

**Nova Classical Academy
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting**

May 27, 2014

Directors Present: Jason Belter, Jeff Ellerd, Dan Greenfield, Karen Groppel, Andrea Johnson, Dianne Krizan, Annie Lewine, Becky Lund, Tonya Johnson Nicholie

Directors Absent: Roxane Lehmann

Advisors Present: Brian Bloomfield, Miranda Morton, Nancy Baumann, Jane Lagerquist (NPTO representative), Sandy Strand

Others in Attendance: Nova parents, staff, and students

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM. Dianne Krizan led the meeting.

II. Recognition of Dr. Bloomfield

Mrs. Krizan thanked Dr. Bloomfield for his work at Nova and shared the Board's appreciation for his work. Under his leadership we've grown from 404 students in a K – 8 school to a full k -12 school of close to 900 students.

III. Working Meeting: Challenging Students Appropriately at All Ability Levels

Mrs. Krizan reviewed the conversations so far on this topic. She referenced Dr. Bloomfield's 4-page report answering questions that have been raised so far and suggested that we focus on support for all students, rigor, and how to we measure success.

Mrs. Johnson arrived at 6:38 PM.

Mrs. Groppel said that she liked that we try to bring students up to the curriculum and she feels that we should focus on ways to do that. She also suggested spending more time looking at all the parts of the curriculum, how they fit together, are they preparing students for what is coming later while still instilling them with a joy of learning. Mrs. Krizan summarized a conversation that she had with a group of SEAC parents which also agreed with Dr. Bloomfield's comments that looking at student support systems seems like a good place to begin. There was further discussion about various support pieces for different student issues and behaviors, especially in educating and partnering with parents. There was discussion about what is used to track learning/ improvement such as ERB data or Nova-created assessments. There was discussion about grades and what do grades mean/ what's reflected in a grade. Mr. Mason asked what might be causing the problems – Classical Education (both curriculum and pedagogy), rigor – and said that he feels it's more the rigor and suggested looking at changing some of our demands. There was further discussion on causes and supports. There was also discussion about

what Classical Education is at Nova. We ended with discussion about next steps such as standardizing support steps and having teachers share best practices that work for as many students as possible. There was consensus that we'd like to direct Mr. Watkins and the Administrative Team to make this a priority, and Mr. Greenfield was tasked with drafting a specific goal for Board review in June.

IV. Business Meeting: Approval of Agenda

Ms. Lund moved to approve the agenda. Mrs. Groppel seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Public Comment

There was public comment.

VI. Consent Agenda

- A. Regular Meeting Minutes from April 28, 2014
- B. Accept Gift Donations

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

VII. Treasurer/ Finance Update

Mr. Ellerd highlighted the forecast (on pg. 20) shows us ending with a 16.7% fund balance, which is not quite the 17% goal we've set, but on the way. There was discussion about using the community education funds on our green space. Mr. Ellerd said that after research, there is no reason why we can't and that he is working on pursuing that possibility. There was discussion. There was also further discussion about the Treasurer's report.

VIII. Reports received by the Board.

a. Administration Report

Dr. Bloomfield spoke about enrollment and the number of students that are applying to PSEO and the concerns this causes with the budget. He recommends enrolling a full three sections of 9th grade (78 students) next year. There was discussion.

Dr. Bloomfield also highlighted some of the steps that he is taking to transition the ED position to Mr. Watkins.

There was discussion about the Staff Handbook.

b. Board Chair Report

Mrs. Krizan highlighted that she's updated the Board calendar/ list of tasks included in the report.

c. Board Committees

i. Academic Excellence Report

Dr. Bloomfield highlighted the next operational steps.

ii. Finance and Budget Report

Mr. Ellerd spoke about the proposed budget, which shows a surplus of \$6,000 without counting any contributions. It includes a 1% COLA for all teachers and projects all teachers getting a “step” increase. Health insurance is projected to be only a single-digit increase, which is less than first projected. We have an 8.5 million dollar budget, which makes it that much harder to increase our fund balance. The only caveat is about adding consultants and the request is that if we do so, the money needs to come from other existing places in the budget. There was discussion.

iii. Governance Report

There was a 3rd/ final reading of revised policy 202.

There was a 3rd/ final reading of the Re-Enrollment Policy.

Ms. Lund gave an update about the results of the Board election.

Ms. Lund also gave an update about the Bylaw revision process.

There was discussion about medical leave and informing parents about asking questions before they pull students from Nova for medical reasons.

There isn't a need for a policy because it's covered by statute. There was further discussion.

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

d. Ad Hoc Committees

i. School Climate Committee

Mrs. Johnson gave a brief update and said she hopes to have a substantial report before the board next month on the survey data.

ii. ED Review Committee

(Done during the closed session.)

e. NPTO Report

Mrs. Lagerquist spoke about the end of the school year treats and Edu Kits. She also gave updates about the Spring Fling Dance, Grandparents' Day, and the Carnival.

IX. Board Updates/Action Items

a. School of Rhetoric Enrollment

Mrs. Groppe, “Resolved that the Board approve resetting the total number of enrolled 2014-15 freshmen students to 78.” Mrs. Johnson seconded. There was discussion. Mr. Greenfield, Mrs. Groppe, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Krizan, Ms. Lund, and Ms. Johnson Nicholie voted in favor. Mr. Belter, Mr. Ellerd, and Ms. Lewine voted against. The motion passed.

b. Approve SY 2014-15 Preview Budget

Mr. Ellerd, “Resolved that the Board approve the proposed preview budget for the 2014–15 school year.” Mr. Mason seconded. There was discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Accept Election Results

Ms. Lund, “Resolved, that the 2014 Election Results submitted by Becky Lund, chair of the Nova Governance Committee, based upon the unanimous recommendation of the committee dated May 21, 2014:

Parent candidates Paul Mason and Ann Brodeur were elected to 3-year terms and parent candidate Nan Waisanen was elected to a 2-year term. Teacher candidate Laura Westrum was elected to a 3-year term and teacher candidate Annie Lewine was elected to a 2-year term. Community member candidate Roxane Lehmann was elected to a 3-year term and community member candidate Tonya Johnson Nicholie was elected to a 2-year term.” Mr. Belter seconded. There was discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

d. Approve Policy 306 (Re-Enrollment after Long-Term Leave)

Ms. Lund, “Resolved that the Board approve policy 306, Re-Enrollment after Long-Term Leave, effective May 27, 2014.” Mr. Belter seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

e. Approve Revised Policy 202 (Selection of Board Members...)

Ms. Lund, “Resolved that the Board approve revised policy 202, Selection of Board Members..., effective May 27, 2014.” Mrs. Groppe seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

f. Accept the ED Review Rating (after the Closed Session)

Mrs. Groppe, “Resolved, the Board accepts the Executive Director Review report and the rating of “Meets Expectations.” Ms. Lewine seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

X. Public Comment

There was public comment.

XI. Closed Session – ED Review

Mrs. Groppe, “Resolved, that we close the meeting to do an Executive Director review.” Mr. Greenfield seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

In summary of the closed session, the Board recognized Dr. Bloomfield’s ongoing work in leading Nova and stated that Dr. Bloomfield Meets Expectations.

XII. Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items

The next regular Board meeting will be on Monday, June 30, 2014 beginning at 6:30.

XIII. Adjournment

Mr. Belter moved to adjourn. Ms. Lewine seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Minutes submitted by Becky Lund.