

**Nova Classical Academy
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting
April 17, 2006**

Directors Present: Lisa Knudson, Maria Marchand, Chad Long, Tom Blindt, Jim Day, Ted Olsen, Megan Daoust

Directors Absent: Simon Fung, Joe Michalak, Rick Stempkowski

Advisors Present: John Greving, Louise Wilson, Jane Marie Philips, Beth Topoluk

Recording Secretary: Maria Marchand

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

II. Announcements

Beth Topoluk, the liaison from our new sponsor Friends of Ascension, was introduced.

III. Approval of Agenda

The Gifted and Talented policy should be added to the agenda under "Curriculum Committee"

* Jim Day moved that we approve the amended Agenda

Tom Blindt seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes

*Jim Day moved that we approve the regular board minutes dated March 20, 2006.

Ted Olsen seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

V. Treasurer's Report

A. The updated financial report shows no significant change from March's report. The report assumes we will receive no rebate from St. Paul Public Schools for bussing.

B. Kindergarten fees will provide potential revenue to the budget depending upon how much we will receive for the remainder of the year.

VI. Sponsor Update

A. Beth Topoluk did a presentation about Friends of Ascension, Nova's new sponsor. Highlights included: F of A's sole purpose is to improve the

education of children. They only sponsor schools with a classical program or Core Knowledge program. They are pleased to sponsor Nova and feel it will be an excellent fit. Questions included possibility of creating a consortium for reduced costs on certain activities, including extra-curricular activities. There was also discussion about the sponsor's oversight and assessment responsibilities.

- B. The board of directors empowered the board chair to negotiate the contract with Friends of Ascension. The contract will go to the state by May 15th.

VII. Head of School Report

- A. Attached is an outline of the teacher workshop to map curriculum.
- B. Parent meetings for grades 4 through 7 have been completed.
- C. MCA testing will occur this week and next week. Iowa Testing will occur in May.
- D. Transportation – John is waiting for rates from TLC. There is also a coalition of charter schools at work for transportation – they will provide recommendations by April 28th for the next school year.
- E. Enrollment – 20 7th graders intend to return next year; 20 new 7th graders have enrolled so there will be two sections. There will be a meeting in May for new families to discuss transitions/summer programs.
- F. Staff development – the budget forecast includes a classical mentor position. John is also looking at scheduling a summer institute for classical training of teachers.
- G. 9th grade decision for 2006-2007: it was the founders' vision to open the high school in 2006-2007. Current enrollment numbers stand at: 7 not returning, 7 maybe returning, 7 yes returning. 6 non-current families have also enrolled. John recommended we commit resources to our current K-8 program since the 9th grade would deflect resources from K-8. Also, facilities need to keep up with growth.

*Jim Day moved that Nova should defer opening of 9th grade for the 2006-2007 school year. The decision for 2007-2008 will be made by September 2006.

*Megan Daoust seconded the motion.

Discussion: Board was encouraged to make the decision for future ninth grades early in the school since families begin looking for high schools in the fall. Facilities decisions need to be made. Staffing and licensing issues were discussed.

Public comment: There was discussion about the success of the school in the future based upon the decision we made today. Staffing expenses may be greater than budgeted to maintain cohesive staff. We need to let the public know the financial viability of adding a high school. The material selection policy is rigorous and should be used for 9th grade curriculum. The school is urged to work on the 9th grade curriculum now in anticipation of adding it in the next year or two.

*The motion passed unanimously.

I. School calendar – see attached.

* Tom Blindt moved that we approve the revised 2005-2006 calendar presented by John Greiving.

*Ted Olsen seconded the motion.

*The motion passed unanimously.

J. Audit – public document attached.

*Tom Blindt moved that we approve the 2004 Income Tax Report.

*Jim Day seconded the motion.

*The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Reports

A. Policy Development

1. The following state- and federally- mandated policies were discussed and adopted:

#407- Employees

*Megan Daoust moved that we approve policy #407 as written.

*Tom Blindt seconded the motion.

*The motion passed unanimously.

#410 – Family and Medical Leave Policy

*Megan Daoust moved that we approve policy #410 as written.

*Tom Blindt seconded the motion.

*The motion passed unanimously.

#501 – Weapons Policy

*Megan Daoust moved that we approve policy #501 as written.

*Tom Blindt seconded the motion.

Discussion: there was discussion about the enforcement of this policy and discretion given to the director.

Public comment: it was discussed that it is easier to be strict up front and consider situations on a case-by-case basis.

*Directors voting in favor: Lisa Knudson, Maria Marchand, Chad Long, Tom Blindt, Jim Day, Megan Daoust.

*Directors voting against: Ted Olsen.

*No absentions – the motion passes.

#413 – Harassment and Violence, #414 – Mandated Reporting Policy, #418 – Drug-Free Workplace/School, #515 (see changes under “Director Information”), #516 – Student Medication – this policy should reflect what current school practices are, #709 – Student Transportation, #524 – Internet Acceptable, #806 – Crisis Management – we are revisiting this one as it is not required and is too extensive for our situation, #903 - Visitors

*Megan Daoust moved that we approve policy #413, 414, 418, 515, 516, 709, 524,903 with amendments as stated above and appropriate names filled in as required.

*Tom Blindt seconded the motion.

Public comment: The tornado plan needs to be updated.

*The motion passed unanimously.

*Megan Daoust moved that we approve policy #214, 406, 417, 419, 420, 502, 506, 514, 521, 532, and 533 as written.

*Tom Blindt seconded the motion.

Public comment: The tornado plan needs to be updated.

*The motion passed unanimously.

*Maria Marchand moved that we adjourn.

*Tom Blindt seconded the motion.

Public comment: The facility committee is urged to consider other locations besides our current one for the future.

*The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.