



Minutes of a Regular Board Meeting, January 19, 2023  
Novi Community School District  
Board of Education

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Novi Community School District was held Thursday, January 19, 2023, beginning at 7:06 PM.

Present: Dr. Ruskin, Mr. Mena, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Roney, Mr. Cook, Mrs. Beaudoin, and Mr. Michener

Absent: by Roll Call Vote

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Approve the Agenda

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

Ayes: 7 Dr. Ruskin, Mr. Mena, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Roney, Mr. Cook, Mrs. Beaudoin, and Mr. Michener

Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

BOARD APPRECIATION MONTH

The Board was presented with a number of gifts from every building. The resolution was read aloud.

Recognizing the month of January 2023 as National Local School Board Month.

**Whereas**, Michigan is home to more than 600 board of educations that work to enrich the lives of Michigan's students through education and directly influence instruction in Michigan's public schools; and,

**Whereas**, Article VIII, Section 2 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963 states that providing for the education of Michigan's children is a fundamental duty of state government; and,

**Whereas**, local school board members represent their community to ensure that educational opportunities are provided to the children and young adults in their community that will advance student achievement in the schools and communities in which they serve; and,

**Whereas**, during this month, we join with the Michigan Association of School Boards, Michigan Department of Education, local school districts and community organizations to recognize and raise awareness of the countless efforts and contributions of local school boards and school board members throughout Michigan;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved that we, the Novi Community School District, do hereby proclaim the month of January 2023 as Local School Board Month; and honor the contribution of

Novi Community School District school board members:

- a) Danielle Ruskin
- b) Tom Smith
- c) Mary Ann Roney
- d) Willy Mena
- e) Paul Cook
- f) Betsy Beaudoin
- g) Jason Michener

It was moved by Betsy Beaudoin and supported by Jason Michener that the Novi Community School District Board of Education adopt the resolution and presented.

Resolution Adopted

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

#### REPORTS TO THE BOARD

##### Therapy Dogs

Ms. Valerie Thomas, of Mindfulness Therapy Dogs, presented information on her company and the benefits of therapy dogs in education. She brought along two (2) of her puppies and explained the training that is needed for the success of the animal.

#### CELEBRATIONS

Board members announced that the Above and Beyond nominations were going on right now. They mentioned that the Black Box has an exciting play taking place the first of February.

#### COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

There were seven (7) comments from the audience congratulating our the Board members Board Appreciation Month, working together, and regarding Board responsibility and past actions.

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

Ayes: 7 Dr. Ruskin, Mr. Mena, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Roney, Mr. Cook, Mrs. Beaudoin, and Mr. Michener

Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### ACTION ITEMS

##### Personnel Report

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: 7 Dr. Ruskin, Mr. Mena, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Roney, Mr. Cook, Mrs. Beaudoin, and Mr. Michener  
Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

ELEMENTARY Playground Equipment

The Project Team, consisting of the NCSD administration, PMC, TMP, and McCarthy Smith, is recommending the purchase of playground equipment for Deerfield, Novi Woods, Orchard Hills and Parkview Elementary to replace the current, aging equipment. Penchura-Landscape Structures, who replaced the aging structures at Village Oaks elementary, will providing the equipment and installation for the playgrounds.

The team recommends awarding to Penchura-Landscape Structures for the following:

**Deerfield Elementary**

• Equipment Purchase	\$86,055.05
• Installation	<u>\$42,681.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$128,736.05</b>

**Novi Woods Elementary**

• Equipment Purchase	\$89,951.99
• Installation	<u>\$39,897.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$129,848.99</b>

**Orchard Hills Elementary**

• Equipment Purchase	\$89,769.70
• Installation	<u>\$40,203.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$129,972.70</b>

**Parkview Elementary**

• Equipment Purchase	\$88,347.51
• Installation	<u>\$35,078.94</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$123,426.45</b>

PMC recommends awarding the equipment and installation for the noted elementary buildings totaling \$511,984.19. In addition, a 10% contingency is recommended of \$51,198.00 bringing the total recommendation for award to \$563,182.61.

Business Professionals Tournament Field Trip

Darcie Moss, Novi High School teacher, is requesting that three (3) students travel to Grand Rapids, Michigan for the Business Professionals of America Tournament, where they will compete alongside 2000 other students statewide. They will participate in 60 different business skill events.

Mrs. Moss was able to secure CTE funding for this event. Students will be staying and the Amway Grand Resort. This comes tonight for information and discussion and will return on February 16 for approval.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Benjamin Mainka, Superintendent of Schools, reported that fifth grade camp is happening this time of year with our Meadows students. He stated that we have 10 groups of students go to experience two (2) and a half days of camp. Mr. Maika said that it is being held at the Walled Lake Outdoor Education Facility and that he is making the trip out there next week for the opportunity to see our fifth graders in action. He mentioned that they spend the night and it is a great opportunity for them to experience some outdoor learning.

Mr. Mainka reported that he appreciated the comment tonight about supporting teachers. He stated that he was at Village Oaks this morning and had the opportunity to speak with the teachers there and he went to the high school last week. Mr. Mainka said that we have some incredible teachers and we do have big plans to find way to support them and recognize them and their contributions. He mentioned that it is amazing when he gets to see them work in classrooms.

Mr. Mainka reported that we have a lot of people that just go above and beyond the call of duty and getting a chance to visit them, alongside Heather Burnside, has been really nice. He stated to just listen, hear their thoughts, and hear some of the challenges. Mr. Mainka said he thinks that sometimes we talk about all of the positive things, but there are some not so rosy things that happen in the classrooms, it is tough to be a teacher. He mentioned that he was using an analogy earlier today at the Coffee with the Superintendent.

Mr. Mainka said that if you ask a builder to go build a house and the expectations are pretty high putting all of that together and you tell them you are going to give them a handsaw and go make that happen, it would be really difficult. He reported but if you were to give them an excavator and all the power tools and we are going to do all these things. Mr. Mainka stated that a lot of times we find that our teachers need some more support in terms of even the tools that they have.

Mr. Mainka reported that he had a great Coffee with the Superintendent today. He stated that there were about 25 to 30 people in attendance. Mr. Mainka said that Mr. Giromini spoke about instructional programming. He expressed his extreme appreciation for the opportunity to sit and have coffee with some of our community members and parents. Mr. Mainka mentioned that they had really good dialogue about some things that are going on in the district. He expressed his gratitude to Mr. Giromini for his support.

Mr. Mainka reported that he is excited to announce and introduce the interim principal at Orchard Hills, Ms. Darby Hoppenstedt. He stated that her skill set is very strong and she is a proven leader and he is excited about the work that she is going to be doing at Orchard Hills and what she will bring to the staff to support them.

Mr. Mainka said that he had a quick update in January. He reported that January is the first shot the legislature comes out and hosts what is call a Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference. Mr. Mainka mentioned that it is affectionately referred to as the "crec" and that is when we learn, for the first time, what their financial analysts are estimating our revenues to be.

Mr. Mainka reported that right now we are looking at fiscal year 2022 with an 11 percent increase in revenues over the prior year. He stated that produced a total of 17.8 billion dollars of additional

revenues, which will carry forward into the 2023 fiscal year. Mr. Mainka said that we do project a healthy School Aid Fund Revenue over the course of the next two (2) years, so this initial “out of the gate” is positive.

Mr. Mainka reported that there is some caution that we are heading into the potential of a recession of some sort. He stated that they do not predict it is going to be anywhere near what 2008 was, but there is that precaution looming. Mr. Mainka said that over the course of the next month or two (2), Governor Whitmer will release her budget and then the other chambers will develop their budget recommendations. He mentioned then Mr. Kling will have an opportunity to throw a dart at the dart board and guess what the number will be before the Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference in May. Mr. Mainka reported that we will have more finalized numbers at that time that we can report out. He stated that the signs are pointing to a positive May Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference.

Mr. Mainka, in conclusion, expressed his appreciation to not just the Board, but to the community and their advocacy for our kids. He said that everyone in this community is amazing and he agrees with Mr. Woods that we are very blessed. Mr. Mainka expressed his gratitude.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mr. Devin Kling, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations, reported that he was going to touch on the conference, too, for all of the school finance nerds out there, that is our thing. He stated that it is a big deal and that they like the January meeting, but like the May one better. Mr. Kling said that we are seeing a positive balance sheet and projected balance sheet for the State. He asked, “so what does that mean for the school aid fund?” Mr. Kling mentioned that there is a fear of a recession looming and on top of that we have expected student revenue loss.

Mr. Kling reported that the expected student revenue loss, for 2023 is five thousand, for 2024 it is six thousand, and for 2025, it is about another seven thousand statewide. He stated that these are meetings done in Lansing, and they are talking big stuff. Mr. Kling asked, “What does that mean for us moving forward?” He said that as Superintendent Mainka stated, this is the first step and if you really look at it like a wagon wheel, this is the first leg of that wheel.

Mr. Kling reported that in February the governor is going to work on her budget and then in February and May the House and Senate are going to come together and work on their spending plans. He stated that then in late May and early June, the House and the Senate are going to iron out those budgets, because they are two (2) separate budgets, and that is when in May we are going to have the Second Revenue Consensus Conference. Mr. Kling said by June and October, they have to have those two (2) budgets ironed out and finalized and sent to the governor by July. He mentioned that she has to sign it by October 1<sup>st</sup> and that is the whole cycle in one big swoop and then the cycle repeats again.

Mr. Kling reported that for us this means that this is our first shot, our first information from the State from the prior physical year. He stated that he will keep the Board updated on the process, especially when we have the May information.

Mr. Kling reported that he had the MSBO Financial Strategies Webinar this week. He stated that he talked a lot about what happened in the “CREC” and what that means for us as far as categoricals, as

far as foundation amounts. Mr. Kling said that is all projections and there is still a lot more to come. He mentioned that they also talked about accounting standards, GASB standards. Mr. Kling reported that it was a great webinar on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Mr. Kling reported that the business office is really making strides making sure that we are up to date with all of our recording and filing procedures. He stated that what that means for us is making sure that we are going all the appropriate things on time, bank reconciliations and that helps us with our financial statements. Mr. Kling said that right now he is working on the December financial statements and we can look at financial statements as what happened in the past months. He mentioned that this helps us with the budget, which is obviously what we are projecting to happen throughout the rest of the physical year.

Mr. Kling reported he still has the lofty goal of having a budget amendment by the February Board meeting. He stated that he is taking it day by day.

Dr. Laura Carino, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, reported that they are revising out traditional Teacher of the Year Program this year. She stated that we are making it inclusive of ancillary staff, which includes psychologists, speech pathologists, special education providers who normally are not put into the criteria for Oakland Schools Teacher of the Year Award. Dr. Carino said that we want to make sure that they had an opportunity to be recognized because they do amazing things with our kids. She mentioned that we revised out traditional Teacher of the Year Program to have four (4) different categories; preschool through 4<sup>th</sup> grade, fifth grade through eighth grade, and ninth grade through twelfth grade, which includes Career Prep and Adult Ed.

Dr. Carino reported that we just launched that this week and are looking for nominations of the Outstanding Educators that we can recognize. She stated that we will be giving them a monetary reward for each teacher in each of those categories, that we select. Dr. Carino said that they will continue on to be submitted to the NEF, who will evaluate their selection to potentially win a brand new car. She mentioned that we will then follow up with the Support Member of the Year later this year.

Dr. Carino reported that we are starting a Wildcat Weekly Recognition Program, so stay tuned on Twitter where administrators and other staff members will have the opportunity to nominate a Wildcat of the Week, a staff member who has just done something tremendous and deserves to be recognized. She stated that we really want to make sure that we are taking the time to appreciate the wonderful things that our staff is doing day in and day out.

Dr. Carino reported that we are going to be starting focus groups with our current staff to see why they stay at Novi. She stated that we need to dig into retention and recruitment. Dr. Carino said that it is very important and she wants to assure the community that we are committed to both of those things. Dr. Carino said that she is so proud of the people that we are recruiting and she is glad that the Board gets the opportunity to meet them, so you will see the people that we are bringing into the District.

Dr. Carino reported that she recently revised the exit survey in order to gather more information about why a staff member may choose to leave. She stated that there are a variety of reasons: i.e. they want

to move closer to home; they want to go into a different field, so be revising that survey, it will give us More applicable data that we can use to better our practices and retain staff.

Dr. Carino expressed her gratitude to the staff members and administrators at the Board, meeting, people watching from home for being invested and engaged in what is going on in our District. She stated that we are incredibly lucky to have them.

Mr. Mike Giromini, Assistant Superintendent of Academic Services, said happy School Board Member Month. He expressed his appreciation for all that they do in the late evenings. Mr. Giromini recognized Mrs. Ringle and reported that he is happy to have her join the teams again in the Office of Academics. He stated that they are eager for her leadership and support in this newly expanded role. Mr. Giromini said that she is going to be amazing.

Mr. Giromini reported that this week he had the opportunity to visit AVMR training. He stated that the Board had heard him talk about Advanced Math Recovery and it is something that we are focusing on with our K-5 staff. Mr. Giromini said that it is about understanding what it is that students might not understand about a mathematical concept and equipping out teachers, giving them the skills, to recognize and diagnose those differences in learning and understanding. He mentioned giving teachers the strategies to help those kids be successful.

Mr. Giromini gave a shout out to Katie Walker and Lisa LaPorte, two (2) of our instructional coaches who are leading the that training in our District. He reported that they are amazing and he had to sit down, firsthand, and listen. Mr. Giromini stated that it was really exciting for him to see it from the ground up. He said that he is very proud of the work they are doing and appreciative of it as well.

Mr. Giromini reported that on December 20<sup>th</sup> we had our first Sex Education Advisory Board meeting and he thought it was very successful. He stated that they discussed roles and responsibilities, the history of the group, and they developed some norms for their work together. Mr. Giromini believes that it is going to be a great team and he is really excited for their continued work together. He said that their next meeting is scheduled for early February and her will continue to keep the Board updated until they have some recommendations to present.

#### BOARD COMMUNICATION

A new Board member expressed his appreciation for the detailed finance report and stated that it has been a while. He commented on the Black Box and the One Act fieldtrip to Central Michigan University stating that traditionally the students have done quite well. This Board member said that we have had students recently who received nice scholarships in the area of Theater and Performing Arts. He helped the community understand what is behind the selection for the material that they present at those performances.

A new Board members thanked the staff, administrators, and students that put together the gifts stating that it was absolutely awesome in the truest sense of the word. Another board member echoed the new Board member's response stating that he was blown away, too and very appreciative. He also corrected the donation that was submitted stating that the First of Michigan is actually the fiscal agent for Autodesk who was the actual donor.

Another new Board member stated that she had the pleasure of meeting Ms. Ringle and congratulated Mrs. Hoppenstedt on her new placement at Orchard Hills saying she is doing amazing things there. This new Board member thanked all of our teachers who were in attendance tonight and thanked them for choosing to stay here every day. She thanked everyone for the wonderful gifts.

A Board member reported that she had the pleasure of attending the OCSBA Zoom meeting stating that they had a lengthy presentation from Dwight Levin on Cyber security. She stated that they talked about hackers, phishing, smushing and a variety of other terms. The Board member said there was also a legislative update on the third grade reading requirements and that this has been rescinded because it was unsuccessful. She mentioned that if there is a need for her to present bi-monthly updates, she can certainly share that with the Board. The Board member thanked all of the schools, community members, and teachers for coming out.

A Board member thanked the IB cohort for the different projects and things that they are doing together on MLK day. He stated that it is an opportunity for community service and it is a great way for students, community members, and teachers to have a plethora of service projects to choose from. The Board member stated that he believes that Mr. Capuano was leading this up.

#### ADJOURNMENT

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

Ayes: 7 Dr. Ruskin, Mr. Mena, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Roney, Mr. Cook, Mrs. Beaudoin, and Mr. Michener

Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for February 16, 2023 7:00 p.m., at the Educational Services Building.

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Willy Mena, Board of Education Secretary