



**Minutes of a Regular Board Meeting, November 3, 2022**  
**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 Thursday, November 3, 2022, beginning at 7:04 PM.

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

Absent: Dr. Ruskin

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

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

Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

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

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

Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

There were eight (8) comments from the audience regarding school safety, support for Oxford, the Board schedule, and safe firearm storage.

DONATIONS

Robotics

The Robotics team received several donations in the month of October that totaled \$ 5,000.00. These generous donations were given by the following sponsors:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Amount</b>
October 18, 2022	Robo Titans	Mathworks	\$ 2,500.00
October 25, 2022	TEAM 26827-Those Weird Peeps	Magna	\$ 1,000.00

October 25, 2022	HS Robotics 503 & Team 9279 Galaxy Glazers	Eaton	\$ 1,000.00
October 25, 2022	Raging Robos	Magna	\$ 1,000.00

It was moved by Mrs. Hood and supported by Mrs. Roney that the Novi Community School Board of Education accept the donation(s) as presented, with appreciation and thanks.

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

Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

ACTION ITEMS

Personnel Report A

Laura Carino, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, presented for the Board’s consideration the personnel changes.

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

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

Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

Personnel Report B

Mr. Ben Mainka, Superintendent, presents for your consideration the following administrative hire:

- Name:** Devin Kling
- Building:** Educational Services Building
- Assignment:** Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations
- Reason:** Replacement for Gregory McIntyre
- Effective date:** 11-21-22

It was moved by Mrs. Hood and supported by Mrs. Murphy that the Novi Community School Board of Education approve Devin Kling as the Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations.

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

Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

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 LaForge, 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**

It was moved by Mrs. Murphy and supported by Mr. Mena that the Novi Community School Board of Education approve the contract amendment as presented.

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

Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

Stormwater Resolution

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) requires Novi Community School District, and other school districts across the State, to obtain permits and have a Storm Water Management Plan for the purpose of protecting the water quality of the State by reducing the discharge of pollutants from drainage systems. Our District created a [Storm Water Management Plan](#) (located on the District website), which was submitted and approved by the MDEQ; and our plan requires that we adopt a Board Resolution addressing “Post-Construction Stormwater Control.”

At the regular meeting of the Board on February 5, 2009, the Board and adopted the proposed Post-Construction Stormwater Control policy (attached Policy 7470) in order to secure a Stormwater control permit.

At a regular meeting of the Board on May 17, 2018, the District applied for the renewal of the permit and the Novi Community School District Board of Education adopted a Stormwater Board Resolution.

A part of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) renewal application and to keep our District in Good standings with the stormwater management program, the Stormwater Resolution is being presented to the Board for approval.

It was moved by Mrs. Murphy and supported by Mrs. Roney that the Novi Community Schools Board of Education, in the best interest of the District, adopt a Stormwater Board Resolution, so that the District meets the requirements of the permit application.

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

Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

Draft Board Meeting 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. This was presented and a regular meeting of the Board for information and discussion.

It was moved by Mr. Mena and supported by Mr. Smith that the Novi Community Schools Board of Education approves the 2022-23 Board meeting schedule as presented.

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

Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

Thrun Law Program

Mr. Raymond Davis and Ms. Jennifer Starlin, 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. At the regular meeting of the Board, she presented Thrun’s bylaws, policy, and administrative guidelines program to the Novi Community School District Board of Education.

Tonight, the Board is being asked to approved moving forward with the policy and administrative guidelines implementation process for the Novi Community School District. At the conclusion of the implementation process, the Board will take appropriate action to approve a new policy manual at that time. The current Board policy manual will remain the District’s policy until it is repealed and replaced.

It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mrs. Roney that the Novi Community Schools Board of Education approve moving forward with the policy and administrative guidelines implementation process.

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

Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

HS4 Door Access Management System (Maintenance, Transportation, ESB) Report

On Thursday, July 7 2022, the Novi Community School District Board of Education awarded the NCSD District Wide Card Access system contract to LaForge, 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 Educational Services Building, Transportation, Maintenance, and the Meadows Soccer Pavilion for the 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 20, 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. ESB, Transportation, Maintenance, Soccer Pavilion \$ 166,830.00

(Quote dated 10/26/2022)

Total this Amendment	\$ 166,830.00
Original Contract Amount	\$ 291,722.00
Previous Amendments	\$ 1,328,842.00
Current Amendment	<u>\$ 166,830.00</u>
Amended Contract Amount	\$ 1,787,394.00

**AWARD RECOMMENDATION AMOUNT: \$ 1,787,394.00**

Novi Meadows – IT Infrastructure Change Order

In a letter to the Novi Community School District, Plante Moran Cresa (PMC) updated the district on the recommended proposals associated with Bulletin #06. The bid set did not include the IT Infrastructure design documents. A final set of design documents was issued and included these missing drawings and needed to be requested.

The attached summary of costs, which totals \$162,907.99 will be funded from the previously Board approved Meadows contingency funds.

This comes before the Board tonight for information and discussion and will come back for action at the November 17, 2022.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Mr. Benjamin Mainka, Superintendent of Schools, reported that fall sports is almost completely wrapped up. He stated that we do have volleyball playing tonight and had some great runs in the state tournaments. Mr. Mainka said that our marching band I going to states on Saturday, at Ford Field, so we wish them the best of luck. He mentioned that they are an incredible band.

Mr. Mainka reported that he had the opportunity to be inducted into the Novi Rotary. He stated that he was a Rotarian in his previous district. Mr. Mainka said that we are looking at how we can create more partnerships in our community. He mentioned that he believes in the mission of the rotary and what they do.

Mr. Mainka reported that he also had the opportunity to join the Novi Chamber of Commerce and they are looking at how we can create business opportunities in the community for our students at the high school to move into internships and other opportunities. He stated that the partnerships that we can create are going to make us stronger, not just as a District, but as a community.

Mr. Mainka reported that he had the privilege of attending his first student advisory team meeting, at Novi Meadows and that this was something he did in his previous district. He stated that he met with high school and middle school students and they had no problem telling him the way it is. Mr. Mainka said that the diverse group of meadows students just blew him away, while talking in their group. He mentioned that it gave them the opportunity to speak with him directly, in person and it was interesting the dynamic of the conversation. Mr. Mainka reported that students expressed varying opinions on the nine (9) week specials and one stated that was to expose students to unique opportunities. He stated

that this was a great opportunity for him to get to know some of the students and he cannot wait to meet with the high school and middle school students.

Mr. Mainka reminded the Board that on November 10, 2022 he is hosting his first town hall meeting virtually, at 7:15 PM. He reported that it will be sent out in his community newsletter with a registration link and there is also a flyer in Peachjar. Mr. Mainka stated that the intent of this town hall is to provide a bit of an update around some happenings and for them to ask questions. He said that there will be more of these town hall meeting and some will be virtual and some will be in person.

Mr. Mainka reported that in the District's policy there is a requirement that the superintendent will provide the Board with a Bullying and other behaviors report. He stated that under normal conditions, this report would be made every year, but due to COVID it was not required. Mr. Mainka said that this data is from a few years ago. He mentioned the Board will see a new report coming up in the next year for a future conversation.

Mr. Mainka referenced a community member who just spoke about a gun safety and storage program and that he is very interested in that. He reported that it is a very easy way for the Board and District to encourage good habits as it relates to anyone who has a firearm. Mr. Mainka stated that those who are gun owners do not take offense in keeping their guns locked up and in secure areas and understand that we need to do our best to make sure that no one has access to firearms that could cause harm to innocent people.

Mr. Mainka reported that, in the last week and what we went through, it is pertinent that he talks about school safety. He stated that that is evident by some of the comments tonight and the outpouring of emails. Mr. Mainka said cabinet spoke to the administrative staff meeting about the ripple effect that happens in these types of situations; when siblings in different buildings or districts hear of these happenings, it is very upsetting to them. He mentioned that we have kids in all stages of life and it is important to recognize this Behavior and that it will not be tolerated. Mr. Mainka reported that we acted very quickly, very strongly, and we do have a person who was involved in this. He stated that we will be treating that person with no leniency, when it comes to threatening the safety of our students.

Mr. Mainka that he had a lot of requests about our Safety and Security Protocols. He wants everyone to realize that, while he understands their concerns, those plans are confidential and protected against anyone who would seek to do something nefarious.

Mr. Mainka stated that he wanted to address some things that we are doing. He said that we have invested millions of dollars in this District. Mr. Mainka mentioned that hundreds of thousands of dollars in training and consultants, who are retired Special Forces and Secret Service and highly respected for schools throughout the country. He reported that we are investing 3.7 million dollars in secure access systems that a lot of places do not have. Mr. Mainka stated that we have hardened our entrances and have secure vestibules coming. He said that we are looking at adding safety glass and have invested in additional safety officers.

Mr. Mainka reported that we have the most research-based and proactive shooter protocol in the country, called A.L.I.C.E. He stated that every staff member in the buildings know what to do and

they acted resolutely during the drills. Mr. Mainka said that we have many, many security cameras around the District and we are looking at a state grant and going to be one of the first Districts in the state to implement a program called ZeroEyes. He mentioned that ZeroEyes is a gun detection software. Mr. Mainka reported that security consultants and the research do not support implementing metal detectors for a variety of reasons including the fact that they have proven to be ineffective in school shootings.

Mr. Mainka stated that we have invested out money to be a little more proactive in our mental health support and have invested many millions into social worker, counselors, and enhancing the counseling departments. He said that we have a tremendous ratio of counselors to students. Mr. Mainka mentioned that mental health for kids is a top priority. Her reported that we are looking at a program right now called I Wellness, which is a comprehensive social emotional learning program that allows students to understand stress, anxiety, and where they are in their own temperament.

Mr. Mainka reassured everyone that we are not just sitting around and he encouraged parents to stay connected to us and continue to talk with us and work with us. He stated that this has been a stressful week, but we are a strong community and hopefully moving on into more positive meetings.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Dr. Laura Carino, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, reported that she witnessed firsthand the Novi Police Department's response over the past week and how they came together to make sure our students were taken care of and protected. She stated that it is important that they hear what a tremendous job they did.

Dr. Carino thanked everyone who served on the interview committee. She said that they hired a lot of people today and there is a lot that goes on behind the scenes to bring these people in front of the Board. Dr. Carino expressed her gratitude and appreciation to Kathy Donovan for her tireless work gathering fingerprints and making sure that we have all of the necessary paperwork.

Mr. Ben Mainka reported for Mike Giromini, Assistant Superintendent of Academic Services, who was attending a virtual learning conference in-person, in Dallas. He stated that Mr. Giromini took same great things that our virtual program is doing and sharing them. Mr. Mainka said that the iReady reports, that were presented at the last Board meeting, those teams are looking at that data and they are starting to work with our teachers to try to figure out interventions and accommodations for all of the sub groups of students that we serve. He mentioned that Mr. Giromini will be able to provide an updated report when he returns. Mr. Mainka stated that Mr. Giromini is doing a great job and things are happening in that department.

#### BOARD COMMUNICATION

A Board member mentioned that they had the opportunity to see Novi Virtual in action. They stated that Emily Pohlonski took them on a tour and also showed firsthand the security in that building because everything is locked down. The Board member got to pop into two (2) of the classrooms and saw a sixth grade virtual class and a kindergarten class, which was really cool to see with great things happening. They reported that they also visited Orchard Hills and went on a tour. The Board member said that some kindergartners sang a song to her. They mentioned that this school has quite a diverse

group of kids and it was such a great thing to see kids engaged and teachers excited about what their kids were learning.

A Board member reported on the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Washington DC trip and said there is no sleeping on the bus. They stated that the truth about middle schoolers is that when you get them at night, they do not sleep and when you get them in the morning, they go to sleep. The Board member said that it is the bio rhythms.

A Board member reported that the high school marching band has their dress rehearsal tonight at 8:00 PM, for their program on Saturday. They stated that this will take place at Ford Field and that Novi is in the first section. The Board member said the students have to report to the school at 4:45 AM and will perform at 10:30 AM. They mentioned that there is a \$28 admission fee.

A Board member reported that they received an election related mailer paid for by the Great Lakes Education Project. They stated that it reminded them of an email they sent to the Board of Education in September of 2014. A Board member said that there were three (3) Novi Board members who were on record for endorsing a Novi candidate for the Michigan House of Representatives to replace her term limited predecessor. They mentioned that it was an advocate for public schools and this candidate had been endorsed by Great Lakes Education Project that was started in 2001 by Dick and Betsy DeVos. The Board member reported that their mission was to dismantle public education and expand charter schools in Michigan by pushing vouchers and overall defunding schools.

A Board member reported that in 2012 Governor Snyder signed bills lifting Michigan's cap on Charter and cyber schools. They stated that he also signed a bill cutting public school budgets by \$470 per student. The Board member said those were devastating times. They said that Novi Board members are trustees of an outstanding public school district and we are the trustees of a public asset, not representatives. The Board member said that it is important to make that distinction and understand that they align themselves as trustees of a public Board of Education. They mentioned that the representative who was elected went on to sponsor that horrendous third grade read of flunk bill. A Board member cautioned that before you cast your vote, pay attention to what candidates are being funded by what organizations; it is really important.

A Board member implored everyone to get involved in the Light Up Oxford on November 30. They reported that it is a very worthy event.

#### 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 Mrs. Murphy, 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.

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Bobbie Murphy, Secretary



