

Charter school eyes 2009 opening

▼ **EDUCATION:** Backers of Nampa Classical Academy hope to offer students choice

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NAMPA — Officials say cooperation will be a key factor as a proposed Nampa charter school lays the groundwork for its future.

Nampa School Board Chairman Dan Nogaes told Nampa Classical Academy Chairman Michael Moffett that the board is interested and willing to work with the charter school.

Isaac Moffett, Michael's

brother and the vice chair of the proposed charter's board, said school officials want to work closely with the Nampa School District on the language of the charter petition "so they're happy and we're happy."

"We want to be up front with and work with the school district," Isaac said.

Nampa Classical Academy would open in fall 2009 to sixth through eighth grades initially, adding a grade each year through 12th. The founders' ultimate goal is to serve kindergarten through the 12th grade.

The Moffetts, who were not classically educated but wish

they had been, said they wanted to open a liberal arts school, since the only such schools in the Treasure Valley are private and located in Boise.

"It does truly give a different choice," Isaac said.

The classical curriculum — with its focus on Latin, rhetoric, math, literature, philosophy and history, particularly Western civilization and United States history — would provide a totally different mindset than a traditional education, Isaac said. The school would also provide labs in Latin and math to provide extra help for students who needed it.

Behavioral standards would be set, and the school would teach students to "seek the greater things in life" so that they're "able to pursue a higher destiny," Isaac said.

"To really make a difference in the world, you have to ... have an education that will help you discover why you're here," Isaac said, adding that classical education would help students achieve that goal.

"We know it has happened in the past," he said, pointing to the nation's founding fathers. "They knew what their destiny in life was."

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