

**Nova Classical Academy  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
April 25, 2016**

**Directors Present: Jason Belter, Jeff Ellerd, Dan Greenfield, Karen Groppe, Laura Hobbs, Claudia Gumbiner Hungs, Tonya Johnson-Nicholie, Roxane Lehmann, Annie Lewine, Paul Mason, Robb Westawker**

**Advisors Present: Eric Williams, Nancy Baumann, Chris Rovn, Km Reagan, Brooke Tousignant, Beth Hawley (NPTO representative), Luke Westawker (student representative)**

**Others in Attendance: Nova parents and staff**

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM. Paul Mason led the meeting.

**II. Board Working Session**

**A. Turf Options**

Mr. Rovn walked through the pros and cons of three options (sod, natural grass, and artificial surface—with full or smaller field) for our field space. Both a sod field and natural grass field would have limitations for daily and/or seasonal use. The artificial field would allow for full usage during recess, PE classes, and sports. With a synthetic field, there would be options for potential expansion of middle school sports. Mr. Rovn detailed other potential costs associated with a synthetic field. There was discussion about how needs for expansion would impact this decision as well as various options for fill. The Board directed Mr. Rovn to proceed with gathering further information on the synthetic field options to present next month with the intention of making an investment decision at the May meeting.

**B. Rain Garden**

Ms. O'Connor presented information about the rain garden proposal. Mother Earth Gardens will donate the plan and the plants at 40% off retail price. She explained the details of the plan. The Board will vote on this option next month.

Mr. Mason outlined expectations for public comment.

**III. Business Meeting: Approval of Agenda**

Ms. Groppe moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Ellerd seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**IV. Consent Agenda**

- A. Approve Minutes from March 28 meeting
- B. Approve Gifts and Donations
- C. Finance Report

- D. Treasurer's Report
- E. First Reading of Policy 406 Public and Private Personnel Data
- F. First Reading of Policy 410 Family and Medical Leave
- G. First Reading of Policy 417 Chemical Use and Abuse
- H. First Reading of Policy 418 Drug-Free School
- I. First Reading of Policy 419 Tobacco-Free Environment
- J. Approve termination of employment for Marni Blum, Upper School Office Manager
- K. Approve Staff Development Stipends
- L. Approve Extra-Curricular Stipends
- M. First Reading of Policy 427 Workload Limits
- N. Accept resignation of Marian Walton, Education Assistant

Ms. Hobbs moved to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Greenfield seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**V. Public Comment**

There was public comment.

**VI. Reports received by the Board.**

**A. Board Chair Report**

Mr. Mason highlighted a number of updates on Board goals and the plans to hear updates from various committees coming up this year.

**B. Executive Director Report**

Eric Williams thanked the NPTO for the wonderful Staff Appreciation Week and the Development Committee for the work on Sweeten.

-US News and World Report #1 in MN #16 Nationwide—success of AP/courses taken during 13/14 school year, graduation rate, MCA scores

-LS debuting silent dismissal tomorrow

-City Council Mtg May 4 at 5:30pm—hearing appeal to development next year—Eric thanked Robin Cerio for rallying the troops—submit written comment—well thought out, articulate, Nova arguments—safety/traffic

**C. Board Committees**

**i. Governance Report**

There was a second reading of Policy 506, Student Discipline

Ms. Johnson-Nicholie overviewed the policies up for action items this month and answered questions about policies. Voting for Board elections is open for another two weeks.

**ii. Finance and Budget Report**

The recommendation of the finance and budget committee recommends approving the preliminary budget showing a flat enrollment which includes a

small increase to the fund balance. There was discussion about changes to the budget from this year and the fund balance.

**iii. Academic Excellence Report**

Mr. Belter previewed results of school/life balance survey which show positive changes. The average ACT score for Nova's juniors this year is 28.5. Ms. Lewine asked about where all students are falling in light of state legislation. Mr. Greenfield asked for further information on ACT scores and survey results.

**D. Ad Hoc Committees**

**i. Development Committee**

Mr. Greenfield thanked the Nova community for donations during Sweeten which raised roughly \$23,000. The committee is working to make the Nova Classic a success as well. Mr. Belter asked about the possibility of other fundraisers over the summer in light of the possibility of a turf field. Mr. Ellerd shared the need for finding people outside the community that would be able to donate funds, sponsor the field, or help Nova in another way.

**ii. Human Resources Committee**

Mr. Mason detailed the work of the committee as well as the work being passed on to Gael Braddock, Nova's new HR Director.

**iii. School Climate Committee**

Ms. Gumbiner Hungs shared the hope that a recommendation will be ready next month for K-5 implementation of a positive behavior management system and anti-bullying curriculum.

**iv. Gender Inclusion Policy Development Task Force**

No report at this time.

**E. Student Board Member**

Luke Westawker updated the Board on the amazing accomplishments of Nova's students: The baseball team is 4-2 overall. The track team has over 100 students. School dances this month include Spring Fling and Prom. Pippi Longstocking will be performed in late May. Mock Trial is preparing for the national tournament. Seniors are declaring colleges and have submitted their thesis papers.

**F. NPTO Report**

Ms. Hawley thanked all the volunteers for the help with Grandparent's Day and Staff Appreciation Week. There are opportunities for volunteering coming up with the carnival and book fair.

**VII. Board Business Action Items**

**A. First Amendment Language**

Mr. Ellerd, “I move to approve consideration of adding first amendment language to Policy 514, Bullying Prohibition Policy.” Mr. Belter seconded. There was discussion. Mr. Ellerd, Mr. Westawker, Ms. Gumbiner-Hungs, Ms. Lehmann, Ms. Hobbs, Mr. Mason, Mr. Greenfield, Mr. Belter, Ms. Johnson-Nicholie, and Ms. Lewine voted against. Ms. Groppel abstained. The motion failed.

**B. Second Reading of Gender Inclusion Policy**

Ms. Groppel outlined the process used by the implementation group in thinking through how Policy 601, Gender Inclusion Policy, might be implemented at Nova.

Ms. Hobbs, “I move to extend our meeting time until we cover the items on the approved agenda.” Mr. Westawker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

There was discussion about the suggestions for implementation. Administration is tasked with taking these suggestions and coming back to the Board with how these modifications can be made and the costs associated.

Mr. Westawker shared about the changes made to Policy 601 based on public comment and Board input. The following changes were made to the policy:

Section IV-The order of definitions was changed.

Section IX-The last sentence was modified to the following: *In all cases, the school has an obligation to maintain the privacy of all students and cannot disclose or require the disclosure of the student’s transgender status to the other students or the parents/guardians of other students.*

Section XII was rewritten.

Section XIV-The first sentence was modified to the following: *Only the Executive Director or his or her designee may communicate on behalf of the school to the media or community about issues related to gender identity.*

Section XVI was rewritten.

**C. Second Reading and Approval of Policy 522, Student Sex Nondiscrimination**

Ms. Hobbs, “Resolved, that the Board approve Nova Board Policy 522, Student Sex Nondiscrimination, effective immediately.” Ms. Johnson-Nicholie seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**D. Second Reading and Approval of Policy 526, Hazing Prohibition**

Ms. Groppel, “Resolved, that the Board approve Nova Board Policy 526, Hazing Prohibition, effective immediately.” Ms. Lewine seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**E. Second Reading and Approval of Policy 515, Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records**

Ms. Gumbiner Hungs, “Resolved, that the Board approve Nova Board Policy 515, Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records, effective immediately.” Mr. Greenfield seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**F. Second Reading and Approval of Policy 533, Wellness**

Ms. Johnson-Nicholie, “Resolved, that the Board approve Nova Board Policy 533, Wellness, effective immediately.” Ms. Lehmann seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**G. Science Curriculum**

Mr. Belter, “Resolved, that the Board approve the curriculum committee recommendation for adoption for 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade science curriculum.” Ms. Hobbs seconded. There was discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

**H. Preliminary Budget**

Mr. Ellerd, “Resolved, that the Board approve the preliminary budget for FY17.” Mr. Belter seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**VIII. Personnel**

**A. Approve Staff Recommendations**

Ms. Hobbs, “Resolved, that the Board approve the 2016-2017 staffing recommendations.” Ms. Lehmann seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- B.** Ms. Hobbs, “Resolved, that the Board approve the hire Robert Petko, Physics/Physical Science Teacher for the 2016-2017 school year.” Mr. Belter seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**IX. Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items**

The next regular Board meeting will be on Monday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 beginning at 6:30 PM.

**X. Adjournment**

Mr. Greenfield moved to adjourn. Ms. Lewine seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:19 PM.

Minutes submitted by Laura Hobbs.