



Minutes of a Regular Board Meeting, September 8, 2022
Novi Community School District
Board of Education

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Novi Community School District was held Thursday, September 8, 2022, beginning at 7:00 PM.

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

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. Mena and supported by Mr. Cook that the Novi Community School Board of Education approve the agenda as presented.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

REPORTS TO THE BOARD

Mr. Justin Bott, of McCarthy and Smith, presented an update on the summer construction work that has been taking place at the Novi Meadows building. He showed drone footage of the site and showed where the signed beam was being place.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

There were two (2) comments from the audience regarding the high school phase II and the mental health parent camp.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Ben Mainka, Superintendent of Schools, reported that this was one of the best weeks of school that he could remember with a lot of energy and smiling faces. He expressed his appreciation to the Board members who came out to visit the schools and greet the students and to the building principals and staff who planned diligently for many months to make the start of the year the best ever.

Mr. Mainka reported that our administration is encouraging staff to spend the first few weeks investing in relationships and stated that research actually supports having a lot of routines and a lot of relationships that are built in the classrooms and a sense of belonging for everyone there. He said that this is a huge priority for us.

Mr. Mainka reported that Cindy and Karen, in the transportation department, have been inundated and he stated that they have been real troopers through this; working a lot of hours and did not even take Labor Day off.

Mr. Mainka reported that when we first started having people sign up, a few years ago, in an effort to try and make sure we could adequately staff all of our busses. He stated that we have cleaned up some of the glitches and are working through them, that it will be much better next year and, actually, we are getting better every day. Mr. Mainka said we are trying to build momentum, but there is some concern regarding our walk zones, which is common in our state. He mentioned that it is about a mile for elementary students and a mile and a half for secondary students, which is a bit of a problem in some of our subdivisions, so we are looking at unique alternative and our goal is to get five (5) days a week for kids in the transportation zones.

Mr. Mainka stated that the five day a week transportation has reduced parent traffic in the parking lots significantly. He stated that our transportation leaders and drivers are doing their very best and he cannot thank them enough for their hard work.

Mr. Mainka reported that he had the opportunity to attend the Novi Police and Fire Golf Fundraiser last Friday. He stated that it was a great event that provided the opportunity to meet a lot of people and work on some of our community partnerships, not only with the municipal partners, but with businesses. Mr. Mainka said that small businesses support our organization as well.

Mr. Mainka mentioned that we are fortunate to have Detective Julie Warren in our District, at the middle school. He stated that she does a fantastic job interacting with the kids. Mr. Mainka said that she has a tremendous presence with the kids and they trust her. He reported that we have a new high school liaison officer, Officer Sarah Moulik, and stated that she started this week and if you see her, please welcome her.

Mr. Mainka mentioned that he started a book study with our administrative team and gave the Board copies of the books. He reported that there are two (2) books, *The Five Dysfunctions of a Team* and *Radical Candor*. Mr. Mainka stated that he would love for the Board to participate and join the conversation. He said that the first book that we are going through is *The Five Dysfunctions of a Team* and we will talk about how do we function and work effectively as a unit. Mr. Mainka mentioned that it really helps to get to the heart of how a team is working, effectively, efficiently, and communication is the key.

Mr. Mainka reported that *Radical Candor* is an interesting read. He stated that Kim Scott, the author, is a former executive at Apple and she talks about warm demand or philosophy, which is operationalized.

Mr. Mainka reported that they took several Board members, a lot of our construction partners, and our administrative staff and toured several activity centers around the area: including: St. Joe's Elite Sports Complex (at Schoolcraft Center), Ypsilanti Lincoln Activity Center, Brighton Area Schools, as well as the Legacy Center, in Brighton. He stated that the purpose was to compare them, so they could start to get an idea of what the scope and what the needs are for the District, and so that they could get a starting point for what we need to get into our planning phases for that part of the Capital Projects Committee.

Mr. Mainka said that he had the opportunity to meet with the Director of the Japanese School of Detroit, Mr. Moto Ahara and had the real pleasure of meeting with Rumi Hayashi, the Principal of the Japanese School of Detroit. He mentioned that they invited him to come on Saturday, to be a “fly on the wall”, and see the vast differences between what happens in their school versus what happens in ours. Mr. Mainka reported that he is going to be inviting them to some of our administrative meetings, so they can speak with the principals and let them know if a student might be struggling in certain areas on Saturday and we might be able to help make it a better experience for our students.

Mr. Mainka suggested that the Board have a workshop relatively soon. He stated that he would send out a Doodle poll with a few dates for them to look at. Mr. Mainka said that he is really proud of the support he has received from the many people in the District over the past month and a half, but now he would like to sit and establish the expectations, norms, and preferences the Board has in terms of how we work together and operate as a team, as a governance body, the Board as a governance body, and him as the Board’s person to execute that. He mentioned that he would like a work session to that effect and that it would be really healthy to do again in the new year once we have the new Board members. Mr. Mainka stated that waiting too long would not be optimal, so he would like to do something soon and then again when we have the new team in the new year.

Mr. Mainka mentioned that he would send that in the Monday Update. He gave the potential date for during the day as September 27, September 29, September 30, October 5, or October 6. Mr. Mainka reported for the evening dates, that could start at 5:00 PM would be September 28, October 6 or October 13; that could start at 5:00 PM or 7:00 PM, would be October 5; and that could start at 4:00 PM, 5:00 PM, or 7:00 PM would be October 5. He stated that it would probably be an hour and a half (1 ½) to two (2) hours.

Mr. Mainka updated the Board on the Village Oaks project. He presented a PowerPoint with the renderings of the playground. Mr. Mainka stated that it is going to have multiple sets of equipment, a basketball area with courts, swings, and a pretty large play structure. He said that it is an expansive and phenomenal playground. Mr. Mainka expressed his appreciation to Plante Moran, McCarthy Smith, and everyone that got the workers out there and cranking. He said that they are hoping for a final completion by the end of the month, over the next couple of weeks, and hopefully our kids are going to be on this equipment. Mr. Mainka mentioned that in the meantime, there are basketball hoops set-up in the parking lot, gaga ball pits installed from an NEF grant, the PTO purchased additional toys and things for the kids, and two (2) or three (3) days a week, there are bounce houses.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mr. Ben Mainka reported for Mr. Greg McIntyre, the Assistant Superintendent of Business, that it is audit season and our partners, Plante Moran, have been on site for the past month doing our pre-audit work as well as a lot of testing of different funds. He stated that we will have an update at a Board meeting at the end of October or into November and we will get their findings to see where things stand. Mr. Mainka said that finances are an area of constant interest. Because it takes funds to do the things that we all love and enjoy. He mentioned that Board

members have spoken to him about that and also some have spoken about some concern relative to where things are.

Mr. Mainka stated that the Board has done their due diligence, but through COVID a lot of things have happened; we had a lot of one-time funds that came in and a lot happened very quickly, so now we get to buckle down and look at our spending, make sure the programs are sustainable, and do this without noticeable interruption to any student programs or to our staff. He said that we want to support our staff and make sure they are compensated well and make sure that our kids have everything they need. Mr. Mainka mentioned that as we get into budget update season around December and January.

Dr. Laura Carino, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, echoed Mr. Mainka's sentiments about our teachers and preparing for the beginning of school. She stated that they are immensely grateful for their work in preparing the classroom for their students return. Dr. Carino said that she visited many buildings throughout the week and the energy was palpable, the excitement for their kids return and the kids were really thrilled to be back.

Dr. Carino reported that the bus drivers have done an immense job this week, learning their routes and making sure everything is running efficiently. She stated that the noon aides have been helping our kindergartners open lunch boxes. Dr. Carino expressed her gratitude to all.

Dr. Carino said that they reconvened the Safety and Security Committee and they had some great discussion with administrators at both the building and district level, along with the Novi Police Department, and with Detective Zabick and Detective Warren joined the discussion about plans to move forward for potential purchases. She stated that they are exploring and learning more information about ensuring that our buildings are safe for students and staff.

Dr. Carino thanked everyone for their support as she transitions to her new role.

Mr. Mike Giromini, Assistant Superintendent of Academic Services, echoed his colleagues' sentiments regarding an awesome first week of school. He reported that he was able to visit all of the buildings, check out what was going on, and check in with our new principals. Mr. Giromini stated that the kids are incredible and so excited.

Mr. Giromini pointed out that the week before was their Impact Week and it was a big success. He expressed his appreciation of this opportunity for our teachers and staff to engage in professional learning and to also engage them in some reconnection activities, refocus activities just to get ready for the new school year. Mr. Giromini reported that it paid off and they had such a good week so far. He expressed his gratitude to the staff for their high level of engagement and he also thanked the administrators for their support in planning and implementing this. Mr. Giromini stated that he was very appreciative.

Mr. Giromini said that the academics team is now engaged in planning our next district professional development day that are coming up in October and planning the rest of the year. He mentioned that the Michigan Department of Education release the M-Step scores last week

and at a preliminary look, he is very pleased with how our students and staff performed, but they will dig deeper and will present at a future Board meeting.

Mr. Giromini reported the he was able to attend a Novi Community Coalition meeting and it was a great opportunity to learn about their work and to reaffirm our partnership. He stated that he looks forward to continuing that.

BOARD COMMUNICATION

Board members commented that the progress of the Village Oaks playground, a neighboring district that has a two (2) week lead in where there are more kids than usual, and encouraging parents to recognize that it takes a week of two (2) to sort this out. Board members commented on bus drivers being critical parts of our team and do a lot, put up with a lot, and complimented them on the work that they do.

Board members commented on the NEF and the Novi Community Coalition and complimented them on the work that they do. It was stated that some of the work with the Friends of Novi Schools was the opportunity to partner with the Boot Camp and Sarah Lephart. The Board commented that some of Orchard Hills and Village Oaks students were the recipients of bikes that were donated by a corporate sponsor, in Novi. They commented on the Zen Room in Orchard Hills, the first in the country, and every building will get one due to some great sponsors that we have.

Board members commented that the registration for the Boot Camp can be found on the NEF website. They also commented on being in the buildings on the first day of school, greeting kids as they got off the bus, seeing happy smiling faces, the buildings being “well-oiled machines”, attending the Beam Raising Ceremony, and NEF’s pancake breakfast being Saturday from 7:30 to 11:30 AM. Members also commented on Novi Meadows being the “crown jewel” of the district, Mr. Baker doing a great job with parent drop off, Deerfield’s PTO having a welcome back breakfast for new families, Novi football beating Hartland, and the parent flying in and out during the high school drop off being dangerous, and the roundabout at Nine Mile causing traffic issues.

Board members expressed their gratitude to Dr. Carino, Mr. Giromini, and Mr. Mainka for going after it on the first day of school and for their building assignments on that day.

CONSENT AGENDA

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.

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

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

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

DONATIONS

Petland of Novi Donation Resolution

A Petland of Novi Donations and Fundraiser Resolution was set forth and read showing the partnership history and explaining their donations and fundraisers.

It was moved by Mrs. Murphy and supported by Mrs. Roney that the Novi Board of Education, thanks Petland of Novi for their generous support, donations, and fundraising efforts for our NCSD Therapy Dogs and accept with gratitude the \$3000 donation as well as the funds generated from their August fundraiser (amounts to be verified by end of September) for additional therapy dog training and/or supplies needed to support our dogs directly.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS

Personnel Report

Dr. Laura Carino, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, presented the personnel report.

It was moved by Mrs. Hood and supported by Mr. Smith that the Novi Community Schools Board of Education approve the personnel report as presented.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

2022 MASB Call for Delegates

MASB's 2022 Delegate Assembly will begin Thursday, October 20, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa in Acme. Delegates selected by boards of education across the state will decide MASB's positions on a wide variety of issues affecting education.

All delegates and alternates must be school board members. Only delegates and alternates named by your board may offer motions and vote on issues. However, all school board members may speak on the issues and participate in the debate. Your 2022-2023 MASB dues must be paid in order for a district to participate in the Delegate Assembly.

All delegates must be certified and submitted by Friday, September 23, 2022. A link to certify the official voting delegates and alternates who will represent your board of education has been sent to the superintendent secretary.

It was moved by Mrs. Hood and supported by Mr. Cook that the Novi Community Schools Board of Education designates the following individuals to the four (4) Board officers to serve as delegates and the three (3) Board Trustees to serve as alternates to the MASB

2021 Delegate Assembly.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Video Surveillance Security Server Refresh

The current District's video surveillance system was purchased in 2017 and while the servers have met the demands of the existing system, they do not have the resources to meet the additional camera requirements from our system expansion and Novi Meadows construction.

The Technology Team is recommending that the Novi Community School District purchase ten (10) Milestone Husky Servers with a capacity storage of 128 TB per server in a RAID 10 configuration. These servers will reside off site at the Oakland Schools Data Center, in Waterford.

The pricing is based on the Lapeer Community Schools cooperative agreement, through Oakland Schools Technology Services – Field Services. The recommended purchase amount is \$173,967.18 to be awarded to CBTS and will include installation and a five (5) year warranty on the video surveillance servers. This purchase will be funded from the 2019 Capital Projects Bond and with-in the planned budget.

It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mrs. Roney that the Novi Community School District Board of Education award the purchase, in the amount of \$173,967.18, to CBTS for the purchase, installation, and five (5) year warranty for video surveillance servers and further authorize the Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operation to expend the funds form the 2019 Capital Projects Bond fund

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

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Bid Package #8 – Novi High School Remodel – Phase 2

On Tuesday, July 26, 2022 and Wednesday, August 3, 2022, bids for the Novi High School remodel were opened and publicly read aloud. In attendance for the bid opening were representatives from Novi Community School District, Plante Moran Cresa, TMP Architecture Inc., McCarthy & Smith, Inc. and interested bidders.

The project team conducted post bid interviews with the each of the following, qualified bidders, for each bid division of work listed in the recommendation letter. Based upon the project team's review of the proposals and bidders, we propose the recommendation to Novi Community School District Board of Education for a total award in the amount of \$10,262,216 to the contractors listed in the recommendation letter.

It was moved by Mr. Mena and supported by Mrs. Roney that the Novi Community School District Board of Education award the contracts, in the amount of \$10,262,216, to the contractors listed and further authorize the Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operation to expend the funds form the 2019 Capital Projects Bond fund.

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

Nays: 1 Mr. Cook

MOTION CARRIED

Negotiations Resolution

The District Negotiations Team Resolution was set forth and read listing the Cabinet members and administrators for the four (4) bargaining units.

It was moved by Mrs. Murphy and supported by Mrs. Hood that the Novi Board of Education, approves the Cabinet members and bargaining unit teams as listed for the 2022-2023 School Year.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

Land Swap Discussion

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, Mr. Ben Mainka provided the history behind the land swap and Mr. Kevin Donnelly, of Plante Moran CRESA, presented and explained the various properties considered in the Land Swap. This will come back before the Board toward the end of September or early October for some level of approval.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for September 22, 2022 at 7:00 p.m., at the Educational Services Building.

Bobbie Murphy, Secretary