

**Nova Classical Academy
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting
August 21, 2006**

Directors Present: Lisa Knudson, Simon Fung, Rick Stempkovski, Jim Day, Jennifer Pierson, Megan Daoust, Chad Long, Tom Blindt, Mike Ricci.

Directors Absent: Joe Michalak

Advisors Present: John Greving, Head of School; Jane Marie Phillips, NPTO Liaison

Others in Attendance: Nancy Schultz, Business Manager; Sarah Duniway, speaker; parents

Recording Secretary: Vicky Carey

I. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m.

II. **Approval of Agenda**

Jennifer Pierson stated that the Material Selection Policy and the Curriculum Development Policy were not in the packet and will be discussed at the next meeting.

Tom Blindt moved to approve the agenda.

Rick Stempkovski seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Rick Stempkovski moved to approve the Nova Board of Directors Meeting for 2006-2007 as presented.

Tom Blindt seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

III. **Consent Agenda**

a. Approval of Board Officers for '06-'07

Tom Blindt moved to approve Lisa Knudson as Board Chair, Chad Long as Secretary, and Jim Day as Treasurer.

Rick Stempkovski seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

b. Minutes

Tom Blindt moved to approve the June 19, 2006 Board Meeting Minutes with the addition of Jim Day's Head of School Evaluation and 2006-2007 revenue, expense and fund balance.

Lisa Knudson seconded the motion.

Abstaining: Rick Stempkovski, Jennifer Pierson, Megan Daoust and Chad Long.

IV. **Board Chair Report**

a. **Board Chair Elect**

There is one chair left.

b. **Strategic Planning**

There will be a strategic planning meeting on Thursday, September 7th at 5:00 p.m.

c. **Classical training**

d. **Committee goals for September**

V. **Announcements and Introductions**

New Business Manager, Nancy Schultz was introduced.

VI. **Board Training**

a. **Presentation**

Sarah Duniway, J.D., of Gray, Plant, Mooty, Mooty & Bennett, gave a 30 minute presentation about board member responsibilities.

Topics discussed were:

What is a charter school?

Nonprofit board roles and duties

Open meeting rules

Best practices for board members

b. **Financials**

Nancy Schultz, Business Manager, gave an overview of charter school finance.

The board reviewed and discussed an un-audited financial report.

Special Education is the only expenditure not received.

The date for auditors is October 15.

FY 06-07 Board Approved Budget

Fund 01:

Revenue: \$2,356,702

Expenditures: \$2,351,474

Fund Balance: \$190,638

Fund 02:

Revenue: \$58,400

Expenditures: \$58,400

Fund 04:

Revenue: \$45,000

Expenditures: \$45,000

VII. **Head of School Report**

a. John Greving discussed four activities completed over the summer.

1. Hiring

There were thirteen people over the course of the summer hired to staff Nova. It was a time-consuming process, and we will need to re-think the hiring process.

2. Planning for staff development

It took a long time to do research to find the right person (Chuck Evans) for the professional education of the faculty.

3. Building/Facilities

Considerable time was spent over the summer cleaning, getting the building ready for school, and looking at how to best maximize the space.

4. Curriculum

There was a continuation of the mapping of our curriculum.

John Greving complemented the board on their decision to not start 9th grade for September of 2006.

b. Enrollment

There are 314 students enrolled, with 170 students on the waiting list. There is a significant percentage of attrition after the 6th grade into 7th grade, and 7th grade into 8th grade.

John Greving strongly encouraged members of the board to encourage parents to listen to Mr. Evans on Wednesday evening.

Questions

Megan Daoust asked if Nova will have the same custodian as last year. John Greving stated that a professional service company has been hired to clean the building. Tom Blindt reviewed the proposals.

Simon Fung asked whether we will add a 9th grade for next year. Should we decide early on this issue?

Staffing and facilities is an issue. We will need to make a decision this September to add a 9th grade.

VIII. Education

Lisa Knudson remarked that we have to educate ourselves about the Classical Model so that we can educate the students. There will be a board training on Wednesday, Sept. 6th, and a parent training on Thursday, Sept. 7th.

a. Discussion of Principles Document

(Principles of Classical Education document attached)

There was some discussion about the readability of the document.

Lisa Knudson: We should focus on what the document says the elements of

classical education are.

Mike Ricci: What is the aim of classical education? We should have some discussion based on the principles of classical education at every meeting.

John Greving spoke about Chuck Evans' view on educating our students.

We need to educate our students on objective truth, good, and beauty.

There was discussion on objective truth.

Mike Ricci stated that we want students to discover a set of ideas and values within the classical model.

John Greving stated that we need to be very clear on what this mission is all about.

IX. **Personnel**

a. **Faculty/Staff Handbook**

There was discussion that the teachers will need to have a chance to look at it, bring their concerns to John, and then he can bring those concerns to the Board.

Tom Blindt moved that the Board provisionally approve the Employee Handbook 2006-2007 for immediate implementation August 2006, with the provision that it would be reviewed and formally adopted in January 2007.

Rick Stempkovski seconded the motion.

Abstaining: Megan Daoust, Chad Long

b. **Parent/Student Handbook**

Tom Blindt moved to adopt Appendix A of the Student/Parent Handbook 2006-2007.

Rick Stempkovski seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Jennifer Pierson moved to provisionally adopt the Student/Parent Handbook 2006-2007 to be reviewed for formal adoption by September 6th.

Rick Stempkovski seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

X. **Public Comment**

There was public comment.

XI. **Adjournment**

Tom Blindt moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 p.m.

Rick Stempkovski seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Vicky Carey, recording secretary.