance, fundraising and development, governance, human resources, legal, marketing and communications, project management, collaboration within a diverse group and listening to others' perspectives.**

I am currently finishing a doctorate of education (Ed.D.) in higher education leadership, which has allowed me to delve into education topics more deeply (such as equity in education and college readiness) and only enhanced my passion for the importance of education in general. I also have worked in journalism and communications for over 20 years, mostly for higher education institutions. I have fundraising and development experience from my role in communications in higher education and my current position at a large, downtown Minneapolis church. Finally, I have lived and studied abroad (England and India) and have a heart for intercultural awareness, which I hope would be beneficial as a member of the Nova Board of Directors.



2022 Board of Directors Election – Nova Classical Academy – Teacher Seat **BECKY LUND**

- 1. Please begin by introducing yourself and, if applicable, share if you have a connection to the Upper School and/or the Lower School.**

My name is Becky Lund and I have the honor of having taught at Nova since it started in 2003, first as a fifth grade teacher and then as a second grade teacher. I'm also the leader of the Lower School Drama Club. Before Nova, I taught in the Roseville School District for three years. I graduated from Augsburg College (now University) with a degree in elementary education in 2000 and since then have earned my master's degree and additional K-12 reading licensure through Hamline University.

I'm very close with my family and I love spending time with them, especially my seven nieces and nephews. We all love swimming, biking, and lots and lots of reading. I also love to write, sing, and attend anything theatrical.



- 2. Have you served on any Nova committee(s), on the NPTO, or done other volunteering at Nova?**

I was one of the original teachers on Nova's PTO beginning in 2003 and I worked with that organization for two years. I started serving on Nova's Curriculum Committee in 2004 when it was still a board committee; I continue to serve on it now as an administrative committee.

I was appointed to the Nova Board in 2008 and served on the Board for seven years. During that time I was the Secretary for four years as well as the chair of the Accountability Committee and then the chair of the Governance Committee for all seven years. I took two years off from the Board, but remained on the Governance Committee. I was re-elected again to serve on the Board in 2017 and since then have continued in my roles as Secretary and chair of the Governance Committee.

- 3. Please provide an example of your pertinent leadership or volunteer experience. Have you served in a board role with other organizations?**

In addition to my work with the Nova Board and committees, I served on my church's Children's Education Committee for eight years and was its chair for two of those years. I have also held several faculty leadership positions in my time at Nova including Pedagogical Lead, Data-Driven Instruction Lead, and peer coach/mentor. I also served on Nova's RtI (Response to Intervention) Committee for eight years as a part of our process to identify students who may need various additional supports to be fully successful in the classroom.

- 4. Please describe your background or experiences in at least two of the following board topic areas: education, finance, fundraising and development, governance, human resources, legal, marketing and communications, project management, collaboration within a diverse group and listening to others' perspectives.**

Education: Because of my history with Nova including my time on the Curriculum Committee and my work in various leadership positions, I'm very familiar with classical education and Nova's curriculum. I'm also familiar with progressive education and how to utilize best practices that support Nova's mission and pedagogies. The more I learn about education, the more I believe in the importance of using the Trivium (the stages of Grammar, Logic, and Rhetoric) to guide learning in order to create thoughtful and engaged students who are fully able to make their learning their own and to use that learning. As a board member, I try to ensure that all students are able to benefit from this education. As a teacher board member, I also continue to emphasize the systematic nature of the education we provide here; the many facets are connected even if those connections are not immediately obvious. Modifying one piece may have an effect on many other pieces and it's part of the Board's job to ensure that we set the big picture goals while supporting the administration to make thoughtful and systematic changes to continue to improve the education we provide at Nova without losing the cohesiveness that helps our students flourish.

Governance: I didn't start my board service with a background in governance, but over many years I have developed a love for policies, Nova's Bylaws, and the importance of being a strategic board. I've worked hard with Nova's Governance Committee and Board of Directors to ensure that our policies have the best blend of general guidelines and explicit directions to guide decision-making, to keep us compliant with state statutes, and to allow us to adapt to unknowns when needed. I've also worked with them to update Nova's Bylaws to make sure that they are supporting the Board and the governance structure of Nova including adding a student ex officio member to the Board, requiring that elected Directors be at least twenty-one years old (which is the standard for typical public school boards), and adding or removing standing board committees based on the changing needs of Nova and its Board. Finally, having started my board service when Nova's Board was an administrative board, I've seen how we've grown into trying to make strategic decisions with an eye for thinking about what Nova should be like in five years or even further into the future. It is challenging to make decisions that don't seem to have an immediate effect, but it's also crucial for our Board to do so. I believe that the Board's role is to decide the "what" while the administration works on the "how". I want to continue to support a healthy board-administration relationship where we each do our part in continuing Nova's successes and strengthening all aspects of our school and community.