



**Minutes of a Regular Meeting, June 10, 2021  
Novi Community School District  
Board of Education**

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A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Novi Community School District was held on Thursday, June 10, 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**

PUBLIC HEARNG: 2021-2022 BUDGET

**NOVI COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING  
ON PROPOSED 2021-2022 BUDGET**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that on June 10, 2021, at 7:30 o'clock p.m., at the Educational Services Building, in Novi, Michigan, the Board of Education of the Novi Community School District will hold a public hearing to consider the District's proposed 2020-2021 budget.

The Board may not adopt its proposed 2021-2022 budget until after a public hearing. A copy of the proposed 2021-2022 budget, including the proposed property tax millage rate, is available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Educational Services Building, in Novi, Michigan.

**The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.**

This notice is given by order of the Board of Education.

Willy Mena, Board Secretary

The State requires that all school districts adopt a budget for the upcoming fiscal year by June 30 of each year. The process of adoption includes a notice for a budget public hearing, which must appear in the local newspaper at least six (6) days prior to the hearing, and that the budget document, including the proposed property tax millage rate, must be available for public inspection. The public hearing on the budget and the property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget must then take place, and then the Board adopts the

budget.

This year, the public hearing is scheduled for Thursday, June 10, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. at the regular meeting of the Board of Education. Notice of the public hearing appeared in the local newspaper on Thursday, June 13, 2021 and the budget document was made available for public inspection at the Educational Services Building beginning Thursday, June 3, 2021.

Following board adoption of the budget, the Business Office will post the budget on the District's website.

### REPORTS TO THE BOARD

#### First Robotics Frog Force Report

Ms. Janet Bloom, of First Robotics Frog Force, summarized the wonderful experience that the team has had this school year and recognize all of the sponsors who supported them through their competitions.

#### 2019 Bond Program Spring Update and Presentation

In 2019, the Novi community approved a series of bond issues totaling \$185,000,000, which will provide for: security and technology; an addition to Novi Meadows; an advanced technology/stem/robotics space; a multipurpose facility; improvements to current facilities, athletic sites and parking lots; media center and special education space remodeling; furniture; and buses.

The Master Planning Committee met on Friday, June 4, 2021, in the afternoon to go over and discuss key activities and progress update of the design team and the construction team. Tonight, Mr. Greg Van Kirk and Mr. Kevin Donnelly of Plante Moran CRESA, the District's Owner's Representative, will present an update and overview of the activities and progress so far and next steps.

### 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 June 3, 2021
  
- B. Approval of Field Trip
  - a. Novi High School Varsity Field Hockey

It was moved by Mrs. Murphy and supported by Mr. Mena 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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**B. Retirements and Resignations**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Bldg.</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Baker, Elizabeth	MS	Literacy Specialist	Retirement	06-11-21
Hiser, Emily	MS	Special Ed Teacher	Resigned	06-11-21
Ownby, Matthew	PV	Music Teacher	Resigned	06-11-21
Holbel, Paula	MS	Special Ed Para	Discharge	06-11-21

**C. Leaves of Absence**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Bldg.</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Littleton, Gabrielle	VO	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher	LOA #1-Personal	2021-2022 School Year

It was moved by Mrs. Hood and supported by Mrs. Roney 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**

Extended COVID-19 Reconfirmation

In September 30, 2020, the state legislature amended Public Act 165, section 98a of the State School Aid Act. This amendment requires all school boards to reconfirm their district's Extended COVID Learning Plan. That plan is to be submitted to the state and posted on the district's website.

The next submission is due June 15, 2021 and comes tonight for Board reconfirmation and approval.

It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mrs. Murphy that the Novi Community School District Board of Education reconfirm and approve remaining in our current format for all students, grades K-12, providing in-person five-day per week instruction for the in-person students and virtual instruction for those who selected the virtual modality.

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

Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

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.

It was moved by Mrs. Hood and supported by Mr. Mena that the Novi Community School District Board of Education approve the purchase of a new 2022 F-350 plow truck with a snowplow and all necessary plow flasher lighting is needed in the amount of \$44,352, as presented.

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

Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### 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.

It was moved by Mr. Mena and supported by Mrs. Roney that the Novi Community School District Board of Education approve the 2020-2021 final budget amendment as presented, per the attached resolution

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

Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### 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.

It was moved by Mrs. Hood and supported by Mr. Cook that the Novi Community School District Board of Education adopt the General Appropriations Resolution for the fiscal year 2021- 2022 as presented.

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

Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

### 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.

#### **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.

It was moved by Mr. Cook and supported by Mrs. Roney that the Novi Community School District Board of Education approve the policy updates and revisions as presented.

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

Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

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 be **scheduled and** presented:

No action is needed on this item, just a general consensus.

### **Village Oaks Sitework**

On June 4, 2021, a Contract Award Recommendation letter was received from Plante Moran Cresa for the sitework and hardscape work that is to be done at Village Oaks Elementary School.

The project team obtained bulletin pricing from the Cortis Brothers, Inc. and are recommending them for this work for several reasons:

- Consistency with work, one earthwork and utility contractor on site vs. two.
- Mitigates coordination issues and consistency with quality control and warranties.
- Ability to meet schedule and execute scope Summer / Fall 2021

The pricing includes all site demolition, drainage systems, earthwork, site concrete, retaining walls, playground asphalt, misc. equipment, fencing and railings, turf base, and turf surfacing for the playgrounds.

This work is part of the overall bond scope, is over budget for Village Oaks, but falls within the overall budgets established for playgrounds contained within the 2019 Bond Program. The bond team recommends the District administration approve a change order with the contractors noted above.

### **AWARD RECOMMENDATION AMOUNT: \$674,500.00**

It was moved by Mrs. Murphy and supported by Mrs. Roney that the Novi Community School District Board of Education award the contract to the Cortis Brother, Inc in the total amount of \$674,500.00.

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

Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

Superintendent Contract

The Superintendent Contract Committee – Bobbie Murphy – chair, Tom Smith, Willy Mena – met with the Superintendent to review his contract. The proposed contract was reviewed for the Board by Tim Gardner, Thrun Law.

The contract is presented tonight for approval.

The contract is for three years – July 2021 through June 2024 with an extension each July unless the Board takes official action 90 days before July 1 not to extend the contract. Each extension would create a new three-year contract.

It was moved by Mr. Mena and supported by Mrs. Murphy that the Novi Community School District Board of Education approve the recommended contract for Dr. Steve Matthews for three years from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2024.

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

There were 3 comments from the audience regarding the personnel report.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Steve Matthews, Superintendent of Schools, reported that at a recent DEI Committee meeting, a parent suggested that holiday concerts no longer sing religious holiday favorites. He stated that he checked with one of the music teachers and discovered that we do still sing traditional holiday favorites like Joy to the World, Do You Hear What I Hear, Dreidel Dreidel, Silent Night, and the First Noel. Dr. Matthews said the teachers wanted to reinforce their awareness of the diversity in our community and take care to ensure all of our families feel welcome.

Dr. Matthews mentioned that this is the night before the last day of school and he wanted to express his gratitude to our staff and the community. He reported that it has been a challenging year, but our staff rallied to create wonderful opportunities for our students.

Dr. Matthew stated that some districts talk about a lost year, but here in Novi we found new ways to educate and engage our students, so that they could continue to move forward. He said that our district has provided a high quality educational experience for our students and they are prepared for the next school year.

Dr. Matthews asked, will there be holes? Perhaps, but our teachers will discover any in September and will then find ways to support our students. He mentioned that our students and teachers worked hard to learn and grow. Dr. Matthews reported that it has been a challenging year and that he was thankful for our staff and our families because together we did wonderful things. He stated that he was very, very grateful.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mr. Greg McIntyre, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations, reported that he wanted



to express his gratitude to the Board for their action on the budgets. He also wanted to thank Deanna Wheeler and the rest of his accounting staff. Mr. McIntyre thanked his cabinet teammates for their sweat equity and input into the budget. He stated that he enjoys working with them.

Dr. Gary Kinzer, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, reported that last week he shared some gratitude for staff and teachers in the district. He stated that he would like to spend a moment to share similar gratitude for the leadership in our district. Dr. Kinzer said, first our principals and directors for the job they have done supporting the staff in their building and supporting our students has been exemplary. He mentioned that they are the major reason for the success that we have had.

Dr. Kinzer reported that from our budget reports, the last two (2) weeks, the work that Mr. McIntyre has done has been exceptional and that he appreciates working with him every day. He stated that Dr. Webber, the instruction that has happened in this district this year has been miraculous starting all the way back to last spring. Dr. Kinzer said that Dr. Webber has led that alongside of CALs, principals, and other teacher leaders and it has been amazing.

Dr. Kinzer reported that, Dr. Matthews, challenging times require deliberate yet decisive leadership and that is exactly what we have had since March 13, 2020. He stated that he has friends in many other districts throughout the state who have struggled because they have not had the same leadership that has been present here. Dr. Kinzer said that he is really grateful for Dr. Matthews' leadership for the last year and a half. He also expressed his gratitude to the Board for their work that they have done during these difficult times, which helped us have a successful year.

Dr. RJ Webber, Assistant Superintendent for Academic Services, reported that one of the true joys of living in this community is the fact that he runs into parents and it can be a joy. He stated that in the past week and a half, the world has opened up and parents are coming up to him and saying how did you guys do it. Dr. Webber said that parents of 4<sup>th</sup> grade twins, who went fully virtual could not believe what was put together from pivoting our entire business model, overnight from March 12<sup>th</sup>, by the March 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, then kicking off to our operations teams and making sure people had things.

Dr. Webber mentioned that the core piece was a parent, who has been a bit critical of our work, was telling him that we were 15 to 20 notches above anyone else. He reported that he really wished, in that moment, that everyone could have been with him in that spot; our teachers and our principals because there is nothing sweeter to hear than that in which you put your life into to make a difference. Dr. Webber stated that with everything opening up outside, you see more people and he had heard from seven (7) different parents in the past week and they were thankful that we had hybrid from the beginning.

Dr. Webber said the only question he has is, what do we do this summer? He mentioned that his advice is to play, play, play, and play; put your tablet and computer aside and get outside, build forts, do whatever makes you laugh, goof off, stay up late, and eat junk food.

Dr. Webber reported that we have emerged from this bruised and battered and some of us, unfortunately, lost people along the way, but as a community school district, we did our best to offer our kids what they deserved and their parents should be proud. He expressed his gratitude to everyone.

### BOARD COMMUNICATION

Mrs. Hood, Board Treasurer, reported that several weeks ago, she was in Commerce and her golf instructor, who lives in West Bloomfield, mentioned that he had seen in Newsweek Magazine that Novi Schools was the number one district in the state. She stated that she looked it up and the brief write-up that they did was interesting. Mrs. Hood said that they took the data from Niche. She mentioned that in Niche, Novi has been rated number one in the state for two years running.

Mrs. Hood reported that the Niche data, to calculate the best school district in every state, relies on the statistics from the Department of Education, SAT scores, College readiness, teacher quality, and the graduation rate. She stated that people use this information when they are deciding where they are going to live, real estate driven.

Mrs. Hood said, but here is the difference, Newsweek said various districts prioritize funding for different programs. She mentioned that some have more of a knack for hiring, retaining, and nurturing teachers. Mrs. Hood reported that for some districts it is a number game without any thought regarding the learning environment. She stated that still other districts encourage kids to explore passions and make friends, but are lagging academically. Mrs. Hood said that a top school district is not just one or the other of those things, but rather a combination of the two, a very nice encapsulation.

She mentioned that in the business world, Peter Drucker (an Austrian-American management consultant), said a long time ago that culture eats strategy for breakfast. Mrs. Hood stated that she believes culture eats everything for breakfast and if you do not have your culture right, then you really cannot get there, so this is a nice reflection on the long conversation that we have had, not just at this table, but in our schools and in our offices for the last year of two; getting us through not only the trauma of COVID, but setting us up to move forward.

Mrs. Hood expressed her gratitude to the administrators, teachers, principals, and everyone who runs the NCS D.

Mrs. Roney, Board Trustee, reported that this past Saturday was the commencement and we had perfect weather, a little warm, but it was the best cap throwing she had ever seen. She stated that when the kids went to find their caps they were hugging all of their classmates that they had not really seen in a while. Mrs. Roney said that it was very heartwarming. She mentioned that you feel very good about how well everybody is doing, our teachers, students, administration, and even the Board and how we brought these kids through this challenging year and a half. Mrs. Roney reported that it felt good to be a part of this.

She mentioned that on Monday was the graduation for the athletes and then tonight was Career Prep, so it was an awesome week.

Mr. Mena, Board Secretary, reported that after graduation he spoke with some parents. He stated that one parent just moved into the district and he met Mr. Johnson and his kids on the track team. Mr. Mena said that the dad played collegiate football out of state and they decided to move to Michigan. He mentioned that they had pretty much narrowed it down between us and that district to the south and the big difference was the tour they were given. Mr. Mena took this opportunity to give a shout out to Dr. Melissa Jordan because she clearly did whatever it took to sell our district.

Mr. Mena stated that he did not realize this was the last meeting of the fiscal year. He stated that this is the last month for Mr. Brian Gordon, our athletic director, before he moves into retirement. Mr. Mena said that he is very proud of our athletic department and all that they have done over the years under Mr. Gordon's leadership. He mentioned he won a lot of awards and went into the Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame and won some prestigious awards from the MHSAA.

Mr. Mena stated that personally, as a person, he has always been great. He reported that we had a lot of success under his leadership and he will certainly be missed. Mr. Mena said that he looks forward to meeting our new AD.

Mr. Smith, Board Vice-President, expressed his gratitude to the NEF and reminded everyone that the fall teacher grant program will be coming up and they always encourage the teachers to think about things over time. He reported that he was reminded of a couple of grants that the NEF had awarded in the past when he visited Village Oaks.

Mr. Smith stated that they approved a grant request and bought some books for the classroom. He mentioned that thinking back, it was interesting and he did not remember hearing much feedback because some had to do with alternative family styles and the NEF was happy to support some of the work in that LGBTQ arena. Mr. Smith said that the NEF provided some books on the Flint Water Crisis for the ninth grade ELA and one seemed to garner quite a bit more attention.

Mr. Smith mentioned that everybody likes it when the NEF provides money for therapy dogs and hammocks for the kids at Parkview. He expressed his gratitude to the NEF for a broad range of support to provide, not just materials that will help one group of kids, but materials that will help all kids. Mr. Smith reported that a friend of his taught him to think of both and that we provide not just learning materials, but also cultural things and different philosophies that warrant attention.

He stated that we talk a lot in this room about our teachers, the staff, and different organizations. Mr. Smith said that he had the opportunity today, to spend time with some of our city employees and there is a group within the City of Novi where the employees get together and do different events and projects. He mentioned that it is team building and whatnot.

Mr. Smith reported that today he met with people from the forestry department, the treasury department, and HR. He stated that there were several members of our fire department and a contingent from the full-time firefighters' union. Mr. Smith said they all got together in Ella Mae Power Park, at 4:30 this afternoon and it was really hot, to play kickball and spend some time

bonding in that group. He mentioned that they voluntarily kicked in money to play and the two dozen or so people raised roughly \$1,500 and donated it to Novi Youth Assistance.

Mr. Smith reported that we really are blessed to live here and it is not just the city employees, but the giving back to the Novi Youth Assistance Program. He complimented the city workers and stated that we (NCSD) should take on the city next year.

Mrs. Murphy, Board Trustee, reported that this has been a crazy year for everyone, but this group of people, not just here but extended beyond our community, is really inspiring what has occurred. She stated that although there were bad things that came out of this, there were some new things that are coming out of it as well, like the virtual academy and some of the different ways that we manage teaching, even remotely, for students.

Mrs. Murphy said that she always likes to see the silver lining and she feels there is a silver lining not just with the resilience that our kids have been forced to learn, but that which we have learned as well. She mentioned that they are going to bounce back much more quickly than a lot of people. Mrs. Murphy reported that she works with a lot of mostly older people in a clinical setting and there are struggles; people under the weight.

She stated that to Dr. Webber's point, the kids are going to teach us and we have to open ourselves to them. Mrs. Murphy expressed her gratitude to the team and said that she was glad we have Dr. Matthews on board for as long as he will stay. She said that he certainly has directed us well this year.

Mrs. Murphy mentioned Mr. Gordon is leaving and we lost a lot of really good teachers, but Dr. Kinzer has managed to bring some great teachers on and that is exciting as well.

Dr. Ruskin, Board President, reported that at the end she likes smashing the gavel, but she has seen some things on Twitter that bring the end of the year forward and it is bittersweet. She stated as Dr. Webber pointed out, there have been people in the community who have challenged us throughout the year, which she is very grateful. Dr. Ruskin said you get to a point in the pain and in the heartache that you look back and just understand what you have learned.

She mentioned that a parent came up to her yesterday, someone who challenged the decisions that were made, and she said thank you. Dr. Ruskin reported that it was a very heartwarming and we should not forget the lessons that we have learned and what we have been through. She stated that there is a lot of great things that came out of it, so be ready for this summer to relax and read and start a new fresh year for our kiddos.

#### ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mrs. Murphy and supported by Mr. Smith 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 8:55 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for July 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., at the Educational Services Building.

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Willy Mena, Secretary

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