

Nova Classical Academy
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting
October 15, 2007

Directors Present: Dianne Krizan, Lisa Knudson, Courtney Holman, Damon Fraser, Becky Lund, Pat Mathews, Mike Ricci, Simon Fung

Directors Absent: Jim Day, Rick Stempkowski

Advisors Present: John Greving, Head of School; Ken Silver, NPTO Liaison;

Others in Attendance: Nancy Schultz, Business Manager; Ina Loobeek, Curriculum Specialist, Mr. David Yu, math teacher and advisor at Ridgeview Classical Academy; Denise Peterson, Friends of Ascension representative; Kate Tetmeyer, PTO Chair; several parents.

Recording Secretary: Vicky Carey

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

II. Announcements

Mr. David Yu, Advisor in the elementary math program at Ridgeview Classical Academy in Fort Collins, Colorado was introduced. Mr. Yu will talk about Singapore Math at tonight's board meeting. Mr. Yu is visiting Nova for two days, doing Singapore Math training and teacher observations.

III. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

IV. Approval of Agenda

Move "Education: Implementation of Classical Model" to after Consent Agenda and before Treasurer's Report.

Take out "Approve Development Revisions to Strategic Plan" from Consent Agenda and move to Committee Reports.

Dianne Krizan moved to approve the Agenda with the modifications.

Pat Mathews seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

V. Consent Agenda

There were a couple of revisions made to the Executive Committee charge, and it is being submitted for the second time to the Board. We do not have Personnel or PTO Goals to approve.

Damon Fraser moved to approve the Consent Agenda as amended.

Patrick Mathews seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Education: Implementation of Classical Model at Nova
Singapore Math

Ina Loobeek

Ina Loobeek gave a Power Point presentation on “Mathematics at Nova: A Progress Report.

She discussed three topics:

1. Math Implementation Progress
2. Curriculum Tasks 2007-2008
3. Singapore Implementation & Training

Ina listed the top five outstanding issues:

1. Singapore Implementation and Training
2. Incoming Students
3. Ability Grouping
4. Acceleration
5. Part-time teachers.

The most important is Singapore implementation and training. We need to teach the “why” of math and not just the “how.”

Mr. David Yu

Mr. Yu talked about what they were doing at Ridgeview in the math program and what Nova could do for the math program here.

Mr. Yu agreed with Ina in that we need to teach the why of math and not just the how. In comparing a Chinese group of students with a United States group of students, the traditional U.S. group could not explain “why you do the things you do.” There is a misconception about math in general. We have to have teacher “buy-in.” We need to educate teachers enough to get the buy-in.

We have to train the teachers to become the researchers. We need to train teachers in math so that they can become successful in the program.

Mr. Yu talked about what to focus on: First the strategies (what are the specific strategies to help us memorize things?); Financial (give money for teachers to come to the training meetings); and hire substitutes so that the teachers can observe other teachers.

We want teachers to become the researchers.

Ridgeview teachers have between 100-200 hours of training per teacher per year.

There were questions and discussion.

VII. Treasurer’s Report

Mike Ricci summarized Jim Day’s report on Nova Finances, dated 10/15/07. (Jim Day could not be here this evening.) There were 15 students less than we projected.

VIII. Head of School Report

John Greving discussed the Head of School Report dated 10/15/07.

Enrollment

Current enrollment was reviewed. We will have an updated budget next time reflecting our current enrollment.

Test Scores

Mr. Greving gave an overview of test scores

Nova does exceptionally well with the MCAs and Iowa Tests, comparing the average of our school with other schools.

Parents enrolling their child at Nova must understand that our culture of students is exceptional in comparison to other schools.

Faculty Development

Mr. Greving talked about the Faculty Development Plan for 2007-2008.

The priority for 2007-2008 is the "implementation and monitoring of the Content and Resource Curriculum Maps."

Upcoming Nova Events

Grades 6, 7 and 8 will be going on class field trips this October 23.

October 23, 2007 will be the first Admissions Event, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. This event has been advertised in the Highland Villager, the Pioneer Press and the Nova News.

Other Admissions Events will be in November, January and February. The deadline for applications for the 2008-2009 school is 5:00 p.m., February 15, 2008.

Search for Open Positions

Get the word out and market to a broader community.

Nova has contracted for a recruiter (Cynthia A. Ripple) to assist in identifying and hiring a Dean of Students and a Director of Curriculum and Instruction.

Academic Support Program

We have instituted a more formal tutorial program in academic and skill areas.

There were questions and discussion.

How do we measure the success of the program?

At what point do we make it mandatory for students who are doing poorly?

Class Size Increase

The Board has not made a formal decision yet on increasing class size.

A recommendation will be made in January.

IX. Committee Reports

Development: Dianne Krizan

Dianne reviewed the goals in the Next Steps section (page 8) of the September 12, 2007 Memorandum from Mark J. Marshall.

Fundraising strategy – the annual fund is the key cornerstone. We won't have the silent auction this year.

We need to identify opportunities to involve friends of Nova – how to expand beyond the parent community.

Dianne reviewed the Development Committee Goals from the October 6, 2007 Committee Report. This is focused right now on the annual operations. It does not have to do with the high school expansion at this point.

Damon Fraser moved to accept the Revised Financial Goal Document of the 2007-2008 Strategic Plan.

Becky Lund seconded the motion.

There was discussion about who should be the keeper of the original document. It was decided that Vicky Carey should keep the original document.

The motion passed unanimously.

Facility: Damon Fraser

On October 24, 4:00-6:00 p.m. there will be a Facility meeting to talk about where we're at regarding the facility needs and also what is out there.

We will discuss different scenarios and how to finance it.

Accountability: Becky Lund

Becky Lund referred to the 2007 Annual Report, page 14 to review the Academic and Non-Academic Goals for the 2007-2008 school year.

Number three of the Non-Academic Goals is a new one. We will begin assessing new students in reading and math and let parents know where their students stand before being accepted into Nova.

Dianne Krizan moved to accept the Academic and Non-Academic Goals as outlined on page 14 of the 2007 Annual Report.

Pat Mathews seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

X. Public Comment

There was public comment.

The meeting was closed to the public.

XI. Executive Session

An executive session was held to approve independent contracts and an Interim Administrative Assistant contract. Also discussed were observations by Dr. Moore and Mr. Evans, as well as September 2007 Open House concerns.

The meeting was open to the public.

XII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Vicky Carey, recording secretary.