

# 2025 Nova Board of Directors Election Voter Packet



## **Faculty Candidates**

(Running for two 3-year seats)

- Shannon Hooge
- Becky Lund

## **Community Member Candidates**

(Running for one 2-year seat)

- Teo Flesher

Greetings, Nova Voters!

The 2025 election to fill seats on the Nova Classical Academy Board of Directors begins Monday, April 28, and concludes at 4 pm on Monday, May 12, 2025. 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. 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 29<sup>th</sup>, please contact the Governance Committee at [governance@novaclassical.org](mailto: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 12, 2025 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 beginning at 6:00 pm on May 12. Anyone is welcome to observe. The results will then be presented at the Board meeting on Monday, May 19, 2025.

Thank you for your participation in this election!

## **2025 Nova Classical Board of Directors Election - TEACHER SEAT SHANNON HOOGE**

**Please begin by introducing yourself and share your connection to Nova's Lower School and/or Upper School.**

I have been a Nova parent since 2011, when my oldest daughter began Kindergarten at the Lower School building on Montreal. I currently have two children attending Nova, a Senior and a Freshman. I began work at Nova in 2017 as an Educational Assistant. I began teaching at Nova in 2018 as a School of Grammar Special Education teacher. I am currently a School of Logic and School of Rhetoric Special Education teacher, and I manage cases for School of Rhetoric.

**Have you served on any Nova committees, on the NPTO, or done other volunteering at Nova? If yes, please provide committee details and the dates you served.**

I have served one year on the Board at Nova, fulfilling a departed teacher's term, Over the years I have volunteered at the School Carnival, Grapes of Math (2018, 2021,2022), and the Mother Daughter tea (2018,2021,2022,2023,2024,2025).

**Please provide an example of your pertinent leadership or volunteer experience. Have you served in a board role with other organizations? If yes, please provide the name of the organization(s), mission or line of business, your board role, and the dates you served.**

I have served for one year on Nova's board. My leadership experience is varied. I have held a position as a private school principal (1993-1994), owned my own retail business, and been on boards at churches(1999-2000, Word of Life Church.)

**Please describe your background or experiences in at least two of the following board topic areas: 1) educational expertise especially with classical education, 2) finance, 3) governance, 4) legal, 5) project management, 6) equity and creating an inclusive community, 7) facilities, and 8) collaboration within a diverse group and listening to others' perspectives.**

I have been a teacher at Nova Since 2018, during which time I have used the Classical education method in relationship to Special Education. During my time at Nova I have meaningfully used the Classical education model teaching students with exceptionalities, engaging them in Grammar and Logic Level work. This year in SOR,

our department has been using the Classical structure to apply executive functioning skills so students are more able to readily engage in Logic and Rhetoric level work in subject matter classes as well as in specialized instruction.

In my role as a Special Education teacher and case manager, I have led and facilitated student meetings, working with therapy professionals, teachers, and parents. Some of these meetings have been challenging because difficult news must be delivered in a compassionate manner. Needs and opinions from multiple stakeholders are considered, consensus reached, and acceptable educational solutions created for the student.

As a Special Education teacher, much of my training and daily focus is on equity and providing an inclusive and welcoming space for students of all levels. My focus is holistic in nature, considering educational, emotional, and social diversity. Each student brings their own strengths to the classroom, and I encourage them in the proper use of their strengths for their own good and the good of the community.

## **2025 Nova Classical Board of Directors Election - TEACHER SEAT BECKY LUND**

**Please begin by introducing yourself and share your connection to Nova's Lower School and/or Upper School.**

My name is Becky Lund and I have the honor of having taught at Nova Classical 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 Classical, 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.

**Have you served on any Nova committees, on the NPTO, or done other volunteering at Nova? If yes, please provide committee details and the dates you served.**

I was one of the original teachers with Nova Classical's PTO beginning in 2003 and I worked with that organization for two years. I started serving on Nova Classical'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 Classical 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 starting in 2017 and since then have continued in my roles as Secretary and chair of the Governance Committee. I've also served on the Executive Director Review Committee since 2021.

**Please provide an example of your pertinent leadership or volunteer experience. Have you served in a board role with other organizations? If yes, please provide the name of the organization(s), mission or line of business, your board role, and the dates you served.**

In addition to my work with the Nova Classical 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 Classical 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.

**Please describe your background or experiences in at least two of the following board topic areas: 1) educational expertise especially with classical education, 2) finance, 3) governance, 4) legal, 5) project management, 6) equity and creating an inclusive community, 7) facilities, and 8) collaboration within a diverse group and listening to others' perspectives.**

Education: Because of my history with Nova Classical including my time on the Curriculum Committee and my work in various teacher-leadership positions, I'm very familiar with classical education and Nova Classical's curriculum. I'm also familiar with progressive education and how to utilize best practices that support Nova Classical'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 Classical 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 Classical's Bylaws, and the importance of being a board of trustees for the whole Nova Classical community. I've worked hard with Nova Classical'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 Classical'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 Classical and its Board.

Finally, having started my board service when Nova Classical's Board was an administrative board, I've seen how we've grown to make strategic decisions where the board members aren't just representing one facet of our community, but are acting as trustees for every member of our community, including those who will come in the future. True, we each bring different viewpoints and experiences based on our unique roles within the broader community, but in the end we all have a responsibility to act for the whole community. I want to continue to support a healthy board where we each bring a different perspective while coming together as a whole to continue Nova Classical's successes and strengthen all aspects of our school and community.

**2025 Nova Classical Board of Directors Election -  
COMMUNITY MEMBER SEAT  
TEO FLESHER**

**Please begin by introducing yourself and share your connection to Nova's Lower School and/or Upper School.**

My name is Teo Flesher, and I am excited to submit my name for reelection to the community member seat on Nova's board. Nova has been an important part of my life since I was five years old. I was a student from kindergarten through my graduation from the Upper School in 2019. From there, I went on to Middlebury College in Vermont, where I studied Economics and Theatre and was a member of the sailing team. Following my graduation in 2023, I returned to the Twin Cities to start my professional career in investment banking. I am in a fortunate position to hold my experience at Nova as a recent memory while being far enough removed to see how that experience has paid off in college and in the professional world. Earlier this year, I filled the vacant community member seat on an interim basis. A classical education worked well for me, so I would love the opportunity to make it work for today's students.

**Have you served on any Nova committees, on the NPTO, or done other volunteering at Nova? If yes, please provide committee details and the dates you served.**

Since February of 2025, I have occupied the community member seat on Nova's board. In my board capacity, I have also served as a member of the governance committee.

**Please provide an example of your pertinent leadership or volunteer experience. Have you served in a board role with other organizations? If yes, please provide the name of the organization(s), mission or line of business, your board role, and the dates you served.**

Outside of serving on Nova's board, I held various board-level positions with organizations during college. I was the treasurer of my sailing team where I managed a substantial budget, placed large orders for critical equipment and services with our vendors, reimbursed team members for travel expenses, coordinated with the school's administration to raise our annual budget and remain compliant with college policies, and served alongside other board members and our coach as a leader to all members of the team. I also co-founded and ran a bluegrass club with weekly meetings for musicians to play together.



**Please describe your background or experiences in at least two of the following board topic areas: 1) educational expertise especially with classical education, 2) finance, 3) governance, 4) legal, 5) project management, 6) equity and creating an inclusive community, 7) facilities, and 8) collaboration within a diverse group and listening to others' perspectives.**

Classical Education - I have 13 years of experience with classical education as a former Nova student. I have seen firsthand how it pays off in higher education and the professional world. A classical education provides students with a broad base of knowledge and a unique perspective, but more importantly, it fosters a deep sense of curiosity that persists long after graduation. That curiosity is what ultimately drives continued learning, creativity, innovation, meaningful relationships, and much more.

Finance/Other - I have a degree in economics and two years of experience in investment banking. My work requires me to become intimately familiar with the financial statements and all other aspects of the businesses that my firm advises in order to best position them for capital providers. Additionally, my work often involves reviewing legal documents and working in teams with differing perspectives.