



**Minutes of a Regular Meeting, April 15, 2021
Novi Community School District
Board of Education**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Novi Community School District was held on Thursday, April 15, 2021, beginning at 7:00 PM.

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

Absent:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

Ayes: 7 Dr. Ruskin, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Hood, Mr. Mena, Mr. Cook, Mrs. Murphy,
and Mrs. Roney

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS

There were eight (8) comments from the audience. Seven (7) of the comments were regarding keeping the kids in school five (5) days and touching on the mental health of students. One (1) was regarding Village Oaks Elementary and the positive year they have had this year.

CONSENT AGENDA 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 April 8, 2021
- B. Approval of Bills
 - a. Board Report
 - b. Check Register for March 2021
 - c. Purchase Card Report January 30, 2021 through February 26, 2021

It was moved by Mr. Mena and supported by Mrs. Roney that the Novi Board of Education approves the consent item(s) as presented.

Ayes: 7 Dr. Ruskin, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Hood, Mr. Mena, Mr. Cook, Mrs. Murphy,
and Mrs. Roney

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS

Personnel Report

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

A.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Bldg.</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Effective</u>
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B. Retirements and Resignations

<u>Name</u>	<u>Bldg.</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Popour, Jerry	MAINT	Semi-skilled	Discharge	04-06-21

C. Leaves of Absence

<u>Name</u>	<u>Bldg.</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Cemborski, Gretchen	TRANS	Bus Driver	LOA #1-Health	04-12-21

It was moved by Mr. Cook and supported by Mr. Smith that the Novi Board of Education adopts the personnel report recommendations as presented.

Ayes: 7 Dr. Ruskin, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Hood, Mr. Mena, Mr. Cook, Mrs. Murphy, and Mrs. Roney

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Bid Package #6: Boiler Replacement Project

On Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 1:00 PM, sealed bids were received and publicly opened for the boiler replacement project. In attendance for the bid opening were representatives from the Novi Community School District, Plante Moran Cresa, TMP Architecture, McCarthy & Smith, Inc. and interested bidders. Bids were opened, recorded, and tabulated through a Zoom meeting.

The project team conducted post bid interviews with each of the following, qualified bidders, for each bid division of work. During the post bid interview, the project team reviewed the scope of work, project schedule, manpower requirements, and specified materials with each of the contractors.

Based upon the project team's review of the proposals and bidders, we propose the following recommendations for contract award:

Bid Division 142: HVAC

Ms. Laura Snyder

Detroit Boiler Company

Total Amount \$390,833.0

Bid Division 143: Electrical

Mr. John Arnold

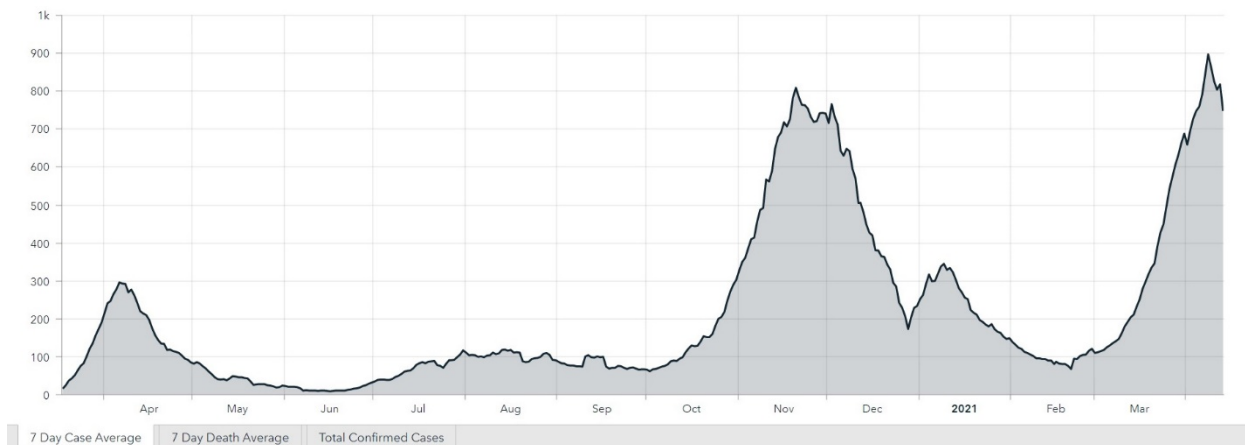
J&J Electric

Total Amount \$38,750.00

Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan

I am well aware that COVID cases are increasing dramatically in the state and in Oakland County.

7 Day Average of Daily Cases



With this dramatic rise in cases the question clearly becomes what should be done.

On April 9, Governor Whitmer suggested a two-week pause for high school instruction starting April 12.

Wayne State University has paused all on-campus activity through April 26.

However, the majority of districts in Oakland County are moving forward with their current plans.

In our district, we have adopted on February 4, 2021, a model that relies on three key metrics:

1. Case counts per 10,000 residents in the Novi Community School District
2. Case count average of the three Novi zip codes
3. Case counts in Oakland County

Tracking these metrics allowed our Novi Community School District Board of Education to approve a plan that would eventually return our hybrid students to five-day per week in-person instruction. The Board of Education approved a recommendation to establish thresholds that would have to be met in each of these areas for three consecutive weeks before we could return to five-day per week in-person instruction.

At that same meeting, the Board of Education also approved a recommendation that would cause us to reconsider the five-day per week in-person model if the metrics trended in the wrong direction and met or exceeded higher thresholds for three consecutive weeks.

Based on our metrics, we returned our K-6 hybrid students to five-day per week in-person instruction on February 22 and our 7-12 hybrid students to five-day per week in-person instruction on March 1.

However, since March 1, the metrics have risen slowly each week.

	2/5	2/12	2/19	2/25	3/3	3/11	3/18	3/25	4/2	4/9	4/15
Case counts per 10,000 in NCSD	21.3	14.0	11.5	10.6	11.2	15.2	25.5	42.8	59.5	79.3	94.8

	2/5	2/12	2/19	2/25	3/3	3/11	3/18	3/25	4/2	4/9	4/15
Case count averages for Novi zip codes	47.15	34.73	26.23	20.15	16.73	18.68	25.32	40.11	60.11	89.8	120.85

	2/5	2/12	2/19	2/25	3/3	3/11	3/18	3/25	4/2	4/9	4/15
14 day avg. case count in Oakland County	168	132	98	114	120	147	235	385	582	778	870

While the metrics have risen, the reported positive cases in our district, while relatively low, have also begun to rise:

	2/1	2/8	2/15	2/22	3/1	3/8	3/15	3/22	3/29	4/5	4/12
Positive NCSD cases	5	0	0	1	0	2	5	8	13	1	15

For perspective, the week of April 5 was spring break week. We did not report cases because we were not in school. However, it is known that there were several positive cases over spring break.

The positive cases by building since February 1 are important to note as well:

February/March/April Building	Total positive cases	Students	Staff
ECEC	0	0	0

Deerfield	1	1	0
Novi Woods	0	0	0
Orchard Hills	2	2	0
Parkview	0	0	0
Village Oaks	6	6	0
Meadows	7	6	1
Novi Middle School	11	10	1
Novi High School	26	22	4
Career Prep/Adult Ed	1	1	0
NATC	0	0	0
Other (transportation, district staff)	2	0	2
Total	56	48	8

These increased cases have led to an increase in the number of students that we are quarantining as a result of close contact.

The District’s quarantine numbers as of April 15, 2021 are 111.

During the 2020-2021 school year, NCSD has been informed of **132 total positive** cases of COVID-19 this year. That total is amongst students, teachers, staff members, volunteers, or any other person who was present on school property or at a school function under circumstances that may result in the transmission or contraction of COVID-19 during their infectious period.

The total number is higher than the reported cases charted on the website due to some individuals testing positive without being on school property during their 48 hours prior to having symptoms.

The Board of Education and the administration made a commitment to re-examine our approach when the COVID numbers began to trend in the wrong direction and met higher thresholds for three weeks in a row.

That time is upon us.

K-6 Hybrid Return Metric	Return Target: At or below	Consider return back to hybrid target: At or above	25-Mar	2-Apr	9-Apr	16-Apr
Case counts per 10,000 residents in the Novi Community School District	30 for three consecutive weeks	45 for three consecutive weeks	Case count reported 3/11 - 3/24: 42.8	Case count reported 3/18 - 3/31: 59.5	Case count reported 3/25 - 4/7: 79.3	Case count reported 4/1 - 4/14:

Case count average of the three Novi zip codes – 48374, 48375, 48377	55 for three consecutive weeks	75 for three consecutive weeks	Friday-Thursday average for 3/19 - 3/25: 40.11	Friday-Thursday average for 3/26 - 4/2: 60.11	Friday-Thursday average for 4/2 - 4/8: 89.8	Friday-Thursday average for 4/9 - 4/15: 120.85
14 day average case counts in Oakland County	200 for three consecutive weeks	275 for three consecutive weeks	385	582	778	870
7-12 Hybrid Return Metric	Return Target: At or below	Consider return back to hybrid target: At or above	18-Mar	2-Apr	9-Apr	16-Apr
Case counts per 10,000 residents in the Novi Community School District	20 for three consecutive weeks	40 for three consecutive weeks	Case count reported 3/11 - 3/24: 42.8	Case count reported 3/18 - 3/31: 59.5	Case count reported 3/25 - 4/7: 79.3	Case count reported 4/1 - 4/14:
Case count average of the three Novi zip codes – 48374, 48375, 48377	40 for three consecutive weeks	60 for three consecutive weeks	Friday-Thursday average for 3/19 - 3/25: 40.11	Friday-Thursday average for 3/26 - 4/2: 60.11	Friday-Thursday average for 4/2 - 4/8: 89.8	Friday-Thursday average for 4/9 - 4/15: 120.85
14 day average case counts in Oakland County	140 for three consecutive weeks	225 for three consecutive weeks	385	582	778	870

We have hit the upper thresholds in all three metrics for two consecutive weeks at the K-6 level. It is clear from the trends that we will hit these thresholds next week as well.

We have hit the upper thresholds in all three metrics for three consecutive weeks at the 7-12 level.

Based on the approval of the February 4 recommendation, this requires that we identify our next move to keep our students and staff safe. The February 4 approved recommendation does not identify what we will do, but it does require that we examine options.

There are several key considerations:

1. There will be eight weeks of school left starting Monday, April 19.
2. While cases have risen the number of cases in our district remains relatively low
3. While cases are relatively low the number of cases is increasing
4. Because of increased density in our schools, quarantine numbers have risen.

5. The number of cases differ by grade level

Another key consideration is what happened during the last surge in November/December 2020. During that surge we had numbers that were similar to the numbers that we are seeing now:

	2/5	2/12	2/19	2/25	3/3	3/11	3/18	3/25	4/2	4/9	4/15
Case counts per 10,000 in NCSD	21.3	14.0	11.5	10.6	11.2	15.2	25.5	42.8	59.5	79.3	94.8

	10/21	10/28	11/4	11/11	11/18	11/25	12/2	12/9	12/16	12/30	1/6
Case counts per 10,000 in NCSD	16.7	24.3	28.6	37.4	51.6	60.2	61.7	57.4	48.3	35.5	29.5

	2/5	2/12	2/19	2/25	3/3	3/11	3/18	3/25	4/2	4/9	4/15
Case count averages for Novi zip codes	47.15	34.73	26.23	20.15	16.73	18.68	25.32	40.11	60.11	89.8	120.85

	10/21	10/28	11/4	11/11	11/18	11/25	12/2	12/9	12/16
14 day avg. case count in Oakland County	126	183	270	422	607	675	680	619	496

	2/5	2/12	2/19	2/25	3/3	3/11	3/18	3/25	4/2	4/9	4/15
14 day avg. case count in Oakland County	168	132	98	114	120	147	235	385	582	778	870

Positive cases during November/ December can be compared to February/April 2021:

November/December Building	Total positive cases	Students	Staff
ECEC	4	0	4
Deerfield	2	1	1
Meadows	6	3	3
Novi Woods	1	1	0
Orchard Hills	0	0	0
Parkview	0	0	0
Village Oaks	2	1	1
Novi Middle School	1	1	0
Novi High School	9	6	3
Career Prep/Adult Ed	0	0	0
NATC	1	0	1
Other (transportation, district staff)	4	2	2
Total	30	15	15

February/March/April Building	Total positive cases	Students	Staff
ECEC	0	0	0
Deerfield	1	1	0
Meadows	7	6	1
Novi Woods	0	0	0
Orchard Hills	1	1	0
Parkview	0	0	0
Village Oaks	6	6	0
Novi Middle School	11	10	1
Novi High School	26	22	4
Career Prep/Adult Ed	1	1	0
NATC	0	0	0
Other (transportation, district staff)	2	0	2
Total	55	47	8

Total cases in the district from September 2020 through April 12, 2021:

September 2020 - April 12, 2021	Total positive cases	Students	Staff
ECEC	4	0	4
Deerfield	4	2	2
Meadows	12	7	5
Novi Woods	2	1	1
Orchard Hills	1	1	0
Parkview	2	1	1
Village Oaks	8	6	2
Novi Middle School	12	11	1
Novi High School	43	36	7

Career Prep/Adult Ed	0	0	0
NATC	1	0	1
Other (transportation, district staff)	6	2	4
Total	95	67	28

These numbers are significant, but not overwhelming. They do show that most of our positive cases have come in the past 10 weeks – February through April.

Other districts have reported much higher numbers. The districts that surround us have reported the following numbers:

District	Positive Cases
District A	437
District B	277
District C	140
District D	378

I would attribute our success to our student and staff compliance with mitigation strategies – masks, hand washing, sanitizing desks, increased ventilation, increased attention to hard surface cleaning.

Another important question is how quickly would numbers decrease once the surge is over? It is hard to know. The last surge included holiday periods in November and December where families gathered that may have led to higher case counts. But from a high 14-day case count of 680 reported in the December 2 Oakland County Health Division report, it took eight weeks to get the 14-day daily case count to 202.

The last piece of data comes from our student athlete testing. We have tested over our student athletes this spring. There are over 600 student athletes this spring between the high school and middle school. We have administered over 1000 rapid COVID tests. We have had two positive results.

There is undoubtedly an increase of COVID in our community. The numbers – case counts per 10,000 residents in the Novi Community School District, the average of case counts in our Novi zip codes, and the 14-day case count average in Oakland County – all show a rather dramatic increase.

And, while case counts have risen in our district and in our schools, they have not risen as fast or as dramatically.

What follows are a series of recommendations. These recommendations are grouped by grade level and give options to the Board. My preferred recommendation will always be the first recommendation.

Grades 9-12

Case counts are increasing among our 7-12 bandwidth:

February/March/April Building	Total positive cases	Students	Staff
Novi High School	26	22	4

Based on the increasing case counts in Novi among students in grades 9-12, the following recommendations are made. These recommendations are made in order of priority. I believe that moving to hybrid will create space in our classrooms and provide an extra layer of safety to our students and staff. In addition, I find it difficult to recommend all virtual and allow our extra-curricular athletics to continue.

Recommendation One is my preference. But I provide additional recommendations to the Board as options.

Recommendation One

That the Novi Community School District Board of Education approve returning students in grades 9-12 to hybrid on April 19.

- Grade 9-12 Hybrid students would return to two groups - Monday and Thursday and Tuesday and Friday.
- Wednesday would be a full day of virtual instruction for both groups to meet together
- Students would stay in the hybrid format until we move below the upper target metrics whereupon we would return hybrid students to five-day per week in-person. Case counts would need to return to these levels:
 - Case counts per 10,000 in the NCSD: 40
 - Case count average in Novi zip codes: 60
 - 14-day average case count in Oakland County: 225
- If we do not hit the lower threshold by May 28, we would stay in hybrid through the end of the school year

If Recommendation One is approved there is no need to vote on recommendation two. If Recommendation One is not approved, then move on to Recommendation Two.

Recommendation Two

That the Novi Community School District Board of Education approve returning students in grades 9-12 to all virtual on April 19.

- Students would stay in the virtual format until we move below the upper target metrics whereupon we would return hybrid students to five-day per week in-person. Case counts would need to return to these levels:
 - Case counts per 10,000 in the NCSD: 40
 - Case count average in Novi zip codes: 60
 - 14-day average case count in Oakland County: 225
- If we do not hit the lower threshold by May 28, we would stay in hybrid through the end of the school year

If Recommendation One or Two is approved there is no need to vote on Recommendation Three. If Recommendation One or Two is not approved, then move on to Recommendation Three.

Recommendation Three

That the Novi Community School District Board of Education approve remaining in our current format for students in grades 9-12 – providing in-person five-day per week instruction for the hybrid students and virtual instruction for those who selected the virtual modality.

Grades 7-8

Case counts are increasing among our 7-12 bandwidth:

February/March/April Building	Total positive cases	Students	Staff
Novi Middle School	11	10	1

Based on the increasing case counts in Novi among students in grades 7-8, the following recommendations are made. These recommendations are made in order of priority. I believe that moving to hybrid will create space in our classrooms and provide an extra layer of safety to our students and staff. In addition, I find it difficult to recommend all virtual and allow our extra-curricular athletics to continue.

Recommendation One is my preference. But I provide additional recommendations to the Board as options.

Recommendation One

That the Novi Community School District Board of Education approve returning students in grades 7-8 to hybrid on April 19.

- Grade 7-8 Hybrid students would return to two groups - Monday and Thursday and Tuesday and Friday.
- Wednesday would be a full day of virtual instruction for both groups to meet together
- Students would stay in the hybrid format until we move below the upper target metrics whereupon we would return hybrid students to five-day per week in-person. Case counts would need to return to these levels:
 - Case counts per 10,000 in the NCSD: 40
 - Case count average in Novi zip codes: 60
 - 14-day average case count in Oakland County: 225
- If we do not hit the lower threshold by May 28, we would stay in hybrid through the end of the school year

If Recommendation One is approved there is no need to vote on recommendation two. If Recommendation One is not approved, then move on to Recommendation Two.

Recommendation Two

That the Novi Community School District Board of Education approve returning students in grades 7-8 to all virtual on April 19.

- Students would stay in the virtual format until we move below the upper target metrics whereupon we would return hybrid students to five-day per week in-person. Case counts would need to return to these levels:
 - Case counts per 10,000 in the NCSD: 40

- Case count average in Novi zip codes: 60
- 14-day average case count in Oakland County: 225
- If we do not hit the lower threshold by May 28, we would stay in hybrid through the end of the school year

If Recommendation One or Two is approved there is no need to vote on Recommendation Three. If Recommendation One or Two is not approved, then move on to Recommendation Three.

Recommendation Three

That the Novi Community School District Board of Education approve remaining in our current format for students in grades 7-8 – providing in-person five-day per week instruction for the hybrid students and virtual instruction for those who selected the virtual modality.

Grades K-6

Case counts remain low among our K-6 bandwidth:

February/March/April Building	Total positive cases	Students	Staff
Deerfield	1	1	0
Novi Woods	0	0	0
Orchard Hills	2	2	0
Parkview	0	0	0
Village Oaks	6	6	0
Meadows	7	6	1

Based on these lower case counts I believe that we can safely keep our K-6 students in school. While all students benefit from being in school and having daily teacher contact, I believe that the K-6 students impact is significant. Because case counts remain low in this bandwidth and because a majority of teachers are immunized, I believe that we can safely have these students remain in school.

However, there is a risk. As a result, I provide two additional options for the Board to consider.

Recommendation One

That the Novi Community School District Board of Education approve remaining in our current format for students in grades K-6 – providing in-person five-day per week instruction for the hybrid students and virtual instruction for those who selected the virtual modality.

Recommendation Two

That the Novi Community School District Board of Education approve returning students in grades K-6 to hybrid on April 26.

- Grade K-6 Hybrid students would return to two groups - Monday and Thursday and Tuesday and Friday.
- Wednesday would be a full day of virtual instruction for both groups to meet together

- Students would stay in the hybrid format until we move below the upper target metrics whereupon we would return hybrid students to five-day per week in-person. Case counts would need to return to these levels:
 - Case counts per 10,000 in the NCSD: 45
 - Case count average in Novi zip codes: 75
 - 14-day average case count in Oakland County: 275
- If we do not hit the lower threshold by May 28, we would stay in hybrid through the end of the school year

If Recommendation One is approved there is no need to vote on recommendation two. If Recommendation One is not approved, then move on to Recommendation Two.

Recommendation Three

That the Novi Community School District Board of Education approve returning students in grades K-6 to all virtual on April 26.

- Students would stay in the virtual format until we move below the upper target metrics whereupon we would return hybrid students to five-day per week in-person. Case counts would need to return to these levels:
 - Case counts per 10,000 in the NCSD: 45
 - Case count average in Novi zip codes: 75
 - 14-day average case count in Oakland County: 275
- If we do not hit the lower threshold by May 28, we would stay in hybrid through the end of the school year

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recommendation for Grades 9-12:

It was moved by Mr. Mena and supported by Mrs. Roney that the Novi Community School District Board of Education approve **recommendation three** remaining in our current format for students in grades 9-12 – providing in-person five-day per week instruction for the hybrid students and virtual instruction for those who selected the virtual modality.

Ayes: 5 Dr. Ruskin, Mr. Smith, Mr. Mena, Mrs. Murphy, and Mrs. Roney
 Nays: 2 Mr. Cook and Mrs. Hood (by Roll Call Vote) **MOTION CARRIED**

Recommendation for Grades 7-8:

It was moved by Mr. Mena and supported by Mrs. Roney that the Novi Community School District Board of Education approve **recommendation three** remaining in our current format for students in grades 7-8 – providing in-person five-day per week instruction for the hybrid students and virtual instruction for those who selected the virtual modality.

Ayes: 6 Dr. Ruskin, Mr. Smith, Mr. Mena, Mrs. Murphy, Mrs. Hood, and Mrs. Roney
 Nays: 1 Mr. Cook (by Roll Call Vote) **MOTION CARRIED**

Recommendation for Grades K-6:

It was moved by Mr. Mena and supported by Mrs. Murphy that the Novi Community School District Board of Education approve **recommendation one** remaining in our current format for students in grades K-6 – providing in-person five-day per week instruction for the hybrid students and virtual instruction for those who selected the virtual modality.

Ayes: 7 Dr. Ruskin, Mr. Cook, Mr. Smith, Mr. Mena, Mrs. Murphy, Mrs. Hood,
and Mrs. Roney

Nays: 0 (by Roll Call Vote)

MOTION CARRIED

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum Committee

Mrs. Roney, Board Trustee and Chair of the committee, reported that they had a great meeting yesterday. She stated that they talked about some policies covering both textbooks and other instructional material including the selection of media center materials. Mrs. Roney said they went into their old policies, which the committee is going to look at some more. She mentioned that they had four (4) parents attend, the principal from Parkview, and Mr. Kortland, who lives in the district.

Mrs. Roney reported that Dr. Webber gave an explanation of why some things happen. She stated that as time went by, things got more productive. Mrs. Roney said that they were able to articulate concerns and that more discussion needs to happen. She expressed her gratitude to Mr. Mena and Mr. Smith.

Mrs. Roney finished by saying that the committee talked about how we need to respect each other more and stop the bullying. She reported that we are here for the kids and need to be respectful of everyone and their time. Mrs. Roney stated that this needs to become a positive culture where we are not this group and not that group, but one group for the kids.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

There were no comments from the audience.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

There was no superintendent report this evening.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Dr. Gary Kinzer, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, reported that their final mentee Monday of the year is April 26. He stated that it is a transition time for our tier one mentees, which are our first year teachers. Dr. Kinzer said that the focus of mentoring in year two (2) moves away from those essential pieces covered in year one (1) and really focuses on classroom instruction. He mentioned that now they can take some time to celebrate and make that transition to year two (2).

Dr. Kinzer expressed his gratitude to the mentoring coordinators, Rhonda Hoffman and Brian Langley. He reported that they do a fantastic job of coordinating our mentors and working with them directly. Dr. Kinzer thanked the mentors across the district who share their expertise with our young teachers. He stated that it is part of our culture and is one of the reasons we are successful.

Dr. Kinzer shared some silver linings that came out of the pandemic is that our administrators participated in a virtual career fair/job fair with our teachers. He said that instead of the

traditional job fair format, the pre-teacher prep universities across the state came together and formed a virtual job fair. Dr. Kinzer reported that the candidates, from all over the state participated and a number of administrators as well. He stated that if you have never been to a teacher job fair, it is really chaotic with a lot of people in a room and waiting in line for the candidates. Dr. Kinzer said that all of this was eliminated with the virtual format. He mentioned that it is a lot like the Zoom parent/teacher conferences where appointments are scheduled and are 10 minutes long and administrators have the opportunity to meet them, have a conversation, and move on to the next interview. Dr. Kinzer reported that he believes that they will not be traveling anymore across the state for the traditional job fairs when this can be done virtually.

Dr. Kinzer reported that this time of year we ordinarily would be recognizing recipients of the Oakland county Teacher of the Year. He stated that this program did not run this year, so the good news is that we are still running a Teacher of the Year program, in cooperation with the NEF and the Suburban Collection. Dr. Kinzer said that here is the silver lining; with Oakland Schools we are not able to recognize the preschool, but this year we are going to also recognize a preschool teacher. He mentioned that they are working through the process and will be announcing and celebrating our winners soon at a Board meeting.

Dr. RJ Webber, Assistant Superintendent for Academic Services, thanked the four (4) administrators sitting in the back of the room, David Ascher, Adva Ringle, Laura Carino, and Andrew Comb for being here. He stated that they deserve true accolades for the countless zoom meetings that took place June through July to prepare for the year and for what they sacrificed to help our community.

BOARD COMMUNICATION

Mr. Mena, Board Secretary, reported that two things that were positive this week include the finish of the basketball season and we broadcasted over 50 games this past season on the NFHS network, 35 of which were a live broadcast. He stated that we had almost 6000 total live views this year for our home basketball games and another 4000 views done via video on demand. Mr. Mena said that we have three (3) sporting locations where we have the pixalot cameras to follow the play up and down the field. He mentioned that families around the country are grateful for our service and that one dad watched all the way from Lisbon, Portugal.

Mr. Mena reported that three (3) years ago we invested in an electronic timing system for our track and field team. He stated that this improved our ability to move events along and integrated the results with our video score board. Mr. Mena said that it reports student times that are universally accepted versus the hand timing of those races. He mentioned that one of our female long distance runners was able to get an athletic scholarship at Michigan State University using the accepted electronic scoring system.

Mrs. Roney, Board Trustee, reported that last year she missed some of the end of the year events due to illness and she had heard about the car parade. She was hoping that the car parade was scheduled for this year

Mrs. Hood, Board Treasurer, congratulated the 23 musicians from the Solo and Ensemble Honors Ensemble. She reported that is a big deal and they work as hard as any athlete; it is a great accomplishment.

Mr. Cook, Board Vice-President, reported that Mr. Mena mentioned that broadcasting, but he too is there at every game doing the live stats and giving information to our play-by-play guys for basketball. He thanked Mr. Mena for being there.

Mr. Cook stated that this month is National Autism Awareness Month. He said that probably everyone has been touched by somebody with autism and there is a very broad spectrum. Mr. Cook mentioned that he has known a few people that have it and you would not know. He asked that we honor those families who are dealing with this.

Mr. Smith, Board Trustee, reported that the Novi Youth Assistance (NYA) had just completed their annual fundraiser. He stated that he is the vice chair for that program and they do valuable work for our kids in the district; for example, they provide funds for 8th graders to go on the Washington DC trip if their families cannot afford it. Mr. Smith said that this is not something that is on everyone's radar. He mentioned that they also give out scholarships and provide money for families and kids that need it. Mr. Smith reported some kids cannot afford driving school. He stated that if you were not able to contribute to the Bowl-a-Thon this year, go to the NYA website. Mr. Smith said fifty bucks can go a long way. He mentioned that David Ascher, in the audience, was the first to contribute this year and does every year.

Mr. Smith reported that he is the president of the Novi Educational Foundation (NEF) and one of the difficult things they are exploring this year is to pick one of three teachers who will get a brand new car for three years. He stated the other two get a thank you, a bouquet of flowers, and a sign. Mr. Smith said that since we have four this year, he is trying to work with Suburban Collection about a reverse raffle and instead of giving away a car to one person, there is an opportunity to give a meaningful award to all four teachers. He mentioned that he was not sure if they could come to an agreement, but he wanted to throw it out publicly that we could have one big winner or we could have winners from different buildings.

Dr. Ruskin, Board President, stated that although sometimes it feels like there is a dark cloud over us, whether it be challenging times in life, whether it be what is happening around us in the world, or whether it is what is happening outside of Novi, things that are just really overwhelming, she did not want us to forget there are really great things and it is the end of the year and with that comes the Novi Athletes getting their scholarships and local scholarships.

She reported that there are so many wonderful things happening and she appreciates all of the work that everybody does here, whether it be the administrative team, staff, our students; they had a really tough time testing this week and they really got after it. Dr. Ruskin expressed her appreciation for that.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mrs. Murphy and supported by Mr. Cook that the Novi Board of Education Regular Board meeting be adjourned

Ayes: 7 Dr. Ruskin, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Hood, Mr. Mena, Mr. Cook, Mrs. Murphy,
and Mrs. Roney

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for May 6, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., at the Educational Services Building and Live Streamed on YouTube.

Willy Mena, Secretary

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