



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

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Novi Community School District was held Thursday, October 20, 2022, beginning at 7:04 PM.

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

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. Mena and supported by Mrs. Mary Ann Roney that the Novi Community School Board of Education approve the agenda as presented.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

National Merit Semi-Finalists

Novi High School Principal, Nicole Carter, will present the 29 seniors from the Class of 2022 that have been named National Merit Scholarship Program semifinalists. Last spring, 1.5 million high school juniors entered the National Merit Scholarship program by taking a qualifying test (PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test), which serves as the initial screening of program entrants. For 2022, only 16,000 of the students become qualified as Semifinalists. Our 29 seniors are among the highest-scoring entrants in the state of Michigan.

Ms. Carter will present the students who are in attendance for recognition and provide additional biographic information including their varied scholastic endeavors, their participation in athletics and fine arts; and for a large number of the students, their volunteer commitments and philanthropic efforts.

We applaud these students for their tenacious work ethic and outstanding academic achievement and present them to the Novi Board of Education this evening for recognition as the exemplification of the very best of Novi High School.

Other Celebrations

Mr. Paul Cook shared an NCSD football play-by-play video. Mr. Smith Expressed gratitude to the Community Financial Credit Union and the Friends of Novi Schools.

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

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

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

REPORTS TO THE BOARD

M-Step Student Data Report

The Michigan Department of Education released the M-STEP results from the spring assessment period.

Tonight, Mr. Mike Giromini, the Assistant Superintendent of Academics, reviewed this data with the Board of Education.

NCSD Mitigating Learning Loss Report (98c)

On September 1, 2022, districts received information from the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) that an application window was opening on September 15, 2022 for them to apply for Section 98c funds dedicated to addressing learning loss. These funds were made available through Public Act 144 of the Michigan School Aid Act, M.C.L. 388.1698c.

This was part of the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund and the federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II Fund.

The ESSER II funds are to address learning loss among district students including low-income students, children with disabilities, English language learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and students in foster care.

To be eligible for the 98c funds, districts must apply no later than November 30, 2022, have a public meeting of the board no later than October 30, 2022, have a learning loss plan posted on the district's website, a brief description of the district's metrics that will be used to determine the impact of the district's funded initiatives, and submit a report to the MDE by August 15, 2023.

Tonight, Mr. Mike Giromini, the Assistant Superintendent of Academics, presented Novi Community School Districts' Mitigating Learning Loss Report (98c) to the Board.

HS4 Door Access Management System Report

On Thursday, July 7 2022, the Novi Community School District Board of Education awarded the NCSD District Wide Card Access system contract to LaForce, LLC. The intent of the pricing was to apply to the interiors of the District Buildings.

The project team and LaForce, LLC had developed a project scope with the Novi High School and the Early Childhood Education Center to retrofit existing interior doors. The project team has conducted a cost review of the scope of work and based up that review, they are proposing a contract amendment

to be presented tonight and return for approval at the November 3, 2022 Board meeting.

Amend the contract incorporating added scope for buildings listed below, utilizing contracted unit pricing applied to access doors at the following buildings, per the attached cost quotations:

1. Novi High School Interior Retrofit (Quote dated 10/13/2022)	\$1,147,954.00
2. Novi ECEC Interior Retrofit (Quoted dated 10/13/2022) \$	<u>180,888.00</u>
Total this Amendment	\$1,328,842.00

Original Contract Amount	\$ 291,722.00
Previous Amendments	\$ 0.00
Current Amendment	\$ <u>1,328,842.00</u>
Amended Contract Amount	\$ 1,620,564.00

AWARD RECOMMENDATION AMOUNT: \$ 1,620,564.00

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

There were one (1) comment from the audience regarding the M-Step and Mitigating Learning Loss (98c) presentations.

DONATIONS

Orchestra

The Novi High School Orchestra Boosters would like to gift a composition by Brittany Harris to the Novi High School Orchestra Program. This piece has been commissioned in celebration of the 10th graduating class since orchestra began at the high school. The Philharmonic Orchestra will perform it at their May concert.

The total cost of the commission is \$2,700, of which half (\$1,350) is due immediately and the other half when Ms. Harris completes the composition

It was moved by Mrs. Hood and supported by Mr. Mena that the Novi Community Schools Board of Education accept the donation as presented, with appreciation and thanks.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Novi Woods

The Novi Woods is looking to donate and raise funds to install a Sun Shade at the Nest Project. The estimated cost will be \$14,000. The Novi Woods PTO will be donating \$3,500 for the initial startup.

The Novi Woods PTO is seeking acceptance for the total cost of \$14,000 to install the Sun Shade on the Novi Woods Nest Outdoor learning area.

It was moved by Mrs. Roney and supported by Mr. Smith that the Novi Community Schools Board of Education accept the donation as presented, with appreciation and thanks.

Ayes: 6 Dr. Ruskin, 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 for the Board's consideration.

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

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

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Approval of SEAB Co-Chairs

On September 22, 2022, Benjamin Mainka, Superintendent of Schools, reported to the Board on the SEAB process and stated that a survey of interest would be sent out to parents and community members. This survey just closed and tonight, Mr. Mike Giromini, the Assistant Superintendent of Academics, will present the people who expressed an interest in being co-chairs of this advisory board.

It was moved by Mrs. Hood and supported by Mr. Mena that the Novi Community School District Board of Education, by way of a Sex Education Advisory Board (SEAB) Co-Chair Resolution, approves Mr. Mike Giromini and Emily Aluis as the co-chairs of the Sex Education Advisory Board (SEAB).

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

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

Draft Board Calendar and Committee Schedule

At the October 13, 2022 Board Work Session, the Board reviewed and discussed various options that would help to streamline and make Board meetings and committee meetings more cohesive. Tonight the Board will review and discuss the tentative 2022-2023 Board of Education Meeting.

This came tonight as information and discussion and will come back before the Board for approval at the November 3, 2022 regular meeting.

Thrun Law Presentation

Ms. Jennifer Starlin esq., of Thrun Law LLC, met with the Governance and Policy Committee on October 3, 2022 to review and discuss, with the committee member, Thrun's bylaws, policy, and administrative guidelines program. Tonight, she will be presenting these bylaws, policy, and administrative guidelines program to the Novi Community School District Board of Education this evening.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

DEI Committee

Mr. Benjamin Mainka, Superintendent of Schools, reported for Mrs. Murphy and said that this was their first meeting of the year and it was the intention to establish the roles and charter work of the committee. He stated that the committee talked about the media center audit results and compared them to other types of libraries and possibly how the school library might differ from the Novi Public Library. Mr. Mainka said that they will be asking further question of Julie Farkas and look at their selection process.

Mr. Mainka reported that the committee talked about and dug into 2022 school climate survey, that the students took. He stated that they wanted a better understanding of the data points and were looking at some strengths, areas of weakness/opportunities, and ways that students felt connected to adults and other peers and different subgroups. Mr. Mainka said that the material was presented at a previous curriculum committee.

Mr. Mainka reported that the committee talked about the ongoing work of the District DEI committee. He mentioned that they will have that District committee come to the Board DEI committee with an update.

Mr. Mainka shared a shell of the diversity calendar that he is hoping to push out this month in a digital format. He reported that this push will allow people to have an understanding what the calendar looks like and that it identifies cultural and religious holidays from a variety of standpoints.

Governance and Policy Committee

Tom Smith, Board Trustee and Chair of the committee, reported that the committee assessed the current policy manual and the administrative regulation and noticed that there were gaps. He stated that there were areas that needed to be a little tighter and this led the committee to conclude that it might be time to review the entire manual on a regular and consistent basis.

Mr. Smith said what Thrun presented has a more user-friendly administrative guideline section with a standalone reports and forms section. He mentioned that the District used to use NEOLA and then switched; one was too big, the other was too small. Mr. Smith reported that we need a policy system that allows us to customize the needs of the District.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Benjamin Mainka, Superintendent of Schools, reported that SEPAC (Special Education Parent Advisory Committee) Safety Fair took place last week, during the Board's work session. He stated that they had an amazing turnout. Mr. Mainka said that this event was held in collaboration with the Novi Police and Fire Departments and they discussed how to keep sensitive citizens safe.

Mr. Mainka reported that he had the opportunity to attend the first PAASN meeting of the year. He stated that it was a nice opportunity to meet a number of our African American families who are doing a lot of things and have a lot of ideas. Mr. Mainka said that it is important for us, as a community, to support them.

Mr. Mainka reported that he attended Fanfare and it was incredible seeing the number of bands that came to Novi. He stated that our stadium was full of people and the Wildcat marching band did a fantastic job. Mr. Mainka said that he and Principal Carter were able to pass out awards to the winners.

Mr. Mainka mentioned that, sadly, fall sport is winding down. He reported that the teams are preparing for state tournaments and some have already moved forward. Mr. Mainka stated that our tennis team finished fourth in the state for division one.

Mr. Mainka expressed his appreciation for all of the Board members' attention and work at the Board Work Session. He encouraged Board members to keep sending aspirational statements, so that he can come back to that at future board meetings. Mr. Mainka reminded the Board that coming up on November 10 is a work session and that they had asked him to check into Collins and Blaha, the legal team that developed the superintendent framework for the evaluation training.

Mr. Mainka mentioned that he had reached out to the current candidates, running for the Board, to make them aware of the fact that we do have this date, so if they are elected they can attend this training meeting because it is not an open meeting.

Mr. Mainka reported that Mrs. Carter is in the process of developing a student board representative process. He stated that they will be going through interviews and hopefully we will have that person in place to recommend for Board approval. Mr. Mainka said the student who is chosen will start presenting at the end of November.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Dr. Laura Carino, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, reported that they have been busy in HR. She stated that they had a successful paraprofessional job fair and they have an excellent slate of candidates to bring to the Board for approval in the coming weeks. Dr. Carino said that it is typically a very hard position to fill and they often have many vacancies. She mentioned that a very full list of Zoom candidates met with Ms. Patel and Ms. Squires. Dr. Carino reported that they also have a list of potential substitutes for those day-to-day positions that may pop up throughout the year.

Dr. Carino reported that the Safety Fair was great and it good to see so many families there. She thanked Det. Julie Warren, Ms. Patel, and Ms. Squires for their leadership. Dr. Carino stated that they are negotiating with the NESPA group next week and they look forward to finalizing their wage reopener. She said they are continuing with their safety planning and are meeting with the Novi Police Department tomorrow. Dr. Carino mentioned that they have submitted our Safety and Security grant with the state in order to secure funds for critical incident mapping and a security risk assessment.

Dr. Carino reported that this past Monday they held their Mentee Monday. She stated that Mr. Dinkelman presented to new staff about our evaluation process and Mrs. Griffin presented information to our speech pathologists and social workers about AAC devices, which are communication tools for speech and language. Dr. Carino mentioned that these devices are for our language impaired students.

Mr. Mike Giromini, Assistant Superintendent of Academic Services, echoed that the Safety Fair was a success. He stated that the Special Education Parent Advisory Committee's next event is November 12th and it is a sensory friendly Woodland Winter event that will be held at the ROAR Center. Mr. Giromini said that the Arts and Crafts Mobile Market will be there. He mentioned that the therapy dogs will be there, an opportunity for pictures with Santa, and all sorts of fun things. Mr. Giromini reported that more information will be released soon.

Mr. Giromini stated that this is Digital Citizenship Week and our Tech Department, along with the Novi Public Library, and with the support of the Novi Educational Foundation (NEF) brought Dr. Devorah Heitner, author of *Screenwise*, and the book that was the topic of Mr. Mainka's last Parent to Parent Book Club. He said that the book is about mentoring kids to thrive in the digital world. Mr. Giromini mentioned that it was a very nice talk and well attended and it is a testament to the power of partnering with our families to support our kids.

Mr. Giromini reported that the next District provided professional development day is November 8 and the planning is underway. He reminded everyone that there is no school on that day because it is also election day.

Mr. Giromini acknowledged the instructional coaches stating that they are amazing assets, supporting our teachers, implementing curriculum and District improvement efforts. He said that he is happy to work with them and acknowledge: Kathleen Ader, Brittany Pearce, Ainsley Lengerich, Lisa LaPorte, and Katie Walker. He expressed his gratitude to all of them.

BOARD COMMUNICATION

A Board member mentioned that tomorrow is the fifth and final regular season home football game and mentioned that there are 75 seniors that will be recognized on senior night. They also mentioned the elite Frog Force Teams have their first playoff home game and that they look forward to shifting over to the winter sports and using the technology that was invested in.

A Board member mentioned that they had attended an NEF meeting on Monday. They stated that the committee reviewed the events that NEF sponsored including the Screenwise book, Parent Camp, the Pancake Breakfast, and they are starting to plan the Green Gala, that will be held on April 15, 2022.

A Board member mentioned that this Saturday is the Craft Show, at Novi High school, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. They stated that there is a nominal entry fee.

A Board member said they received a community commentary stating that kids were going up to our football players and asking to have their pictures taken with them and that our players were happy to accommodate. They said that our football players are role models to our younger kids and a lot of other people and saw the Novi pride. A Board member stated that Friday is not only senior night, but also youth night, so kids playing for the middle school or Bobcats can wear their jersey and get in for free.

CLOSED SESSION

A public body may meet in a closed session only for one or more purposes as specified in the Open Meetings Act. Tonight, the Board will move into a closed session to consider security planning for

school safety [OMA Sect. 8(1)(k)].

It was moved by Mrs. Roney and supported by Mr. Mena that the Novi Community Schools Board of Education move into a Closed Session for the purposes of negotiations to discuss real property.

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

Nays: 0

By Roll Call Vote

MOTION CARRIED

The Board went into the closed session at 9:00 PM and returned at 9:37 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for November 3, 2022 at 7:00 p.m., at the Educational Services Building.

Bobbie Murphy, Secretary