



**Minutes of a Regular Meeting, November 4, 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, November 4, 2021, beginning at 7:00 PM.

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

Absent: Mrs. Murphy

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mr. Cook that the Novi Board of Education approve the agenda.

Ayes: 6 Dr. Ruskin, Mr. Cook, Mr. Smith, Mr. Mena, Mrs. Roney, and Mrs. Hood

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 October 28, 2021

It was moved by Mr. Mena and supported by Mr. Smith that the Novi Community Schools Board of Education approve the Consent Item(s) as presented.

Ayes: 6 Dr. Ruskin, Mr. Cook, Mr. Smith, Mr. Mena, Mrs. Roney, and Mrs. Hood

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>
McGill, Tami	VO	Special Ed Para	New Hire	Level B	TBD

B. Retirements and Resignations

<u>Name</u>	<u>Bldg.</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Baker, Kristin	District	Psychologist	Resigned	10-29-21

It was moved by Mr. Cook and supported by Mrs. Roney that the Novi Community School District Board of Education adopts the personnel report recommendations as presented.

Ayes: 6 Dr. Ruskin, Mr. Cook, Mr. Smith, Mr. Mena, Mrs. Roney, and Mrs. Hood

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

2021 Winter Tax Levy

At the September 23, 2021 regular Board meeting, the Novi Board of Education formally certified the revised 2021-22 tax levies as listed below:

HOMESTEAD	<u>Mills</u>
<u>Levy Description</u>	
General Operating Mills (Hold Harmless-Supp.)	1.2754
Sinking Fund Mills	0.4713
Recreational Mills	0.9365
Debt Mills	<u>6.5000</u>
Total	9.1832

INDUSTRIAL-PERSONAL	
<u>Levy Description</u>	
General Operating Mills (Hold Harmless-Supp.)	1.2754
Sinking Fund Mills	0.4713
Recreational Mills	0.9365
Debt Mills	<u>6.5000</u>
Total	9.1832

COMMERCIAL-PERSONAL	
<u>Levy Description</u>	
General Operating Mills	5.2473
General Operating Mills (Hold Harmless-Supp.)	1.2754
Sinking Fund Mills	0.4713
Recreational Mills	0.9365
Debt Mills	<u>6.5000</u>
Total	14.4305

NON-HOMESTEAD	
<u>Levy Description</u>	
General Operating Mills	17.2473
Sinking Fund Mills	0.4713
Recreational Mills	0.9365

Debt Mills	<u>6.5000</u>
Total	25.1551

50% of the taxes in the summer and 50% in the winter. Thus, the 2021 winter tax levy is:

HOMESTEAD	<u>Mills</u>
<u>Levy Description</u>	
General Operating Mills (Hold Harmless-Supp.)	0.0657
Sinking Fund Mills	0.2356
Recreational Mills	0.4682
Debt Mills	<u>3.2500</u>
Total	4.0195

INDUSTRIAL-PERSONAL	
<u>Levy Description</u>	
General Operating Mills (Hold Harmless-Supp.)	0.0657
Sinking Fund Mills	0.2356
Recreational Mills	0.4682
Debt Mills	<u>3.2500</u>
Total	4.0195

COMMERCIAL-PERSONAL	
<u>Levy Description</u>	
General Operating Mills (Hold Harmless)	2.6237
General Operating Mills (Hold Harmless-Supp.)	0.0657
Sinking Fund Mills	0.2356
Recreational Mills	0.4682
Debt Mills	<u>3.2500</u>
Total	6.6432

NON-HOMESTEAD	
<u>Levy Description</u>	
General Operating Mills (Hold Harmless)	8.6236
Sinking Fund Mills	0.2356
Recreational Mills	0.4682
Debt Mills	<u>3.2500</u>
Total	12.5774

This report is presented for Information and Discussion. It is recommended for approval at the next board meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

There were two (2) comments from the audience regarding masks in schools.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Dr. RJ Webber, Acting Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent for Academic Services, reported that if you are on Twitter and following our teachers or the superintendent, they have accompanied a bunch of our eighth graders to Washington D.C. He stated that it looks like they have great weather and there are some beautiful pictures. Dr. Webber expressed his gratitude to

Mr. Ken Fenchel for his amazing work in organizing this and bringing 500 teenagers to Washington D.C. for a number of days and then turning them loose in a food court. He said if you see Mr. Fenchel, give him a high five.

Dr. Webber reported that on Tuesday they honored our Michigan Continuous Improvement Plan and our SIP, where our teachers engaged in professional development, kindergarten, first grade, second grade, fifth grade focused math. He expressed a special thank you to our instructional coaches as well as our math interventionists.

Dr. Webber stated that third and fourth grade teachers focused on small group instruction, which is basically our tier two, where we are finding ways to work with students in smaller groups to help them and give them the opportunity to learn. He said our sixth through twelfth grades, worked on Understanding by Design. He mentioned that is when our teachers collaborated to do work and articulate their courses, that is part of the big Atlas work that we have talked about in the past.

Dr. Webber thanked the coaches, and math interventionists for all the work they did to pull that off. He reported that it is important to say thank you to our maintenance group, food service group, custodians, front office teams (the people who greet our kids and families when they come into the buildings), and our tech team. Dr. Webber stated that if you think about what our tech team has worked on in the past year and a half; the one-to-one in the District and the ROAR Center. He said that we are in the middle of the 187-billion-dollar bond and the work they are doing to provide opportunities for our students is really wonderful.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mr. Greg McIntyre, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations, reported that the financial article that was presented, we received a separate rate of rating on the Capital Projects. He thanked Board for their direction, his cabinet members for their help on the budget, and his co-workers: Deanna Wheeler, Sandy Brasil, Beth Henderson, Jody Malbon, Sheila McDonnell, and Liz Cross.

Dr. Gary Kinzer, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, reported that he has been busy with the Deerfield principal hiring process. He stated that he has been interviewing this week and there are some really highly qualified candidates. Dr. Kinzer said that he will continue this work tomorrow and next week and will be meeting with Deerfield parents as possible next week. He mentioned a Zoom meeting during the day at 2:00 PM, on Thursday, and an in-person meeting in the Deerfield cafeteria on Thursday evening.

Dr. Kinzer reported that they will be conducting the panel interview, which is their final group interview process, on November 19. He stated that they are on schedule to make an offer to a candidate and present the recommendation to the Board on December 16.

Dr. Kinzer wanted to let everyone know how much fun Halloween was at Deerfield, last week. He said that other than standing in the rain, in the car line, they had a fantastic day. Dr. Kinzer mentioned that he took advantage of the day and went into every classroom and connected with teachers and students.

BOARD COMMUNICATION

Mr. Cook, Board Vice-President, reported that he was not here last week because he was attending a middle school choir concert. He stated that the week before he attended a high school concert. Mr. Cook said that his mother was a choir teacher/director for 35 years. He mentioned that one thing she said about the kids who sang was, "you know you could always pick up an instrument and put it down, but your voice you will have with you forever.

Mr. Cook stated that each of those uniquely, individual kids, in their own voices, came together and put on one heck of a concert. He reported that the high school concert had four choirs and a little twist. Mr. Cook said that each choir was given the same piece to sing, but with different arrangements. He mentioned that if the director would not have told us before hand, we would not have known. Mr. Cook said that it was handled very well. He reported that the kids learned that just because there are words on the paper does not mean they are singing the same song as before.

Mr. Cook stated that one thing we can take away from this is that our performing arts department is performing well above and beyond and the kids are learning and performing. He mentioned that even if you do not have a kid who is singing, acting, or playing in the band or orchestra, it is something worthwhile to go see and you do not have to pay an arm and a leg for a ticket to Symphony Hall, Orchestra Hall, or the Masonic Temple. Mr. Cook gave his props to the teachers at the middle school and the high school for their work and contribution. Mr. Cook reported that Ms. Grebinski is retiring, but has one more concert, the winter concert, which is the day before she is done.

Mr. Mena, Board Secretary, reported that we will be hosting a couple of state soccer finals at the stadium, this week, in division one and division four. He stated that we could have a lot of traffic at the stadium this weekend.

Mr. Mena said that volleyball will be hosting regionals next week starting on Tuesday and it looks like our girls did win tonight, so they will be moving on the regionals. He mentioned that this will be nice because we are hosting regionals.

Mr. Mena reported that we will also be hosting a state semi-final for football. He stated that we have for the past few years and it should be on Saturday, November 20, which is the week before Thanksgiving.

Mr. Mena said while we are talking about the mask stuff and the legal opinions, based on additional information that he has gathered since they talked to our attorney, he has some additional questions and would like a follow up with him (the attorney) whether it be via email or something.

Mrs. Roney, Board Trustee, reminded everyone that November 13th, Frog Force is having a big competition at the high school. She reported that it runs all day and the awards are around 4:00 or 5:00 pm.

Mrs. Roney said that she would like to thank the IT team for keeping our network safe. She mentioned that she has seen a lot of things coming through with double authentication. Mrs. Roney reported that she thinks it is wonderful that we will not be the ones being hacked.

Mrs. Hood, Board Treasurer, reported that Mr. Cook's comments prompted her to talk about the performing arts. She stated that her two boys were always in the marching band and a varsity sport. Mrs. Hood said that she loves the arts and the value that it brings to our kids' lives and our lives as parents. She mentioned that these are the memories that we have, she encouraged parents to go even if their kids are not in the band or choir. Mrs. Hood stated that the talent and art that comes out of our District is really stunning.

Mrs. Hood reported that today Mr. Fenchel tweeted a picture of Ford's Theater. She stated that Mr. Fenchel said it was a throwback because ten years ago, they were sitting in the balcony and one of the kids exclaimed that this was the theater Lincoln was killed in. Mrs. Hood said that her boys both stated it was not them.

Dr. Ruskin, Board President, reported that it was amazing to see the high school teachers with their conferences. She stated that it is a lot of work for them, after a long day of school. Dr. Ruskin said that yesterday they had a half day, but today was a full day and it is like speed dating, three (3) minutes going on Zoom. She mentioned that it is a really great opportunity for teachers to connect with parents and discuss students' progress.

Dr. Ruskin stated that she enjoyed watching the DC smiles because those kids are happy to be away, to have this wonderful experience, and to feel like they are doing something that the students before them got to do.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Mena and supported by Mr. Smith that the Novi Board of Education Regular Board meeting be adjourned.

Ayes: 6 Dr. Ruskin, Mr. Cook, Mr. Smith, Mr. Mena, Mrs. Roney, and Mrs. Hood

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for November 18, 2021 at 7:00 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