

**Nova Classical Academy
Board of Director Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting
May 10, 2005**

Directors Present: Lisa Knudson, Simon Fung, Margaret Rythers, Maria Marchand, Tom Blindt, Ted Olsen

Directors Absent: Evon Spangler, Jim Day, Jennifer Strautman

Advisors Present: Bob Kreischer, School Director; Louise Wilson, Sponsor Liason; Jane Marie Phillips, PTO President

Others in Attendance: Bob Hobyan, School Accountant; Steve Bosacker, consultant; numerous teachers and parents

Recording Secretary: Jeanie Anderson

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

-The one-year extension to the Bethel contract was moved to action items

-Transportation was moved to action items

**Tom Blindt moved that the agenda be approved with items moved.

Margaret Ryther seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

**Tom Blindt moved to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2005 board meeting.

Margaret Ryther seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

(attached)

Bob Hobyan reported that our balance was much lower this month because of the following: severance and personal time off payment to Dr. Nunneley, unemployment tax, legal fees, payment to NE Metro 916 for special education services, and reduced state revenue.

School Director's Report

(attached)

Bob Kreischer noted that a curriculum specialist was not hired; the process will restart after a new director is hired. He recommends that we hire a technology person part time, a receptionist/nurse part time, and a custodian part time for the 05-06 school year.

Sponsor's Report

Sandi Horn and Louise Wilson visited Nova last week and had a wonderful day. They talked to students and teachers, and saw terrific examples of teaching and learning. An official written report is forthcoming.

Action Items

Lease

The lease was written by Lumen Christi and is being reviewed by two attorneys. Once their reviews are compiled, the lease will go back to Lumen Christi. It should be ready in 2-3 weeks; in time for the June board meeting.

Bylaws

**Tom Blindt moved that the Amendments to the January 2005 Amended and Restated Bylaws, dated 05/02/05 (attached) be approved.

Ted Olsen seconded the motion.

Discussion: Louise Wilson entered into the record that Article 8, sec. 26, which states that the chair and chair-elect are parents raises concern with Bethel's attorney, who sees it as an inadvisable exclusion. Also, Article 3, sec. 8c, she wants to know if there are term limits? The Bethel attorney raised concern for perpetual board members.

The motion passed unanimously.

Contract

**Tom Blindt moved to approve the first amendment to the charter school contract (attached).

Margaret Ryther seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

Community Input Resolution

**Margaret Ryther moved that the Community Input for Board of Directors Composition Directions dated 04/22/05 (attached) be approved.

Ted Olsen seconded the motion.

Discussion: Simon Fung raised the point that we should not automatically name a consultant in the resolution. We should separate the consultant and approval of a dollar amount.

The motion was thus amended:

**Tom Blindt moved to amend the Community Input for Board of Directors Composition Directions dated 04/22/05, in paragraph 5 to state, "Now, therefore be it resolved, that Nova shall solicit and retain a consultant to develop and implement a plan for engaging the Nova community in a discussion regarding the desired composition of the Board of Directors, eligibility for board officers, conflict of interest policy and roles for parents..."

Margaret Ryther seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Conflict of Interest Policy

**Tom Blindt moved to approve the Nova Classical Academy Conflict of Interest policy dated 04/22/05 (attached).

Margaret Ryther seconded the motion.

Discussion: Louise Wilson expressed a difference of opinion. Bethel felt that any elected director should be allowed to vote on any issue including terminating the director.

Voting for: Knudson, Fung, Ryther, Blindt, Olsen

Voting against: Marchand – who disagrees with point 6.

Kindergarten

**Margaret Ryther moved to set kindergarten enrichment program tuition for the 2005-2006 school year at \$2,000.

Tom Blindt seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Transportation

**Tom Blindt moved that Simon Fung and Bob Kreischer look into option 3 (provide our own busing) and option 4 (have parents agree to sign a right to refuse busing) of the Transportation Options sheet (attached) dated 05/06/05.

Maria Marchand seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Reports

Standing Committee Reports

High School Advisory Committee

(report attached)

Dianne Cossairt chairs the committee which meets every Monday at 4:45 p.m. to address the issue of growing the high school program. The committee asked to temporarily increase class size (overflow classes) in grades 6-8 from 24-26 to account for attrition. A survey is being done on this issue.

PTO

Jane Marie Phillips reported that the Family Fiesta was wonderful, and well-attended. The future of the PTO is of concern, as no one has stepped forward to lead it next year.

Current board officers will meet and write plea for new officers. Mr. Kreischer recommended they talk to people to ask them to be involved.

Discussion Items

Enrollment Policy

**Margaret Ryther moved to request that Diane Cossairt do a study which includes community members, parents and teachers to study issues that would arise from raising class size to 26 in grades 6-8.

Tom Blindt seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Individual Welcoming Plan

**Simon Fung moved that the Individual Welcoming Plan of new families be delegated to the director.

Margaret Ryther seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

Waiting Lists

**Simon Fung moved that we amend policy to remove the cap on waiting lists.

Tom Blindt seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Waiting list – Bob Kreischer will look into sibling preference and how a sibling on a waiting list is affected if their enrolled sibling leaves Nova.

Catching Up – The issue of getting new students “up to speed” was delegated to Bob Kreischer.

Spanish

Bob Kreischer met with a group of parents who would like to see a modern foreign language included in Nova's curriculum for all grades. They came up with the following suggestion: Grades K-2 – Spanish every other day or every day; Grades 3-4 – Latin and Spanish every other day; Grade 5 – Increase Latin to daily, with Spanish on an every other day basis; Grades 6-8 – Latin every day; Spanish every other day.

The recommendation was made that all groups get together (teachers, parents with language expertise, and Courtney Holman) to work together to make a workable recommendation.

Policy Development

Brian Mak reported that the Policy Committee was unable to meet last month for various reasons.

Weapons Policy

The weapons policy was sent back to the Policy Committee to:

- 1) Compare policy with the student handbook
- 2) Define weapons
- 3) Make it less hard line
- 4) Create options – hard line, yet merciful when necessary

Family and Medical Leave Act

**Tom Blindt moved to approve the Family and Medical Leave Act policy of 05/10/05.

Simon Fung seconded the motion.

The motion was tabled. Bob Kreischer will include this when he writes the staff handbook.

Bidding and Purchasing Policy

This policy was sent back to the committee to come up with a multi-tiered approach.

Communications Policy

This needs further review.

Crisis Management Plan

(attached)

Facility changes this policy calls for: Phones in every room; new locks for classroom doors so that they can be locked from the inside; blinds for the portable classrooms.

Bob Kreischer will gather pricing information for the above-mentioned things.

**Tom Blindt moved to approve the crisis management plan submitted by Bob Kreischer.

Maria Marchand seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Faculty Development Plan

(attached)

**Tom Blindt moved to approve Bob Kreischer's Faculty Improvement Development Plan used for staff evaluation.

Maria Marchand seconded the motion.

Directors voting for: Kundson, Fung, Marchand, Blindt, Olsen

Director abstaining from votion: Ryther

Guidelines for Dispersal of Staff Development Funds

**Tom Blindt moved to approve Bob Kreischer's Staff Development guidelines as outlined in the Guidelines for Dispersal of Staff Development Funds.

Simon Fung seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Technology

Bob Kreischer recommends we purchase 25 laptop computers to up on a cart for middle-school students to use.

New Business

June Meeting

**Tom Blindt moved to approve a board meeting for June 14, 2005.

Ted Olsen seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Questions were submitted in writing by Greta Wenzel, John Jordan (attached). Oral questions by Gina Zelinka, Jennifer Pierson and Joan Healy (their questions were requested to be put in writing). Comment was made by Roger Larson. Steve Bosacker requested to be put on the May 24 meeting agenda.

The meeting was closed at 10:15 p.m. to discuss personnel issued.

The meeting was reopened at 10:45 p.m.

**Tom Blindt moved that the board accept the salary system suggestion as laid out by Bob Kreischer (dated May 10, 2005).

Ted Olsen seconded the motion.

Voting for: Knudson, Blindt, Olsen and Ryther

Voting Against: none

Abstaining: Fung, Marchand

Submitted by Jeanie Anderson, recording secretary.