

**Nova Classical Academy
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting
February 27, 2006**

Draft

Directors Present: Lisa Knudson, Maria Marchand, Chad Long, Tom Blindt, Rick Stempkovski, Jim Day, Ted Olsen, Joe Michalak, Simon Fung

Directors Absent: Megan Daoust

Advisors Present: John Greving, Jane Marie Phillips, Louise Wilson (at 6:50 p.m.)

Recording Secretary: Maria Marchand

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m.

II. Announcements

The board waiver was granted today from the Department of Education. A note will go out in the Nova News on Friday (Jim Day will draft).

III. Approval of Agenda

*Jim Day moved that we approve the amended Agenda with Accountability report deferred to March meeting.

Tom Blindt seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes

*Tom Blindt moved that we approve the regular board minutes dated January 23, 2006.

Maria Marchand seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Abstentions – Joe Michalak, Ted Olsen

*Joe Michalak moved that we approve the special board minutes dated February 13, 2006.

Tom Blindt seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

V. Treasurer's Report

- A. Kindergarten fees – revenue is collected over installments, there is one more installment to be paid in March so revenue to date will look different in April.
- B. John Greving has action items from audit.
- C. Question about transportation – letter has been sent to Department of Ed. Offer was made by St. Paul school district and

Nova has made a counter-offer. Rick Stempkovski will follow-up tomorrow on response to offer.

- D. Any unexpected costs for the rest of the school year? Tabulation of parent survey results is a possible cost, site survey, possible hires.

VI. Head of School Report

- A. Transportation issues – finalization of contract with van service for families on the east side of St. Paul; transportation task force is looking at possibilities for next year (Center for School Change is paying for study of collaborative effort with charter schools for next year), looking at TLC for next year, budgeted funds – task force is meeting March 14, 2006. E-mail concerns about transportation to Katie Burke.
- B. Compensation task force has been assembled to look at faculty compensation for 2006-2007.
- C. Curriculum mapping has been done with grades 1, 2, and 3. 4th grade is scheduled. Will do 1-8 literature and 1-4 science as well.
- D. The band concert on February 16th was well-attended.
- E. Many activities happening the last trimester of school – see schedule.
- F. High school curriculum task force has completed its work and has disbanded. Results will go to the Curriculum Committee on March 6th. Communication regarding return for 9th grade has been sent to 8th grade families – John Greving is meeting with families on April 18th.
- G. K-4 parent information meeting on Thursday, 5-8 on next Tuesday. Different speakers each night (Jerry Reedy on Thursday, Fr. Keating on Tuesday).
- H. Enrollment numbers – current enrollment at 265. Discussion of benefits to starting 9th grade next year versus waiting two years. There more interest in 7th grade due to K-6 schools in St. Paul, this is a good transition point for families. **There was a consensus on the board for John to pursue expansion at 7th grade by adding a second section.** John Greving will have 7th grade parents call potential parents to see if families are ready to enroll.

VII. Sponsor Report

- A. Bethel - nothing to report.
- B. Friends of Ascension contract – we have applied and have an interview March 6th. We will know shortly thereafter if they will sponsor us. Rick wanted to be sure they are willing to modify their “boilerplate” contract. MACS has a contract for renewal with sponsor that may be more applicable. E-mail Lisa with critical concerns about contract.

VIII. Reports

- A. Follow-up from February 13 Special Board Meeting
 - 1. Are we agreed with the points on the Principles document and move forward based upon that? Is the public aware of what we are defining as classical? Retreat should be to discuss John's document and prioritize action items – what are governance issues and what are operational/administrative issues? We will set up a retreat in two evenings or on a weekend day. John suggested we have a facilitator and facilitator canvas to make sure that we are on board with John's report and the principle's document. We need to find a date, a facilitator and a process. John and Lisa will research facilitators and will take suggestions from others.
- B. Standing Committees
 - 1. Recommendation on Credo – conversations John has had with schools that use it is that is very time-consuming to set up and use. Simon would like to have Jeanie look at program. 100 hours of initial set-up, Rick is saying this window of opportunity will not occur again. John is concerned about implementation.
 - 2. Governance –

Rick Stempkovksi: In light of the approval of the waiver, be it resolved that, based upon a recommendation of the Governance Committee, of the six (6) Director seats up for election in May 2006, three seats are to be for a term of one (1) year, and the remaining three seats are for a term of three (3) years. With the full terms of Directors of the first class of elected Directors expiring June 30, 2008, Board of Director composition would thusly comply with the Bylaw's staggered term requirement, i.e., "approximately one-third (1/3) of the Directors shall expire each year" (Art. III(7)(a)), beginning July 1, 2007.

Further be it resolved that, in light of a recommendation of the Governance Committee, the class of Directors having a one (1) year term be selected from the current group of six (6) non-elected Directors, and that the election of each of the three be on a majority of cast votes of eligible voters basis. In lieu of receipt of a majority for such class member, the seat/seats, i.e., vacancy/vacancies would be filled consistent with in force Bylaw provisions (Art. III(11)).

Tom Blindt moved that we approve the resolution.

Jim Day seconded the motion.

Discussion: Who has been selected from the group of six to serve an additional one year term? How are the three selected? The

governance committee will invite three current members to run again. Amend second paragraph in the resolution as changed:

Jim Day moved to adopt the motion as amended.....

Tom Blindt seconded

Public comment - would like to know what the up/down vote consists of.
Governance committee will clarify.

Motion passed unanimously

3. Finance and Budget – no report on business manager.
4. Curriculum – no action items
5. School Operations – no action items

C. Ad Hoc; Advisory

1. Facilities – security of building is high priority now – immediate needs and long-term needs discussed. Short term security needs will be addressed in the next 2-3 weeks. Long term security needs will be addressed for next year. Site survey to be completed next week. Modular placement will have short and long term plan. There is money in Walton grant to hire a project manager.
2. Communications – see attached newsletter schedule. Send items to Chad Long by Monday.
3. Policy Development – binders contain all state-mandated policies. A lawyer from special district 916 will come to March's board meeting to review policies.

D. Strategic Plan Review – see schedule for all things coming up from now until June. We may need to call upon people to help with some – things needed to delegated.

IX. New Business-none

X. Public Comment- Diane Cossairt: see attached comments.

Mr. Mathews – suggests looking at expanding the 5th now too. Tom responded about facility crunch.

Jennifer Pierson – add a 5th grade, enter 2nd phase of trivium from the bottom, scenario should be completely thought through, social benefits. Suggest we look at all contracted services thoughtfully – are we getting quality of service we deserve? Examples: janitorial service – quality and enough, office personnel.

*For next meeting: review all contracts

XI. Adjournment-the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Tom Blindt moved that we adjourn.

Rick Stempkovski seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.