

**Nova Classical Academy
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
September 19, 2005**

Regular Meeting

Directors Present: Lisa Knudson, Rick Stempkovski, Maria Marchand, Megan Daoust, Chad Long, Joe Michalak, Tom Blindt, Ted Olsen (left at 8:01 p.m.), Simon Fung (arrived at 8:00 p.m.).

Director Absent: Jim Day

Advisors Present: John Greving, Head of School; Jane Marie Phillips, PTO President.

Recording Secretary: Jeanie Anderson

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m.

Announcements

-The Board thanked Tom Blindt for all of his work on the new middle school portion of the school.

-It was announced that Dr. Terrence Moore can meet with the Board of Directors on Wednesday from 1:00 – 1:45 p.m. Directors should let board chair know if they will attend the meeting.

Approval of Agenda

-The topic of extra curricular activities was added under VIII B, Other Outstanding Goals; Strategic Plan

-The topic of upstairs lockers was added under IX, Action Items

**Maria Marchand moved to approve the agenda for the September 19, 2005 Board of Directors meeting.

Rick Stempkovski seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously (Simon Fung was not yet present; a unanimous vote does not include him until noted in the minutes).

Approval of Minutes

July Meeting

**Maria Marchand moved to approve the meeting minutes from the July 18, 2005 Board of Directors meeting with changes as noted.

Megan Daoust seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

August Meeting

**Tom Blindt moved to approve the meeting minutes from the August 15, 2005 Board of Directors meeting with changes as noted.

Ted Olsen seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Emergency Meeting

**Tom Blindt moved to approve the August 29, 2005 Emergency Board of Directors meeting minutes.

Maria Marchand seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

**Tom Blindt moved that under consent agenda we approve committee members of the following committees: Accountability, Communications, Curriculum, Facilities, Governance, and the Parent Teacher Organization.

Maria Marchand seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report was moved to later in the meeting as Simon Fung, committee chair was to arrive late.

Head of School Report

John Greving gave an enrollment update (report attached). He gave an overview of the training teachers received during in-service week: Mr. Lassetter taught on classical curriculum; Chris Porter on Board Governance; 916 Employees on special education; and attorney Catherine Nash on religion in public schools.

Faculty Update

Mr. Greving recently hired Ina Loobeek as a consultant, to be a resource in implementing the classical curriculum. She has a B.A. in mathematics from Carleton College and a M.S. from the University of Chicago, and was a calculus instructor. Previously she taught at Family Academy. Ina will analyze the science and math curriculum 5-8, and will design and implement curriculum. She will also create math and science curriculum for grades 9-12, and will look at the K-4 science curriculum. She will teach one section of math, pre-algebra. Logic has been introduced as a separate class and is taught by Mary Drabik (students have logic every other day).

Busing

Mr. Greving gave a global perspective on Nova's busing: 269 students, 128 eligible for busing, 49 waived busing, 29% of our students – 79 receive busing. 10 of those students are having issues with our current bus schedules. The North route is problematic because families are spread out over a large area; there isn't time to pick them all up individually and make it to school by 9:00 a.m. Because of this, regional stops have been created which are located a distance from their homes. Options to alleviate regional stops would be: 1) start school day later, 2) add a 4th bus (very expensive), 3) add a van to pick up those students which would cost \$150 x 160 days, 4) go to Nova community to find a licensed driver to pick up those students, pay their gas and a fee for their services. [Tom Blindt asked if it would be feasible to pay a taxi to transport those students from their homes to their stop.]

Back to School

Mr. Greving reports great joy in welcoming students to a new school year and saying goodbye to them at the end of each day. He met with 8th grade students before school began and went over expectations he has for them. The middle school day is being tweaked somewhat as the pace of the day is very fast, especially for fifth graders. To help with this adjustment the schedule has been changed, taking 5 minutes from advisory at the end of the day and adding those minutes to the lunch/recess time so that there is time for recess. This change is being monitored to see how well it works.

Back-to-School Night for Parents

Parents will be welcome at school tomorrow night for our first "Back-to-School Night." During the first half of the meeting parents will meet with classroom teachers, and during the second half Dr. Terrence Moore will talk about the classical model. Dr. Moore is the headmaster of a classical K-12 charter school in Colorado which is highly successful. Dr. Moore will meet with faculty members in the following groups: K-1, 2-4 and 5-8.

Thanks

Mr. Greving thanked parent volunteers for helping put the school together in the weeks before school opened. He also thanked parents for his welcoming celebration. Thanks were also given to Tom Blindt, Steve Bosacker and contractor Schreiber/Mullaney for their outstanding work.

Project Manager Update

Steve Bosacker's report on the build-out is attached.

Priorities for the Next Board Meeting

*The Board requests that the Governance Committee come to the next board meeting with a report on governance, terms, and board make-up.

*The Board notes that High School planning is critical. To this end, John Greving will be meeting with the High School Advisory Council on Wednesday, September 21.

Strategic Planning

A strategic planning meeting was held during the board meeting (report is attached). Simon Fung arrived at the meeting at 8:00; Ted Olsen left the meeting at 8:01.

Action Items

Accountability Committee

**Joe Michalak moved to approve the academic and non-academic goal projections as stated in the Academic and Non-academic Goals, which is part of the annual charter school report due to the state on October 1, 2005.

Tom Blindt seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

PTO

**Maria Marchand moved to approve the PTO fundraising events listed: Creative Kidstuff, Barnes and Noble, and the Silent Auction.

Megan Daoust seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Upstairs Lockers

Tom Blindt reported that Jason Arco built the upstairs (Grades 3 & 4) lockers; he donated his labor and charged the school only for materials at \$282 per set of lockers. Tom Blindt suggested that we go ahead and order lockers built for all classrooms upstairs, using volunteer labor from school parents.

The board suggested that we delay this issue until the final building expenditures are in.

Treasurer's Report (attached)

Simon Fung presented a profit and loss statement from August of 2005. It was noted that the contracted services line item has exceeded budgeted allotment. The Directors noted that if an amount is over budget a report detailing over-expenditure should automatically be generated.

New Business

Joe Michalak requested the board receive education in parliamentary procedures.

Public Comment

Paul Purman commended the board for their prioritization. He had a correction to the August meeting minutes, his comment at that meeting was a clarifying question. He encouraged board to continue to prioritize.

Nathan Honson asked if a decision has yet been made about opening the high school next year. He had thought the plan was to add a 9-12 school altogether. Board clarified that the most likely scenario is to open a 9th grade section and grow the school as has been the case previously.

Jeanie Anderson thanked the volunteers who helped get the school ready for the first day of school; specifically Julie Hrbacek, Laura Barbeau, the Jordan Family, Margie Makredes, Tom and Shari Blindt. She noted that new families, especially, had come forward to help. She expressed concern that returning families did not do enough in volunteering; a few people did the majority of the work, and with a 20 hour volunteer commitment per family we should not lack for volunteers when a plea for help is issued.

Bryan Koch submitted a list of four written questions (attached).

Adjournment

**Megan Daoust moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:52 p.m.

Maria Marchand seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Jeanie Anderson, recording secretary.