



Minutes of Regular Meeting, October 15, 2020
Novi Community School District
Board of Education

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Novi Community School District was held on Thursday, October 15, 2020, beginning at 7:02 PM in the Novi Middle School, Auditorium.

Present: Dr. Ruskin, Mrs. Murphy, Mrs. Hood, Mr. Cook, Mr. Smith, and Mrs. Roney
(by Roll Call)

Absent: Mr. Mena

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Members of the audience joined with the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mrs. Roney that the Novi Board of Education approve the agenda as presented.

Ayes: 6 Dr. Ruskin, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Murphy, Mrs. Hood, Mr. Cook, and Mrs. Roney
(by Roll Call)

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS

Eighteen (18) in-person people and thirty-seven remote people commented on the return to school plan.

CONSENT ITEMS

Items included in the Consent Items are those which have previously been considered by the Board in committee or at a prior meeting, or of such a routine nature, that discussion is not required. Board members may request that any items be removed from Consent Items for further discussion, if additional information is needed or available.

CONSENT ITEMS

A. Approval of Minutes

- a. Regular Meeting Minutes of October 1, 2020
- b. Closed Session Meeting Minutes of October 1, 2020
- c. Board Work Session Meeting Minutes of October 12, 2020

B. Approval of Bills

- a. Board Report
- b. Check Register for August 2020
- c. Purchase Care Report for July 1, 2020 through July 31, 2020

It was moved by Mrs. Murphy and supported by Mr. Cook that the Novi Board of Education approve the agenda as presented.

Ayes: 6 Dr. Ruskin, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Murphy, Mrs. Hood, Mr. Cook, and Mrs. Roney
(by Roll Call)

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS

Personnel Report

Gary Kinzer, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, presents for your consideration the following personnel changes:

A. New Hires

<u>Name</u>	<u>Bldg.</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Effective</u>
DeAlmeida, Michelle	Career Prep/Adult Ed	Math Teacher	New Hire	Hourly	10-19-20
Drazin, Amanda	Career Prep	Spanish Teacher	New Hire	Hourly	10-19-20
Bowyer, Jill	Transportation	Perm Sub Driver	Position Chg.	Hourly	10-16-20
Charfi, Hana	Adult Ed	Secretary	Position Chg.	Level B	10-16-20

B. Retirements and Resignations

<u>Name</u>	<u>Bldg.</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Martinez De Brilanti, Martha	Career Prep	Spanish Teacher	Resigned	09-22-20

C. Leaves of Absence

<u>Name</u>	<u>Bldg.</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Effective</u>
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It was moved by Mrs. Hood and supported by Mr. Mena that the Novi Board of Education adopts the personnel report recommendations as presented.

Ayes: 6 Dr. Ruskin, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Murphy, Mrs. Hood, Mr. Cook, and Mrs. Roney
(by Roll Call)

Nays: 0 **MOTION CARRIED**

Interlocal Governmental Agreement with Oakland County

The Oakland County Board of Commissioners has allocated a portion of its CARES Act funds to Oakland County School Districts, including the Novi Community School District. In order to receive the funds, Oakland County requires that the District enter into an Interlocal Governmental Agreement.

The Interlocal Governmental Agreement sets forth the terms required to receive the funds, spelling out responsibilities of the county and the district.

The Novi Community School District will receive up to \$ \$708,575.28 in reimbursements for expenses related to COVID-19.

It was moved by Mrs. Roney and supported by Mrs. Murphy that the Novi Community School District approve the Interlocal Governmental Agreement with Oakland County to allow for the distribution of CARES Act funds.

Ayes: 6 Dr. Ruskin, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Murphy, Mrs. Hood, Mr. Cook, and Mrs. Roney
(by Roll Call)

Nays: 0 **MOTION CARRIED**

There was a brief break at 8:19 PM. The Board returned at 8:25 PM.

Learning Plan

On March 12, 2020, Governor Whitmer temporarily suspended K-12 instruction and encouraged schools to provide the best alternative means of instruction.

On April 1, 2020, the Governor closed schools for the rest of the 2019-2020 school year and required schools to develop a Continuity of Learning Plan.

On June 30, 2020, Governor Whitmer published her Return to School Roadmap to guide schools as they prepared for fall 2020 return to school.

On July 7, 2020, the Novi Community School District published its ROAR (Responsive Organizational and Academic Return) Plan. This plan was in response to the requirements of Executive Order 142.

On July 16 and July 30, the Novi Community School District Board of Education discussed Return to School planning and preparation.

On August 6, 2020, the Board approved a Return to School recommendation. The recommendation stated:

That the Novi community School District Board of Education approve the following options for our fall 2020 return to school:

- *In-person: A hybrid blend of in-person and virtual instruction with strict adherence to clear safety protocols. The board directs the administration in concert with the teachers to identify the best possible hybrid option.*
- *Virtual online instruction: An online, virtual learning program for students*
- *The Board of Education commits to these options through November 6, 2020.*

After the August 6 vote, parents were sent a commitment form for the start of the school year. The form asked parents to commit to either the hybrid or the virtual format. In the Frequently Asked Question, it was stated that parents would be given an option to change after November 6.

After commitments were made, our administrative staff spent hours planning and preparing for the upcoming school year. Schedules were created trying to balance hybrid and virtual class loads, class requests at the middle and high school, and the needs of students and staff.

School started on September 8. Approximately 55% of parents chose the virtual option and 45% of parents chose the hybrid option.

On August 20, 2020, Public Act 149 was signed into law that required an Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan. The Novi Community School District Board of Education approved the extended learning plan on September 24, 2020.

The Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan requires that the Board of Education each month reconfirm how instruction is going to be delivered during the 2020-2021 school year.

The administration created and sent surveys to parents, teachers, and students. The intent was to gather information for the Board and to assist the administration in the development of its recommendation.

Tonight the following will be reviewed with the Board of Education:

- COVID-19 numbers as required by law
- Results of the student, parent, and teacher survey

It was moved by Mrs. Roney and supported by Mrs. Murphy that the Novi Community School District

Board of Education,

In order to provide certainty for our students, parents, and teachers, the Novi Community School District Board of Education reconfirm the following options through January 22, 2021, the end of the first semester:

- *In-person: A hybrid blend of in-person and virtual instruction with strict adherence to clear safety protocols. Students will attend in-person school two days a week, virtual experience on Wednesday, and be provided at-home experiences two days a week.*
- *Virtual online instruction: An online, virtual learning program for students*

We will continue to focus on improving both our hybrid and our virtual programming.

The Return to School Plan will be reviewed again in November.

Ayes: 5 Dr. Ruskin, Mrs. Murphy, Mrs. Hood, Mr. Cook, and Mrs. Roney
(by Roll Call)
Nays: 1 Mr. Smith **MOTION CARRIED**

There were no items for information and discussion this evening.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

Middle Cities Resolution

The Novi Community School District has been a member of the Middle Cities Risk Management Trust since 1993. This Trust provides property, general liability, auto liability, and errors and omissions insurance for the District.

There are 32 member school districts and other entities in this Trust and each member has a designated Trustee, Alternate Trustee and Risk Management Coordinator. With the departure of Jill Minnick who was Novi's designated Trustee, the District is required to appoint new individuals to fill these roles.

The proposed Resolution is submitted to the Board of Education tonight for information and discussion, with approval at the next regular meeting of the Board of Education on November 5, 2020.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum Committee

Mrs. Roney, Board Trustee and Chair of the Curriculum Committee, reported the committee met this week and discussed the Health Textbook, PE requirements, and the Oakland County DEI Committee activities.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Two in-person people, who had spoken earlier, commented on the return to school plan.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Steve Matthews, Superintendent of Schools, expressed his appreciation to the Board and the community for their comments they have made tonight. He stated that we were able to express our opinions with each other. Dr. Matthews said these are difficult times and he appreciated the work that they are doing in the difficult position that they have been put in to try to find answers.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mr. McIntyre, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations, announced that all student meals are now free for the remainder of the 2021 school year.

Dr. Gary Kinzer, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, reported that they held the first virtual Mentee Monday for October 12, 2021. He stated that there were 20 new teachers and this replaced the orientation that new teachers would have normally had before school starts in August. Dr. Kinzer reported that the next session will be in November.

Dr. RJ Webber, Assistant Superintendent for Academic Services, expressed his gratitude to everyone who had commented and to the kids for their tremendous courage to come and speak to the Board. He stated that he wanted them to know that they have been heard and that we will do our best to make it happen. Dr. Webber said that the feedback was good and that he knows it is hard to teach our own kids. He mentioned that we are genuinely doing everything we can to get there. Dr. Webber reported that he heard loud and clear, even from our staunchest critics, that they understand the teachers were doing everything they could. He stated that we will get through this together.

BOARD COMMUNICATION

Mrs. Roney, Board Trustee, reported that we are doing a wonderful job, the administration, the teachers and that we are doing the best that we can. She stated that there is not a person here who does not want our kids back five (5) days a week. Mrs. Roney said that is our ultimate goal, but we have to get there safely. She mentioned that the kids might carry it home to grandma, who might be living in the home, so there is a concern there. Mrs. Roney reported that is why we have 55% of our people doing virtual, but we will get there. She stated, we hear you.

Mrs. Hood, Board Treasurer, expressed her gratitude to the teachers. She reported that they are executing on the plan that has been given to them and they are doing yeoman's work. Mrs. Hood stated that they love our kids and the kids love them, so she just wanted to say thank you to them.

Dr. Ruskin, Board President, reported that there is a Laramie Project, a show, being put on by our high school students. She stated that they have gotten innovative and creative and it is outside of the atrium, before you walk into the auditorium. She reported that it is tonight and tomorrow night. Dr. Ruskin said that you can find it on the website or on Twitter.

Dr. Ruskin mentioned she looks forward to working with the Board regarding DEI, which is the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion group and hearing what our DEI committee is doing here in our District. She reported that this will open up an opportunity for student voice. Dr. Ruskin stated that there is an opportunity to form a committee and get a better understanding of what is going on and develop an umbrella of all of the different moving parts. She said that Oakland Schools is looking at best practices and how we can implement them here in Novi.

Dr. Ruskin expressed her gratitude to the administration, the Board, and the community for the conversation tonight. She expressed her appreciation for all of the emails and those who attended and those who were listening.

Dr. Ruskin mentioned that although emotions got high and there were a few bumps in the road tonight, we are all community. She reported that whether it be my neighbor or someone she had never met, she believes that it is important to remember to have grace for each other. Dr. Ruskin stated that we are all doing the best that we can and to walk out of here with forgiveness and grace for each other because ultimately whether it is the passionate community member or the administrative team or the Board, we are

all here with our passions and our emotions because we care about the kids. She said let us keep that at the forefront of our thoughts, decisions, comments, emails, texts, and everything that we are doing to try to find our way.

Mr. Smith, Board Vice-President, reported that Friday and Saturday night, at Paradise Park, the Novi Educational Foundation is hosting their Oktoberfest with pretzels and cheese sauce, stuffed cabbage, sausage, and lots of yummy food. He stated that the Oktoberfest is replacing the Green Gala for 2020 that we were unable to hold due to the pandemic. Mr. Smith said that there were about 400 people who bought tickets to attend the Green Gala and the Novi Educational Foundation reached out to them and asked them if they were interested in attending the Oktoberfest instead. He mentioned that it was not fancy and we would be outside social distancing, but you would have food, drinks, and putt-putt. Mr. Smith reported that only two (2) people asked for their money back.

He stated that the NEF just approved a virtual field trip to Tollgate Farms for all of the kindergarteners.

Mr. Smith said that we have a great community and the NEF is doing great work. He mentioned that Jason Smith, the Executive Director, is knocking it out of the park. Mr. Smith expressed his gratitude to everyone.

ADJOURNMENT

Ayes: 6 Dr. Ruskin, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Murphy, Mrs. Hood, Mr. Cook, and Mrs. Roney
(by Roll Call)

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 10:52 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for November 5, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Willy Mena, Secretary

An online recording of this meeting is available on YouTube and on the District Website: novi.k12.mi.us/