



**Minutes of a Regular Meeting, June 3, 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, June 3, 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 Mrs. Hood 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 no comments from the audience.

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 May 20, 2021

- B. MASB Membership 2020-21

- C. MHSAA Membership 2020-21

It was moved by Mr. Cook and supported by Mr. Smith 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. New Hires

<u>Name</u>	<u>Bldg.</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Effective</u>
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Jodoin, Debra MS Receptionist Position Chg. Level B 06-04-21

A. Retirements and Resignations

<u>Name</u>	<u>Bldg.</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Stotler, Diana	District	Instructional Coach	Retirement	08-02-21

B. 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. Cook 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

Personnel Report B

Our current Special Education Supervisor Stacey Theophelis has been hired as the Executive Director of Special Education in the Clarkston Community School District. They want her to start as soon as possible. Their Board approval will not take place until June 14. Assuming the Board approves Ms. Theophelis, she will then resign effective the end of the day June 15.

For the Special Education Supervisor position in our district, I would like to appoint an interim for the 2021-2022 school year. The rationale for appointing an interim is twofold. First, this position supervises some summer programming - extended school year, birth to three, child find - so we need someone quickly. Second, our hiring process would take us at least into August after posting, conducting the initial screen, the HumanEX screen, and a panel interview. A potential outsider would then need to give notice to their current employer. Given that timeline, it would be difficult to have a person in place to help prepare for the 2021-2022 school year.

Amanda Squires is a teacher consultant currently working at the high school. She has been in the district for eight years and has demonstrated her understanding of the needs of special education students, works to support students and teachers, and provides support within the department. In consultation with the Director of Student Services, we believe she could step in and help this summer, prepare for the next school year, and provide leadership for the 2021-2022 school year.

We could then post next spring for the 2022-2023 school year.

If approved, Ms. Squires would be the interim and begin June 14 to have two days of transition with the current Supervisor.

It was moved by Mrs. Murphy and supported by Mrs. Hood that the Novi Community School District Board of Education approve Amanda Squires as the Special Education Supervisor.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Food Service Management Contract Renewal

At the May 7, 2020 Board of Education meeting, Chartwells was approved to continue to serve as the district's food service management company for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. They have been providing Food Service in the District since 2013. The current contract expires on June 30, 2021.

Chartwells manages contracts with approximately 200 school districts in Michigan. District administration has been extremely satisfied with the work performed by Chartwells and especially Evol Gazzarato, Food and Nutrition Director.

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is also required to approve the renewal before being presented to the Board of Education. We received the MDE approval on May 6, 2021.

The Food Service Management Contract renewal was presented for information and discussion at the May 20, 2021 Board meeting and comes back tonight for approval.

It was moved by Mr. Cook and supported by Mrs. Roney that the Novi Community School District Board of Education approve Chartwells to continue to serve as the District's food service management company by renewing their contract.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

2021 Summer Tax Levy

In order to prepare for the July 1 tax bills, the District must certify the summer tax levy no later than early June.

The 2021(2021-22 fiscal year) taxable value of the Novi Community School District is \$2,658,189,689. This represents an increase of 4.1% over the previous year's taxable value of \$2,552,958,920. Using the district's taxable value as the predominant factor, the 2021-22 budget will be based upon the millage rates on the attached schedule.

To the homeowner, the district's total millage levy will be 10.3264 mills, which is a decrease of (0.3106) mills from fiscal year 2020-21. This equates to a decrease in property taxes of (\$31.06) per \$100,000 of taxable value.

At the November 19, 2020 Board meeting, the Novi Board of Education resolved to levy 50% of the taxes in the summer and 50% in the winter.

It was moved by Mr. Mena and supported by Mrs. Roney that the Novi Community School District Board of Education, in the best interest of the school district, resolve to levy 50% of the taxes in the summer.

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 updated to include the Gardenbrook Property and High School

At the April 15, 2021 Board meeting the Board approved Bid Package #6. Tonight, the recommendation is to update the scope of work to include the Gardenbrook property boiler replacement and the Novi High School boiler retube.

On Thursday, April 29, 2021 at 12:30 PM, a pricing review was completed for these two (2) additional projects. In attendance for the bid opening were representatives from the Novi Community School District, Plante Moran Cresa, TMP Architecture, McCarthy & Smith, Inc.

Based upon the project team's review of the scope of work and costs, we propose the following recommendations for contract award:

Bulletin #1 – Gardenbrook Boiler Replacement

Bid Division 142 : HVAC

Ms. Laura Snyder

Detroit Boiler Company

2931 Beaufait Street
Detroit, MI 48207

Base Bid	\$ 259,139.85
PLM Bond (Hudson Insurance Company)	<u>\$ 7,774.20</u>
TOTAL	\$ 266,914.05

Bulletin #2 – Novi High School Boiler Retube

Bid Division 142 : HVAC

Ms. Laura Snyder

Detroit Boiler Company

2931 Beaufait Street

Detroit, MI 48207

Base Bid	\$ 68,018.52
Boilout	ADD \$ 13,647.44
PLM Bond (Hudson Insurance Company)	<u>\$ 2,449.98</u>
TOTAL	\$ 84,115.94

BULLETIN #1 & #2 (Bid Division 142) AWARD RECOMMENDATION AMOUNT: \$351,030.00

TOTAL DETROIT BOILER CONTRACT VALUE WITH BULLETINS #1&2: \$741,863.00

It was moved by Mr. Cook and supported by Mr. Mena that the Novi Community School District Board of Education award the additional boiler contracts in the amount listed above for Bulletin #1 and #2.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Bid Package #7A – Gardenbrook Property (formerly Walsh College) Renovation

At the April 15, 2021 Board meeting the Board approved Bid Package #6. Tonight, the recommendation is to update the scope of work to include the Gardenbrook property boiler replacement and the Novi High School boiler retube.

On Thursday, April 29, 2021 at 12:30 PM, a pricing review was completed for these two (2) additional projects. In attendance for the bid opening were representatives from the Novi Community School District, Plante Moran Cresa, TMP Architecture, McCarthy & Smith, Inc.

Based upon the project team's review of the scope of work and costs, we propose the following recommendations for contract award:

Bulletin #1 – Gardenbrook Boiler Replacement

Bid Division 142 : HVAC

Ms. Laura Snyder

Detroit Boiler Company

2931 Beaufait Street

Detroit, MI 48207

Base Bid	\$ 259,139.85
PLM Bond (Hudson Insurance Company)	<u>\$ 7,774.20</u>
TOTAL	\$ 266,914.05

Bulletin #2 – Novi High School Boiler Retube

Bid Division 142 : HVAC

Ms. Laura Snyder

Detroit Boiler Company

2931 Beaufait Street
Detroit, MI 48207

Base Bid	\$ 68,018.52
Boilout	ADD \$ 13,647.44
PLM Bond (Hudson Insurance Company)	<u>\$ 2,449.98</u>
	TOTAL \$ 84,115.94

BULLETIN #1 & #2 (Bid Division 142) AWARD RECOMMENDATION AMOUNT: \$351,030.00
TOTAL DETROIT BOILER CONTRACT VALUE WITH BULLETINS #1&2: \$741,863.00

It was moved by Mrs. Hood and supported by Mrs. Murphy that the Novi Community School District Board of Education award the contracts as listed above in the total amount of \$1,262,763.00.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

Plow Truck Purchase

The maintenance vehicle fleet has greatly improved through replacement of vehicles over the past several years. As part of our original replacement plan, we need to replace a 2009 plow truck that we rely on heavily. The vehicle has been driven 42,748 miles mostly for plowing as well as 10,000+ miles in reverse. This truck requires many repairs and is no longer reliable. This purchase has been budgeted for in the 2021-2022 budget.

A 2022 F-350 plow truck with a snowplow and all necessary plow flasher lighting is needed. The best price for the F-350 truck and outfitting is available through the Macomb County cooperative bid (#21-18 T.11) using Signature Ford as the dealer. The cost of this vehicle is **\$32,429**.

NBC Truck Equipment will provide and install a 9' 6" Western MVP3 snowplow and controls, roof mounted strobe light and tail light strobes for \$8,563. A hydraulic lift gate is to be added to this vehicle for the cost of \$3,360. They will also need approximately 2 weeks to outfit this vehicle. The state bid pricing for outfitting this vehicle with the plow, light package, and lift gate is **\$11,923**.

The truck would be ready approximately 12 weeks from the time of approval. Total expenditure for the vehicle and snowplow package is **\$44,352**. This purchase is necessary to keep the maintenance vehicle fleet operational and in good working order.

This comes tonight for information and discussion and will come back for approval at the June 10, 2021 regular meeting of the Board.

2020-2021 Final Budget Amendment

On December 17, 2020, the Board of Education approved the 2020-2021 General Fund Budget. A final amendment to the budget reflecting all the changes known at this time has been created and is presented to the Board of Education tonight.

The 2020-2021 Final Budget Amendment is presented for information and discussion tonight and recommended for approval at the June 10, 2021 Board meeting.

2021-2022 Preliminary Budget

The State requires that all school districts adopt a budget for the upcoming fiscal year by June 30 of each year. The proposed budget document for the 2021-2022 fiscal year has been prepared based on projections and estimates, including student enrollment, which will be known at a later

date. The proposed budget document is presented to the Board tonight for review.

The budget adoption process for an upcoming fiscal year must include a public budget hearing; a notice of such public hearing, which must appear in the local newspaper at least six (6) days prior to the hearing; a budget document, made available for public inspection including the proposed property tax millage rate; and Board adoption of the budget in the form of a 2021-2022 General Appropriations Act resolution.

Once the public budget hearing has taken place, the Board adopts the budget. This year, the public hearing will be held Thursday, June 10, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. at the regular meeting of the Board of Education. The notice will appear in the local newspaper on Thursday, June 2, 2021, and the budget document will be available for public inspection at the Educational Services Building beginning Friday, June 6, 2021.

The proposed budget document is presented to the Board tonight for review, with adoption in the form of a 2021-2022 General Appropriations Act resolution (draft resolution attached) at the June 10, 2021 Regular Board meeting.

Policy Updates and Revisions

The Governance and Policy Committee met on May 25, 2021. They reviewed and discussed the following policies and are bringing them before the Board for information and discussion with these recommended updates and revisions.

The committee's suggested changes are marked in red below.

Policy 3004 – Textbooks and Other Instructional Materials

Existing Policy Verbiage:

~~The Board delegates to the Superintendent the authority to purchase and recommend to the Board, for its approval, instructional materials, including textbooks that are compatible with the School District's curriculum. The Superintendent may utilize well qualified administrators and teachers to assist in the selection of instructional materials, including textbooks, to be recommended to the Board.~~

Committee Recommendation:

The Board of Education shall approve all textbooks used as part of the educational program of this District.

"Textbook", for purposes of this policy, shall mean the principal source(s) of instructional material for any given course of study, in whatever form the material may be presented.

The Superintendent, along with qualified administrators and teachers, shall be responsible for the selection and recommendation of textbooks for Board consideration. In considering the approval of any proposed textbook, the Board will weigh its decisions based on recommendations related to:

- A. suitability for the maturity level and educational accomplishment of the students who will be using the material
- B. freedom from bias
- C. relationship to the curriculum adopted by the Board
- D. cost

Policy 3005 – Selection of Media Center Materials

The Board intends that students be provided access to a wide variety of educational materials, in various media, to support learning. The Superintendent is authorized to make or approve purchases for the media center and may receive recommendations for such purchases from professional staff members, parents and students.

Committee Recommended Additions:

Media Center materials will: support and be consistent with the general educational goals of the School District; meet high standards of quality in factual content, artistic and literary value, and presentation; be appropriate for the age, emotional development, ability level and social development of students for whom materials are selected; have aesthetic, literary, scientific or social value; be current and up-to-date; and, be selected to reflect our diverse society. The selection of materials on controversial issues will be directed towards maintaining a diverse collection representing various points of view.

The Board of Education shall provide instructional materials and equipment, within budgetary constraints, to implement the District's educational goals and objectives and to meet students' needs. The primary objective of such instructional materials and equipment shall be to enrich, support, and implement the educational program of the school.

The Superintendent shall develop administrative guidelines for the selection and maintenance of all educational and instructional materials and equipment. In addition, s/he shall periodically, provide for a systematic review, by the Board, of the District's educational resources in order to ensure that they are appropriate for the current educational program. Any revisions that occur should be a result of the school-improvement process.

Policy 3002 – Parental Involvement

The Board strongly encourages and supports the involvement of parents in their children's education. The Superintendent will develop and implement regulations, in consultation with parents, which will include:

- The manner in which the School District will cooperate with parents of students to develop students' intellectual and vocational skills in a safe and positive environment;
- The manner in which the School District will permit parents to review the School District's curriculum, textbooks and teaching materials;
- The manner in which the School District will permit parents to observe instructional activities, other than testing and assessments, in which their students are enrolled and present; and

- The manner in which the School District will permit the disclosure or use of student information for purposes of sales or marketing.

Committee Recommendation is to make the sections below a sub policy of 3002.

Policy 3002.1 – Parental Involvement in Title I Programs

Parental involvement is also considered a key component of federal Title I programs. In order to help build a partnership between home and school for purposes of Title I, the School District:

- Informs parents of the program, the reasons for their children’s participation and the specific instructional objectives;
- Trains parents to work with their children to attain instructional objectives;
- Trains teachers and other staff involved in Title I programs to work effectively with the parents of participating students;
- Consults with parents on a regular basis;
- Provides opportunities for parents to be involved in the design, operation and evaluation of the program; and
- Provides opportunities for the full participation of parents who lack literacy skills or whose native language is not English.

The Superintendent will develop and implement regulations that are compliant with Title I. The regulations are to support the above principles and actions and also assure that services provided with state and local funds in Title I schools are comparable to those provided in non-Title I schools in the School District.

This comes before the Board tonight for information and discussion. It will come back to the Board for approval at the June 10, 2021 regular meeting of the Board.

Board Operating Procedures Manual Updates and Revisions

The Governance and Policy Committee met on May 25, 2021 to discuss the Board Operating Procedures Manual. It comes before the Board tonight with the following recommended additions and revisions for information and discussion.

Recommended Addition:

Virtual Meetings –

If governmental mandate(s) have ruled that governmental bodies must meet virtually and/or the city has declared and state of emergency, then the Board of Education will meet through a virtual platform. Further, the Board shall have a method in place for:

- A. The meeting to stream live for the public to be able to view;
- B. a communication platform for the public to be able to participate during the times designated on the meeting agenda.

Public Comment Placement on Committee Agendas

Committees

Selection and Operation of Board Committees

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- D. Minutes and notes of committee meetings will be posted in **the Google Drive Board Books**.
- E. **The Public Comment portion of the Committee meeting agenda, shall be place towards the bottom of the committee agenda to afford the public time to hear the committee discussion.**

Recommended Revisions:

Committees

Selection and Operation of Board Committees

- A. Committees are appointed by the Board President.
- B. Responsibilities of each standing committee **shall be outlined in the Committee Charter:**
 - 1. Finance – To review the annual district budget, budget amendments and audit report.
 - 2. Governance and Policy – To review and recommend revisions to Board policies and Board Operating Procedures.
 - 3. Legislative – To review new legislation, its impact on the district, and recommend resolutions for adoption.
 - 4. Capital Projects – To review and recommend proposed construction projects and updates and maintenance projects to existing facilities.
 - 5. Curriculum – To review and recommend proposed new or revised curriculum and resources.
- C. Ad Hoc committees may be assigned for a specific need or purpose, but will be time-limited. They will meet on an as needed basis.
- D. Minutes and notes of committee meetings will be posted in **the Google Drive Board Books**.

Board Calendar Revision

Annual Calendar of the Board Agenda Items

- A. In addition to monthly agenda items listed above, the items below, as scheduled in the following annual outline, **and athletics, boosters, and clubs** may by **scheduled and** presented:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Governance and Policy Committee

Mr. Cook, Board Vice-President and Chair of the committee, reported that most of the committee discussion revolved around the policies that were discussed earlier in the meeting. He stated that the committee will be discussing policy 7004 at their next meeting. Mr. Cook said that they have some other policies coming up.

Dr. Ruskin mentioned that there had been some conversation regarding each committee having a charter. She said that each committee has gone through that process.

DEI Committee

Dr. Ruskin, Board President and chair of the committee, reported that the committee reviewed the charter and that there was a presentation given by Darby Hoppenstedt and Dr. Webber. She stated

that they covered some their great work and some foundational work that has been done over the last 10 years. Dr. Ruskin said that they will bring it to the Board, so that everyone knows what has been happening in the District, there could be some transparency, and know that groups were not working in silos and the Board could have a better understanding.

She mentioned that they had nice attendance and that the whole room was filled. Dr. Ruskin mentioned it was a great opportunity to hear things and to hear public comment. She reported that Mrs. Hoffman's dad asked if this was a district the committee and how often they meet and about getting updates to the Board.

Dr. Ruskin stated that she was taken aback by a community member who stood up and asked why schools cannot celebrate Christmas or sing Christmas carols anymore. She said that he was not Christian, but thought he said he was Hindu and that he found it upsetting and was really asking why we are pushing diversity and inclusiveness while stopping these traditions.

Dr. Ruskin mentioned that the gentleman said that 90% of the Indians have not issues with celebrating Christmas and singing carols and in fact they consider it one of the most beautiful things about America and the European cultures. She reported that he said that he does not celebrate it religiously, but most still celebrate with holiday trees, lights, etc. and no one in his community wants to lose those beautiful, musical traditions.

Dr. Ruskin stated that at some point, she would like to get an understanding of how the District got from where we were before, although she has attended the December concerts in the buildings and religious songs are included. She said that she is asking the music teachers for some feedback and then she will bring it back. Dr. Ruskin mentioned that this is where it is important to have some kind of response mechanism.

She reported that at a curriculum committee meeting there were assertions made by community members that were not accurate so whatever that mechanism looks like, as we lean our administrative structure, to be able to make sure we fact check things because we are talking about people's careers and the impressions of our community school district.

Dr. Ruskin stated that as a parent in the district, she has attended several concerts and other events that were a cornucopia of cultural joy and celebration which is important, so there again, we must make sure when things are said that those things are accurate.

Dr. Ruskin thanked Dr. Webber for his presentation at the committee meeting. He stated that they are working on putting mini DEI committees in ever building.

Finance Committee

Mrs. Hood, Board Treasurer and committee chair, reported that Mr. McIntyre reviewed the 2021 final budget and presented the 2021-22 Original General Fund Budget that the Board looked at tonight. She stated that the Food Service Budget, Recreation Fund Budget, and the Student Activity Budget. Mrs. Hood said because the State of Michigan has not released its' school funding levels, they also discussed the estimates of revenues and expenses. She mentioned that Mr. McIntyre said he is estimating a four (4) percent increase in our foundation allowance and

expenses and changes in funding related to COVID. Mrs. Hood reported that there were no comments from the audience. She stated that their meeting came right after the DEI committee meeting, where there was a packed house, and no one stayed.

Mrs. Hood said that they did have an extended conversation about foundation allowance, Novi's is \$8,839. She mentioned that there has been some emotional commentary from parents who pay taxes, but it is interesting what goes into the school aid fund. Mrs. Hood reported the largest percentage of contributing money is from the sales tax, then the property taxes are the third contributor.

She stated that the NEF had a very helpful graph that showed how schools are funded in Michigan and where we are, where we anticipate we will be, and why we need the additional funding.

Superintendent's Contract Committee

Mrs. Murphy, Board Trustee and Chair of the committee, reported that the committee had met twice. She stated that the second meeting was helpful because they had the chance to send the contract to the attorney, so he could look at it. Mrs. Murphy said that it came back with some really good suggestions and language changes, and some format changes that were really helpful. She mentioned that yesterday, they met with Dr. Matthews to review the changes and finalized what they thought it should look like and to come to a consensus.

Mrs. Murphy reported that if we get the finalized document back from the attorney tomorrow, then it will be on the agenda next week.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

There were two (2) comments from the audience. The first person commented on the singing of religious/ethnic songs being sung at school and the Pledge of Allegiance at Deerfield and does not believe that these are concerns that exist at Deerfield. He commented that the equity piece will feel differently to different people depending on who you are and your background.

The second comment was regarding listening to parent concerns, making changes and revisions to policies, and that the District is going in the right direction. She inquired about the passage of policy 3004, shall all textbooks be the principal source of instructional material in whatever form the material may be presented. She asked how do we draw the line between principle and supplemental material and should there be a policy regulating supplemental material?

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Steve Matthews, Superintendent of Schools, expressed his appreciation to Shailee Patel, Nicole Carter, Ron Kane, Katy Dinkelman, Melissa Jordan, and Linda Cianferra for playing an integral part in planning and hosting the graduation ceremonies for our students. He reported the Ms. Patel organized our Novi Adult Transition Center graduation ceremony that was held last night; Mrs. Carter, Mr. Kane, Mrs. Dinkelman, and Dr. Jordan organized the Novi High School Graduation that will be held Saturday, June 5; and Ms. Cianferra is planning the Career Prep and Adult Ed graduation to be held next Thursday, June 10th, which will move our Board meeting start time to 7:30 PM.

Dr. Matthews stated that these people's efforts to honor and celebrate our students is deeply appreciated. He also expressed his gratitude to the high school counseling office for their work in creating the virtual senior honors video and said that it is on the Novi High School's Counseling page.

Dr. Matthews made mention of the State Education funding. He said that while it is welcome to hear good news about the budget, it is important to note that Michigan continues to underfund K-12 education. Dr. Matthews said the school finance research collective updated their 2018 report and determined that to meet the needs of Michigan's K-12 students, the per pupil funding should be \$10,451 and currently Novi receives \$8,839. He reported that while he appreciates the funding that we do receive, the research is clear that it is not adequate to meet the needs of our students.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mr. Greg McIntyre, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations, reported that the District is going to be holding their regular financial audit. He stated that we received a punch list and that it will be done again this year by Plante Moran. Mr. McIntyre said that we will also have our Sinking Fund/Capital Projects audit and it will be done by Taylor Morgan.

Dr. Gary Kinzer, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, reported that the relationships that we have in this district have really shown through. He stated that they have allowed us to have amazing success and the best part of his job is that he gets to work directly with all of the employees; our administrators, teacher, secretaries, bus drivers, custodians, maintenance workers, etc. Dr. Kinzer said that the job they have done this year has been amazing.

He specifically wanted to mention the bargaining group leadership and Mr. Grat Dalton, who is our MEA/Unicef director and provides support for our NEA, NESPA, an MTA membership. Dr. Kinzer reported that he is in his first year in supporting Novi and has been tremendous. He stated that Heather Burnside, our NEA President, David Gutuskey, our NTA President, Russ Nesmith, our maintenance president, and the ability to work daily with all of them has really resulted in a lot of great work that has happened in the District. Dr. Kinzer said that it is important to take a moment to recognize what our employees have done.

Dr. RJ Webber, Assistant Superintendent for Academic Services, mentioned that this is the first time he had seen Mr. McIntyre's face, since he was hired during COVID. He reported that we have all had our masks on and it is a joy to start to see people again.

Dr. Webber expressed his gratitude to Sheila Holly, Emily Pohlonski, and Jeff Dinkelman for helping to launch our virtual school. He stated that we have 411 students and that is the size, or bigger, as some of our elementary schools which is pretty stunning. Dr. Webber said that Sheila Holly has been calling every one of those families and tonight he heard her and you would never know that she had worked a full day. He mentioned that her disposition on the phone, the relationships she was building right off the bat. Dr. Webber reported that Ms. Pohlonski has been hustling, ever since she was approved by the Board, to make connections with parents as well. He stated that Jeff Dinkelman has also been an amazing support for Emily and Sheila and Dr. Matthews as they start to look at the survey data and the pupil accounting issues; it has been amazing.

Dr. Webber expressed his gratitude to Darby Hoppenstedt for presenting. He stated that she did a really fine job of helping to tell the story of the DEI Committee in their work. Dr. Webber thanked Dr. Ruskin, Mr. Mena, and Mrs. Roney for not only being on that committee, but for creating it. He thanked that parent, who had a nice conversation at tonight's Board meeting, for being there and stated that he is going to be helpful in our community conversations.

Dr. Webber explained that the community conversation effort is something that they are pulling together with the notion where the topic is ironically going to be listening; as he was listening/hearing just now about Board policy changes, potential ones, on what should be taught in schools.

He reported that the idea they had was to get Elizabeth Birr Moje, Dean of Education at the University of Michigan, signed up to help facilitate/moderate. Dr. Webber mentioned that if anyone has connections out there to find somebody from a counterpoint or a more conservative side, let's talk today; perhaps someone from Hillsdale College. He stated that he believes their president was the head of the project back in September and the idea behind it is for both people to have a 30 to 45-minute conversation, community members could watch/listen to that conversation and dialogue, then they would go into breakout rooms of six (6) people and have a facilitated conversation about that discussion.

Dr. Webber said that it is really important to show our kids that you can have very opposing viewpoints, yet still have an opportunity to talk together, break bread together, and sing the dreidel song, or whatever that is in your house, together and realize that at the end of the day we are all from the community of Novi and we chose to live here.

Dr. Webber thanked Justin Chambers, from EnviroClean, who has been the lead manager in our district for years. He reported that he could not think of a tougher job than leading a group of employees, who are often being paid nine (9) to 10 dollars an hour, and coming from all over to work in the Novi Community School District under economic pressure. Dr. Webber stated that what that means is people who are here one month are gone the next and, from a managerial standpoint, that is a challenge layer on top of this being a year of COVID cleaning

He said that Justin was basically in charge of leading people to clean 500,000 square feet and making sure that space was clean. Dr. Webber mentioned that there are homes in this community that have a team who show up once a week just to clean their house; Justin, to him, was one of those people.

Dr. Webber reported that Justin lost his wife a few years ago and that he is a father of three (3) or four (4) kids and the way he has carried himself through that is an inspiration. He wished Justin a lot of luck and stated that he is a good guy who has really done wonderful work for us.

Dr. Webber stated that he made a choice to join the 52nd District Court's high risk response team. He explained that this is a multi-disciplinary approach to enhance victim safety, offender accountability systems change. He said that this change is proactive, ongoing, multi-sector collaboration that works together to identify high-risk domestic violence cases and respond

appropriately and to work together to improve policies, procedures, and practices with regard to domestic violence cases.

Dr. Webber mentioned that for six (6) years, we have had a relationship with Haven and they have been working in our high school. He reported that he felt this was the right time to put some of his time and energy into something that is, unfortunately, present in every community. Dr. Webber stated that they asked him what the goals would be for being there. He told parole officers that, at least from a school standpoint, his goal was for them not to have a job, to do things to get ahead of this, to stop and prevent issues of domestic violence or harm being done in our homes.

Dr. Webber stated that it is the end of the year and, in July, we are going to reflect on this year and think what happened over the past 14 months.

BOARD COMMUNICATION

Mrs. Hood, Board Treasurer, said that she mentioned earlier she had attended a Government Relations Committee meeting and talked about budget. She reported that we were lucky to have State Senator Jim Rundstad join the call and his chief of staff, Krista Vincent.

Mrs. Hood stated that they talked about a new senate bill 265 that came out of the Senate Education Committee. She said that it is related to the 3rd Grade Reading Retention bill where a third grader who does not score at grade level on the MStep is automatically retained. Mrs. Hood mentioned that there is some verbiage that allows the superintendent to make exceptions and it goes into effect this year.

She reported that this new bill 265 is delaying the requirement to retain third graders. Mrs. Hood stated that part of the problem with this bill is that the third graders now become candidates for retention as fourth graders. She said that then we would have children who are eligible/vulnerable to be retained for two (2) years.

Mrs. Hood asked the Chief of Staff why the senator supported this bill. She responded that he did not, but that it is a troublesome bill and that they are exploring vouchers to address this, which Mrs. Hood said was way off the topic. She stated that she is hopeful that vouchers are not being resurrected in Michigan. Mrs. Hood said that she would like to get Dr. Matthews thoughts, at a later time, about this.

She reported that in Novi we believe deeply that all students need to have skills in reading, math, writing, and we work very hard to do that. Mrs. Hood stated that we have invested in reading and math interventionists, instructional coaches, and we deeply believe that they are important, but this bill is not one that she could support because it is quite clear that retention is not an effective strategy for students. She said that it causes long-term harm; they are ripped away from their peer group; they develop a self-image that is not positive; and there are a lot of negative connotations, we just need to have strategies to support those students and continue to move them forward with their peer group.

Mr. Mena, Board Secretary, reported that he had the pleasure of working with our Field and Track teams this year and he had a blast. He stated that he has had the pleasure of working with athletics here now for going on 18 years and he has never had more fun than this year. Mr. Mena expressed his gratitude to Danny Taylor, gym teacher at Deerfield, Greg Zuck, Brad Moore, Terry Woodward, Joanna Nihal, Derrick Kim, Vincent Ma, and a number of other coaches. He said they did a fantastic job.

Mr. Mena mentioned that it was not expected, but the boys ran the table this year. He reported that they won all of the dual meets, the Novi Regional, the Novi relays, and the KLAA Regional recently. Mr. Mena stated that he hopes they will get more accolades as they go to East Kentwood, this weekend, to compete in the State Finals. He mentioned that this is not a team event, but just individual events and that we have some talented runners who are going to compete. Mr. Mena reported that he was excited by our 4 by 400 team, anchored by Miles Brown.

He stated that he was invited to attend the boys and girls banquets this week and did not have the opportunity to speak with a lot of parents, but those he did hear from, most of what he heard, about our district, was positive. Mr. Mena said that it was one great comment after another about everything. He mentioned that the track parents wished that graduation did not fall on the day of state finals. Mr. Mena said he told the parents that he heard rumors that we are looking into what we can do there.

Mr. Mena reported that last week, we hosted a middle school track meet at the high school. He stated that the idea was to give those kids an opportunity to experience that track would be like at the high school level. Mr. Mena said that the kids got a kick out of seeing their names on the video scoreboard. He mentioned that they do not have field events like pole vaulting and we have an extraordinary pole vault coach who is senior age level and still competing in the senior circuit. Mr. Mena reported that this coach took the time to set-up the pole vault pit and all the equipment and had 35 middle schoolers check it out and try things.

Mr. Mena commented on the Novi High School, girls' soccer team are now district champs. He stated that they were playing in Northville and just won 18 minutes ago.

Mrs. Murphy, Board Trustee, reported that she loves the fact that Derek Kim and other former student track people are back and have come to help other students. She stated that this is really encouraging because we have talked about the lack of the alumni connection and seeing those kids come back. Mrs. Murphy said that we have a number of these kids who are coming back as teachers and it is really neat to see them wanting to come back to this community. She mentioned that it shows the strength of the community and the ties that we are building here.

Mrs. Murphy reported that Vincent's mom mentioned yesterday, during the banquet, that it was weird for him to talk about an athlete that he competed with when he was a senior because he was able to finish college, get back, and still meet up with the coach.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mrs. Murphy and supported by Mrs. Roney 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 8:32 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for June 10, 2021 at 7:30 p.m., at the Educational Services Building.

Willy Mena, Secretary

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