



**Minutes of a Regular Meeting, January 20, 2022
Novi Community School District
Board of Education**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Novi Community School District was held on Thursday, January 20, 2022, beginning at 7:02 PM.

Present: Dr. Ruskin, Mr. Mena, Mrs. Murphy, Mr. Cook, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Roney, and Mrs. Hood (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 Mr. Smith and supported Mr. Cook that the Novi Board of Education approve the agenda as amended, voting on the courses separately.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATION

LifeChanger of the Year Award

LifeChanger of the Year is an annual program sponsored by National Life Group that recognizes and rewards K-12 educators and school employees across the country. This program celebrates those who are making a significant difference in the lives of students by exemplifying excellence, positive influence and leadership.

Since 2011, they have recognized more than 5,000 school employees from more than 2,000 school districts. This year, 2021-2022, there were 843 LifeChanger Award nominees and Cathy Farris, our District Nurse, was among them.

Tonight, we would like to take a moment to publicly recognize Cathy Farris and express our deep appreciation to her for being among the National LifeChangers of the Year, but more importantly, for being our life changer here in the Novi Community School District and for doing all that she does for our students, staff, parents, and the community.

REPORTS TO THE BOARD

Proposed Land Swap Agreement with the City of Novi

The Novi Community School District, the City of Novi, Plante Moran Cresa representatives, and respective attorneys have met several times since December 2020 for the purpose of discussing a land swap between the District and the city. The proposal was presented to and discussed by the Board on November 18, 2021.

Tonight, Dr. Steve Matthews, Superintendent of the Novi Community School District, and Mr. Pete Auger, City Manager of the City of Novi, will present a report to the Board.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS

There were no comments from the audience related to agenda items.

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 January 6, 2022
- b. Closed Session Meeting Minutes of January 6, 2022
- c. Work Session Meeting Minutes of January 13, 2022

B. Approval of Bills

- a. Board Report
- b. Check Register for November 2021
- c. Purchase Card Report for October 1 through October 31, 2021

It was moved by Mrs. Murphy and supported by Mrs. Roney that the Novi Community Schools Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda Item(s) as presented.

Ayes: 7 Dr. Ruskin, Mr. Mena, Mrs. Murphy, Mr. Cook, Mr. Smith, 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>
Polce, Meghan	HS	PE/Health Teacher	New Hire	MA	01-31-22
Dukes, Shane	HS	SS/Journalism Teacher	New Hire	BA	TBD

B. Retirements and Resignations

<u>Name</u>	<u>Bldg.</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Ammons, Katherine	MS	Food Science Teacher	Resigned	01-28-22

C. Leaves of Absence

<u>Name</u>	<u>Bldg.</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Effective</u>
-------------	--------------	-------------------	---------------	------------------

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

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

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Proposed Courses

Yoga and Mat Course Proposal

Ms. Leanne Molnar, physical education teacher at Novi High School, would like to propose the addition of an Elective Course, Yoga and Mat Fitness. This course is designed for any level of yogi and will empower students to take control of their mental and physical health.

Yoga helps student to regulate emotions, behaviors, and thoughts in many environments and provides an opportunity for reflection, mindfulness, grounding, and a space to relieve anxiety.

This course will also fill a physical education course requirement.

This course was presented to the Board at their work session on January 13, 2022 and comes back tonight to approval.

It was moved by Mrs. Murphy and supported by Mrs. Roney that the Novi Community School District Board of Education approve the Novi High School Yoga and Mat Course as presented.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Study Skills Course Proposal

Ms. Emily Pohlonski, principal of Novi Virtual, would like to propose the addition of two Elective Courses, High School Study Skills and Middle School Study Skills. These courses will not replace any existing courses. It will be in addition to the courses that are already offered at Novi High School and Novi Middle School.

These courses will provide students in grades 7 – 12 with the opportunity to strengthen their skills in the following areas:

- Note-taking
- Executive Functioning
- Time Management
- Everyday math with real world application
- Effective Communication
- Presentation Skills
- Comprehension Techniques
- Goal setting
- Personal Reflection

These courses fill a need for students who need an elective credit or a senior math credit and students will have the opportunity to apply the content to the courses that they are taking concurrently. Students can take this course more than once as needed to support their learning.

This course was presented to the Board at their work session on January 13, 2022 and comes back

tonight to approval.

It was moved by Mrs. Roney and supported by Mrs. Murphy that the Novi Community School District Board of Education approve the Novi High School and Novi Middle School Study Skills courses as presented.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Proposed Refunding – 2014 School Building and Site Bonds, Series I

The Novi Community School District is presenting a Bond Authorizing Resolution to be adopted by the Board. The purpose of this Bond Authorizing Resolution is to aggregate the principal amount of not to exceed Thirty Million Dollars (\$30,000,000), as finally determined upon sale thereof, for the purpose of refunding all or a portion of the Issuer's outstanding 2014 School Building and Site Bonds, Series I, dated June 19, 2014.

The bond refunding team is comprised of the following:

Bond Underwriter - Stifel Nicolaus & Company
Financial Advisor – PFM Financial Advisors LLC
Bond Counsel - Thrun Law Firm

The proposed Resolution is submitted to the Board of Education tonight for information and discussion, with approval at the next meeting of the Board of Education on January 20, 2022.

It was moved by Mrs. Murphy and supported by Mrs. Hood that the Novi Community School District Board of Education, in the best interest of the Novi Community School District, adopt the attached Bond Authorizing Resolution to aggregate the principal amount of not to exceed Thirty Million Dollars (\$30,000,000), as set forth therein, for the purpose of refunding all or a portion of the Issuer's outstanding 2014 School Building and Site Bonds, Series I, dated June 19, 2014.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

2022 School Building and Site Bonds, Series II

The Novi Community School District is presenting a Bond Authorizing Resolution to be adopted by the Board. The purpose of this Bond Authorizing Resolution is to aggregate the principal sum of not more than Fifty-Five Million Dollars (\$55,000,000) for the purpose of funding a portion of the Bond Project. The Bonds shall be designated 2022 School Building and Site Bonds, Series II.

The bond refunding team is comprised of the following:

Senior Bond Underwriter - Stifel Nicolaus & Company
Financial Advisor – PFM Financial Advisors LLC
Bond Counsel - Thrun Law Firm

The proposed Resolution is submitted to the Board of Education tonight for information and discussion, with approval at the next meeting of the Board of Education on January 20, 2022.

It was moved by Mr. Mena and supported by Mrs. Murphy that the Novi Community School District Board of Education, in the best interest of the Novi Community School District, adopt the attached resolution authorizing the issuance and delegating the sale of Novi Community School District 2022 School Building and Site Bonds, Series II.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

There were five (5) comments from the audience this evening regarding CRT, curriculum, social emotional learning, and great experiences in Novi schools.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Dr. Steve Matthews, Superintendent of Schools, invited everyone to Novi High School tomorrow at 5:30 PM to come and see three (3) great high school basketball games. He reported the first is our Novi High School Varsity Girls' against Northville at 5:30; and then our Unified team plays at 7:00 PM; and our Boys' Varsity plays at 8:00 PM. Dr. Matthews stated that during the Unified basketball game's halftime, Novi will be recognized as a Special Olympics' Unified Champion School.

Dr. Matthews said on February 4th, Novi is participating with schools from around the state to support Oxford High School by wearing the Oxford Strong shirts. He mentioned that anyone wearing an Oxford Strong shirt will get into the game that night for free. Dr. Matthews reported that there is a Peach Jar flyer on our District website that has more information and how you might be able to get your Oxford Strong shirt.

Dr. Matthews stated that today he listened to State Superintendent Michael Rice talk about the teacher shortage in Michigan. He said that in Michigan, the teacher preparation program enrollment is down 56 percent and teacher education completers are down 59 percent over the last 10 years. Dr. Matthews mentioned that this multi-year effort, in our state, to diminish the status of teachers and administrators has had a profound effect upon the people who want to go into the field of education. He reported that we continue, through Dr. Kinzer's office, to attract high quality teachers, but it truly has become a much more difficult challenge that State Superintendent, Dr. Rice, addressed today.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mr. Greg McIntyre, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations, reported that he was going to talk a little bit about the January Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference. He stated that some may have had a chance to listen in on that last week. Mr. McIntyre said that they are going to be talking about this in Cabinet and what it means to us. He mentioned that he was going to focus on just a couple of numbers. Mr. McIntyre reported that there is a lot of moving money in, so 1.2 billion of carry overs flowed into FY21. He stated that he was going to talk about the top number and the bottom number. Mr. McIntyre said that the top number is what the stated balance is and the bottom number, what he is going to give to the Board, is what the structural balance is. He mentioned that is money that, without all of this extra money, is a one-time savings.

Mr. McIntyre reported that for FY21, the balance in the school aid fund is 2.8 billion, but the structural balance is 1.7 billion. He stated that for FY22, it is projected to be 3.6 billion, but the structural balance is 719 Million. Mr. McIntyre said that for FY23, the stated balance is 4.6 billion and the structural balance is 1.0 billion. He mentioned that the bottom number, you probably know by now that I am really conservative, is what I am focusing on.

Mr. McIntyre reported that he is looking at what we can get based on the school index fund for FY22 and FY23, combining those years together. He stated that we are looking at about a 72 increase in foundation allowance for FY22 and 198 dollars in foundation allowance for FY23. Mr. McIntyre said that all this extra money out there, the one-time money, that 1.2-billion-dollar carryover if you take that out, where do you land. He mentioned that is what he is trying to tell us right now.

Mr. McIntyre reported that right now, we might get a lot of that money, but he does not know. He stated that he understands that the economy is well right now, but it is based on a lot of uncertainty in that forecast. Mr. McIntyre said that enrollment, district/statewide, could drop, which is a challenge within itself. He mentioned that he just put that number out there because the Board will be hearing different numbers, but you have to go behind them and find out what the underliers are.

Mr. McIntyre reported that Cabinet members will be talking about this amongst themselves and what it means to us and what we are going to look at moving forward. He stated that you have to tie bar these years together and cannot just look at them in a silo. Mr. McIntyre said that as he gets more, he will come back and share it with the Board. He mentioned that this was the January cree and there will be a May cree as will. Mr. McIntyre stated that the we know how the budget works, where the House has a plan and the Senate has a plan and they get together with the governor and massage the numbers and agree on some numbers.

Dr. Gary Kinzer, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, reported that a week from tomorrow, the twenty-eighth of January, he will finish his time as interim principal at Deerfield. He stated that he wanted to take this opportunity to thank the Deerfield community, our teachers and staff, as well as our parents and students, for so graciously welcoming him at Deerfield. Dr. Kinzer said that he had a great experience there and is very excited for the thirty-first, when Melissa Lane, our new Deerfield principal will begin.

Dr. Kinzer mentioned that he had a conversation with Mrs. Lane today and she will be joining us, in the District, next Wednesday. He reported that she will spend most of her day at Deerfield, but some of the time here at the ESB, as well as Novi Woods, where they are going to have an elementary principal lunch meeting to get her ready to start and hit the ground running on the thirty-first. Dr. Kinzer stated that he will spend time those first few weeks at Deerfield to help her get acclimated.

Dr. RJ Webber, Assistant Superintendent for Academic Services, expressed his gratitude to Senator Jim Runestad. He reported that he met with Senator Runestad for about an hour and a half last week. Dr. Webber stated that they had a healthy conversation around topics in education right now and he appreciated the fact that the senator had come to his office. He said that they visited Village Oaks and hung out there for a little while. Dr. Webber thanked the senator and his staff, that he interacted with last week.

Dr. Webber reported that he is fortunate to be a resident here in Novi, to coach athletic teams here at Novi and to have served this community for 12 years, be a Rotarian. He stated that the joy that he has is running into parents. Dr. Webber said that he and Dr. Matthews meet with different parent groups no less than 10 formal times a month from the Superintendent Book Clubs, to Interschool Council, to all these different pieces. He mentioned that often times those informal conversations where people reach out, have questions, conversation, and so on, and unequivocally what I know is that our parents these past two (2) years have stress and feel the load of those who are trying to work and keep their homes together as well as their kids is tremendous.

Dr. Webber thanked the people for the privilege of having them open up and seeing our school District as a place that can help them or be of service to them. He stated that his heart is definitely with them.

Dr. Webber took a moment to remember Dr. Rita Traynor, someone he never had the pleasure of meeting but who many in the community may remember, by reading her obituary. He reported that her obituary was something of deep inspiration and he wished that he would have known her. Dr. Webber stated that her husband passed away at age 52 and she passed away at age 95. He went on to say how she, as a single mother, was not able to earn her college degree until the age of 45, going to school part time. Dr. Webber said that she started her career as a fourth grade teacher, here at Orchard Hills Elementary and went on to become the District's Assistant Superintendent of Instruction. He mentioned that she continued to attend classes until earning her master's degree for Oakland University in 1976 and her Doctorate from the University of Michigan at age 64 and then retiring at age 77.

Dr. Webber stated that she will continue to be a role model of resilience and strength for all who knew her. He reported that there will be a celebration of life held on Saturday, February 26 at 2:30 PM, in Grand Rapids. Dr. Webber said that Dr. Traynor showed us, in the way that she chose to live her life, that education is a truly transformative opportunity for so many.

BOARD COMMUNICATION

Mrs. Roney, Board Trustee, reported that she went to the OCSBA meeting. She stated that they had Dr. Rod Green, consultant for superintendents, who helps find superintendents. She stated that he said if you have a good superintendent, hold on to them because they are far and few between. Mrs. Roney said that there used to be 50 to 90 applicants and now they are only getting 10. She mentioned that a lot of times Districts are stealing from other Districts.

Mrs. Roney reported that another thing that he talked about was the District's Board; whether they would or would not go to a District was their Board of Education and do they work well together. She stated that we all do, so kudos for us. Mrs. Roney said they had a really nice meeting and the next one is on March 16th and then the awards banquet is June 15th.

Mrs. Hood, Board Treasurer, reported that she spent her lunch hour on Tuesday listening to the MASB Members Matter Webinar. She stated that Don Wotruba and Brad Banasik talked through various issues. Mrs. Hood said they did spend a bit of time on the Revenue Estimating Conference and they said that there is enough money to potentially pay off our MSPERS' debt, which she found hard to believe. She mentioned that she would be interested in the assessment that Mr. McIntyre and his team do, not that MSPERS is our issue, but on the School Aid Fund.

Mrs. Hood reported that he also said there was an unfortunate editorial in the Detroit News, written by Ingrid Jacques, a long-time and well-known non advocate of public schools. She stated that the MASB issued a response to that editorial on the 17th/18th.

Mrs. Murphy, Board Trustee, reported that she might be the only one who knew Dr. Traynor. She stated that Dr. Traynor was amazing and Deerfield was her "brainchild" years and years ago. Mrs. Murphy said that she was surprised that she was that old because she had so much energy all the time. She mentioned that she was somebody who was a champion of public education and was very approachable by everyone.

Mrs. Murphy reported that a lot of people in the community knew her very well because she may have had their children as a teacher. She expressed her appreciation to Dr. Webber for recognizing her because she was a big part of this District and she did a lot of really fantastic things for us in this District. Mrs. Murphy stated that when Dr. Traynor retired there was a very large outpouring of people that came to wish her well in her next chapter of life and she will be missed.

Mr. Smith, Board Trustee, thanked Chartwells and Kimberly Sinclair for the wonderful, fancy, and thoughtful gift. He stated that it is always fun to be received so well. Mr. Smith said that it is just really neat that every now and then we will get a trinket. He mentioned that the chocolate covered strawberries might be missing by the time he gets home.

Dr. Danielle Ruskin, Board President, reminded everyone that the Unified Basketball game is tomorrow. She stated that if you are going to the café, over at the library, this is just another reminder that we have a great working collaborative relationship with Chartwells and the café over there. Dr. Ruskin said that the café services our community, but the NATC kids work there and run that establishment. She mentioned to get back into the habit now that the library is open, throw your masks on, and go there to support our kids.

Dr. Ruskin reported that we made the Novi Note. She stated that the Novi District is to host events supporting Oxford Strong fundraisers, which include the February 4th games. Dr. Ruskin said that shirts have been ordered that say Novi Community School District supports Oxford Strong, so we will be doing that in the next couple of weeks.

Dr. Ruskin reported that she knew that Mr. Mena, most recently, received an award. She stated that she saw something on Twitter about the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association thanked you. Dr. Ruskin said she wanted to acknowledge that and to thank Mr. Mena for all of the time, hours, and energy that he truly puts into athletics. She mentioned that everytime she pulls into the parking lot, there is Mr. Mena's car, so she just wanted to congratulate him and express her gratitude and appreciation.

Mr. Cook, Board Vice-President, reported that, SEPAC has their annual Above and Beyond nominations going on right now. He stated that anybody who is nominated gets recognized and it is a wonderful opportunity to really recognize people that help out the kids with special needs. Mr. Cook said that you can nominate a bus driver, parapro, another student; students kind of get left behind on this, but it is a great opportunity. He mentioned that he hopes that they get a lot of students nominated because those students are really proud of that nomination.

Mr. Cook reported that to follow up on what Mrs. Roney said about Board functioning, he was back in his hometown and had the opportunity to attend one of their Board meetings and it was a little different. He stated that they could not get a nomination for their bank or for where they post their notifications. Mr. Cook said they would not nominate anyone or an alternate; they tabled it for further discussion. He mentioned that we (Board member) come here knowing what we want to do, how we are going to do it, and get things done.

Mr. Cook reported that we all work as seven (7) individuals for the students. He stated that we all have different ideals, but we have one goal, so to see how other Boards do it, makes you appreciate the way we do it.

Mr. Mena, Board Secretary, thanked Mrs. Holly finding the Board a new clock. He reported that dropped it a while ago and mentioned others have those clocks up. Mr. Mena stated that he believes that folks really appreciate when they are going up, to know how much time they have left. He said that he mentioned it in passing and then all of the sudden he got a call saying it was installed. Mr. Mena laughingly mentioned that he had to go out and take a three (3) week course to get certified on how to run it. He stated that he knows it is a small thing, but it is very much appreciated, so thank you; excellent executive functioning.

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. Mena, Mrs. Murphy, Mr. Cook, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Roney, and Mrs. Hood

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for February 3, 2022 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