

**Nova Classical Academy
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Special Meeting
December 16, 2015**

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

Advisors Present: Eric Williams, Robin Cerio (NPTO representative)

Others in Attendance: Nova students, parents, and staff

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM. Paul Mason led the meeting.

II. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Brodeur moved to approve the agenda with modification. Mr. Belter seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment

There was public comment.

IV. Reports received by the Board.

A. Board Chair Report

Mr. Mason summarized the information discussed during the Board training on December 5.

-Ms. Topuluk provided both MCA data to consider as well as information about Minnesota Statue 124E relating to the rights and responsibilities of charter schools.

-Ms. Lund provided information on Board responsibilities and governance.

-Mr. Cheesbrow provided training on Board governance and decision making.

V. Board Business Action Items

A. Resolution of Support for Gender Identity and Expression

Ms. Lehmann, “WHEREAS, On January 20, 2015, pursuant to the Minnesota Statute 121A.031 (requiring a School Student Bullying Policy) and Minnesota Statute 363.A03 (Minnesota Human Rights Act prohibiting discrimination based on gender identity and expression) the Board adopted Policy 514 “Bullying Prohibition Policy”. That Policy requires that the school prevent bullying including bullying against students based on gender identity or gender expression (514-3).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of NOVA Classical Academy, State of Minnesota, as follows: In accordance with Policy 501, administration and faculty are directed to design or select developmentally appropriate instruction for students to both create a positive school climate and

prevent bullying of students based on their gender identity or expression.” Mr. Ellerd seconded. There was discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Accept Climate Committee Recommendations

Ms. Hobbs, “Resolved, that the Board accepts the recommendations made by the School Climate Committee included below with modifications.” Ms. Gumbiner Hungs seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- 1) The Committee approves the “Guiding Principles and Goals for Anti-Bullying Curriculum at Nova Classical Academy.”
- 2) The Committee recommends the books *Jacob’s New Dress* and *A Welcome for All* to be the start of a toolkit to address gender non-conformity, to be used at teachers’ discretion with advance notice to parents.

Guiding Principles and Goals of Nova’s Anti-Bullying Curriculum:

Concerning the students:

1. Students can define bullying, identify what to do when bullied, and explain appropriate responses to observed bullying.
2. Students inculcate the belief that bullying for any reason is impermissible and will not be tolerated, either by the school or by their peers.
3. Students can articulate reasons, based on Nova’s central virtues, for both (a) impermissibility of bullying and (b) standing up for those who are bullied.

Concerning the responsibility of the school:

1. Create a safe and welcoming environment for all students, helping students to thrive, regardless of who they are and what they believe.
2. One of Nova’s core tenets is its virtues program. The virtue program will be preserved and further expanded upon to include discussions of practical, school life, anti-bullying topics as approached within the context of the virtues.
3. Many of the protected classes listed in MN Statute 121A.031 Subd.2 (g) are discussed explicitly with students. Nova will neither denigrate nor endorse a belief system, but will welcome every student, and affirm the right of each student to believe what they take to be correct.

Executive Director, Eric Williams thanked the board for passing the resolution, saying that this helps the administration and staff in their work to support and accept students’ gender identity and expression.

VI. Public Comment

There was public comment.

VII. Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items

The next regular Board meeting will be on Monday, January 25, 2016 beginning at 6:30 PM.

VIII. Adjournment

Mr. Greenfield moved to adjourn. Mr. Westawker seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:09 PM.

Minutes submitted by Laura Hobbs.