



Minutes of a Regular Board Meeting, May 18, 2023
Novi Community School District
Board of Education

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Novi Community School District was held Thursday, May 18, 2023, beginning at 7:00 PM.

Present: Dr. Ruskin, Mr. Smith, Mr. Mena, 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.

TAXATION PUBLIC HEARING – 2023 TAX MILLAGE LEVY

The State requires that all school districts include in their budget for the upcoming fiscal year by June 30 of each year, the adoption of the proposed property tax millage rate. A notice for a public hearing, which must appear in the local newspaper at least six (6) days prior to the hearing. The public hearing on the property tax millage rate, that is proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget, must then take place.

The public hearing is scheduled for Thursday, May 18, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the regular meeting of the Board of Education. Notice of the public hearing appeared in the Oakland County Press on Wednesday, May 10, 2023.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Approve the Agenda

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

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

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

STUDENT BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Jennifer Rajesh, student board member representative, reported that Spring has been a very busy season and shared some positive happenings around the community. She stated that the elementary schools are preparing for their family picnics, multicultural nights, vocal and band concerts, geography spelling bees, and orchestra concert.

Ms. Rajesh said that the AP exams are over and congratulated anyone who took those exams. She, also, congratulated those whose sports season was closing. She congratulated the girls' lacrosse team for their win over Plymouth and Northville and the girls' tennis team as they compete at regionals tomorrow.

Mr. Rajesh reported that they had their local scholarship breakfast in April and signing day for the seniors. She stated that the last day for seniors is next week. Ms. Rajesh said that the Novi Choir had their last Spring Concert on May 6th and the Novi Incubators finished selling at their sustainable fast fashion thrift shop, at the Novi High School. She mentioned that they raised over \$500 in sales that they will donate to the Haven Shelter and given the items that did not sell to Purple Heart.

Ms. Rajesh explained her role as the student board member representative and what the Board could expect from her in the future. She reported that this role would be a way for her to communicate with the board regarding student life that is happening around the community and also would be a way for the Board to communicate with her, any changes or rules and regulations that they would like communicated to students. She said that she would work on creating a plan for reaching out to more students in the community such as connecting with Mr. Mainka's advisory board and also with Mr. Sipple, who is our supervisor in communications and community Engagement, and the elementary principals.

CELEBRATIONS

Outstanding Support Person of the Year

The Novi Community School District Support Person of the Year program recognizes our support staff who have achieved the highest standards of excellence in our district. The support staff are nominated by their peers with recommendations by administration, and many times parents and students.

In April, one of our finest support staff, Michele Cingel, was recognized for her dedication to the students of the Novi Community School District. This evening Dr. Laura Carino will introduced the 2023 Novi Support Person of the Year to the Board for recognition.

SEPAC Above and Beyond Recipients

A Board member reported that the annual Above and Beyond Awards exemplifies students, teachers, para pros, and staff members. He stated that SEPAC (Special Education Parent Advisory Committee) recognizes the outstanding contributions of individuals within the Novi Community School District benefitting students with special needs. The Board member said that this program allows us to see and share the kindness, care, and selfless acts occurring in our community. He mentioned that there were over 50 nominations this year and the committee narrowed that down to eight (8) winners spanning all categories: teachers, ancillary staff, paraprofessional, and students.

The Board member reported that he did have some of the students' names, but not the staff because the committee has not notified them yet. He stated that some of the names of the high schoolers are: Ava Moretto, Michaela Stewart, Valera Sanchez Gonzalez; Novi Meadows students are: Everett Lasso and Billy Brady; Ancillary staff at the ECEC is Jennifer Ellis. The Board member said that they have gone above and beyond their responsibilities, especially the students, to help the Special Ed population feel at home.

REPORTS TO THE BOARD

Novi Virtual Update Report

This evening Ms. Emily Pohlonski, Principal of Novi Virtual, provided a presentation highlighting the Novi Virtual Program attributes and successes.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

There were no comments from the audience.

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

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

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

DONATIONS

NEF – Therapy Dogs

The District is in receipt of a generous donation from the Novi Educational Foundation. This generous donation is in the amount of \$ 10,000.00. They would like to dedicate these funds for the purchase of the District Therapy Dogs.

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

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

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Novi Wildcat Basketball

The District is in receipt of donations from the Novi Wildcats Basketball Club. These generous donation totals \$ 1,800.00. They are requesting that \$500.00 be dedicated to the Girls' Basketball Team, \$500.00 be dedicated to the Boys' Basketball Team, and \$800.00 to go toward the coaches who volunteered at the Wildcat Tournament.

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

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

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

CLOSED SESSION – FOR THE PURPOSES OF NEGOTIATIONS [OMA 8(1)(c)]

ACTION ITEMS

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 for the purposes of contract Negotiations [OMA Sect.8(1)(c)].

It was moved by Mr. Cook and supported by Mr. Men that the Novi Community Schools Board of Education move into a Closed Session for the purposes of contract negotiations.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

The Board went into a closed session at 7:45 PM and returned at 8:07 PM.

NEA Contract Approval

After meeting several times this summer with the Novi Education Association (NEA), a tentative agreement was reached on the NEA Contract. The NEA has approved the agreement.

It was moved by Mr. Cook and supported by Mrs. Beaudoin in the best interest of the Novi Community School District, the Novi Board of Education approve the NEA Contract as presented.

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

Nays: 0 by Roll Call Vote

MOTION CARRIED

Personnel Report A

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

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

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

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Personnel Report B – Administrative Reassignments

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

Name: Joi Danforth

Building: Orchard Hills Elementary School

Assignment: Elementary School Principal **Reason:**

Replacement for Adva Ringle **Effective date:** TBD

(August 2023)

Name: Alice Kazee

Building: Novi Woods Elementary School

Assignment: Elementary School Principal **Reason:**

Replacement for David Ascher **Effective date:** TBD

(August 2023)

It was moved by Mr. Michener and supported by Mr. Mena that the Novi Community School District Board of Education approve Joi Danforth as Elementary School Principal at Orchard Hills Elementary School, and also approve Alice Kazee as Elementary School Principal at Novi Woods Elementary School.

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

Michener
Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

There was a five (5) minute break at 8:30 PM, so that students and their families could leave. The Board returned at 8:45 PM.

Board Meeting Schedule

At the February 16, 2023 Regular Meeting, the Board revised the 2022-2023 meeting schedule adding a Regular Meeting of the Board on February 21, 2023. Tonight, we are looking to move the June 22, 2023 Work Session to June 8, 2023, after the NATC Graduation Ceremony.

Moving the work session to June 8 will give the Board time to review the new manual before the approval that is slated for the June 15, 2023 Board meeting. This meeting will be held at the Educational Services Building, located at 25345 Taft Road, Novi Michigan 48374.

It was moved by Mrs. Roney and supported by Mr. Smith that the Novi Community School District Board of Education approve moving the Board Work Session from June 22, 2023 to June 8, 2023 at 7:00 PM.

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

MOTION CARRIED

NCSD L4029 Tax Levy Approval

In order to prepare for the July 1 tax bills, the District must certify the summer tax levy no later than early June.

The 2023 (2023-24 fiscal year) taxable value of the Novi Community School District is \$2,971,009,260. This represents an increase over the previous year's taxable value of \$2,791,206,540. Using the district's taxable value as the predominant factor, the 2023-24 budget will be based upon the millage rates on the attached schedule.

In the past, the Novi Board of Education resolved to levy 50% of the taxes in the summer and 50% in the winter.

The certification of the attached summer tax levy was presented tonight for approval per the resolution.

It was moved by Mr. Michener and supported by Mrs. Roney that the Novi Community School District board of Education approve the 2023 Summer Tax Levy as presented.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Chartwells Contract Renewal

At the June 16, 2022 Board of Education meeting, Chartwells was approved to continue to serve as the district's food service management company for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. They have been providing Food Service in the District since 2013. The current contract expires on June 30, 2023.

Chartwells manages contracts with approximately 200 school districts in Michigan. District administration has been extremely satisfied with the work performed by Chartwells and especially Kimberly Sinclair, Food and Nutrition Director.

The Food Service Management Contract renewal was presented for Board approval information and discussion.

It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mr. Mena that the Novi Community School District Board of Education approve the renewal of the Chartwells' contract agreement as presented.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

EnviroClean Contract Renewal

Enviro-Clean is a family-owned business headquartered in Holland, Michigan and has been in business since 1975. Enviro-Clean employs over 1,400 cleaning staff and clean over 35,000,000 square feet of commercial facilities daily.

Enviro-Clean started partnering with the District to clean our facilities in the summer of 2013. They currently clean 1.55 million square feet of office/building space. The scope of service was increased with the addition of the ROAR Center, 34,425 Square Feet, additional spaces as a result of the renovation, and will include Novi Meadows once it is completed, which will be approximately 185,000 square feet when completed.

Enviro-Clean's performance has improved and they have responded to labor issues by increasing their starting wage to \$15.00 an hour. Their current one-year contract extension expires on June 30, 2023. The District and contractor have agreed upon a one-year extension starting July 1, 2023 and continuing through June 30, 2024.

The District recommends renewing the Enviro-Clean contract for the 2023-2024 school year in the amount of \$2,575,665.36. The District will continue to contribute 75% of their health care and payment for weekend hours worked.

It was moved by Mrs. Beaudoin and supported by Mr. Smith that the Novi Community School District Board of Education approves the Enviro-Clean contract renewal to as presented.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

2023-24 Oakland Schools Budget

Per the Michigan Revised School Code, Section 380.624(2), the Oakland Schools annual budget must be presented to Oakland County's 28 school districts by May 1 each year. Oakland Schools distributed three sets of the fiscal year 2023-24 proposed budget documents: a set for the Superintendent, Business Manager, and Board Treasurer, Mary Ann Roney.

Per section 624(2)(b), the following actions are required by the district for compliance:

- 1) Review the Intermediate School District's General Education Fund operating budget.
- 2) Not later than June 1st adopt a board resolution expressing support for or disapproval of the proposed budget.
- 3) Submit to the ISD's board of education any specific objections and proposed changes to said budget.

Per section 624, only the general operating fund budget requires a board resolution. However, the ISD has provided all of their draft budgets: Special Education, Career Focused Education, Special Revenue-Cooperative Activities, Debt Service, Capital Projects, Enterprise and Internal Service, and Grant Funds budgets.

While not a statutory requirement, the Oakland Schools Board of Education is holding a remote Designates Meeting on Thursday, April 20, 2023 at 6:00pm, providing local board designates and district administrative staff an opportunity to hear a presentation on the budget and ask questions prior to finalizing a board resolution on or before June 1.

Two resolutions are attached, one supporting the ISD budget and one disapproving it. They were presented to the Board tonight for information and discussion.

It was moved by Mr. Michener and supported by Mrs. Beaudoin that the Novi Community School District Board of Education adopt the Resolution to Support the Oakland School Budget.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

NHS Performance Gym Refurbishing

The High School performance gymnasium floor needs to be refurbished, which would include sanding, line layout for the various sports, an updated Novi PowerCat Logo, and two (2) coats of oil based finish. Any cracked or broken floorboards will be replaced.

Foster Specialty Flooring has provided a quote through the Sourcewell Cooperative Bid Program. In order to confirm a July project date, this comes to the Board this evening for approval.

The total cost of the project is \$47,118.50.

It was moved by Mr. Mena and supported by Mr. Cook that the Novi Community School District, the Board of Education award the contract to Faster Specialty Flooring in the amount of \$47,118.50.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

NHS & NMS Cafeteria Furniture Approval

Quotes were received for the Novi High School and Novi Middle School replacement cafeteria furniture. The attached quote identifies each Category's associated costs and contract. In order to receive the furniture by the start of the 2023-2024 school year, we are asking the Board to award

the contract to American Interiors and approve the purchase tonight.

The cost for the Novi High School cafeteria furniture is \$646,914.19 and the cost for the Novi Middle School cafeteria furniture is \$331,141.22 for a total cost of \$978,055.41. This purchase will come out the 2019 Capital Projects Bond fund.

TOTAL RECOMMENDATION AMOUNT: \$978,055.41

It was moved by Mr. Cook and supported by Mrs. Roney that the Novi Community School District Board of Education awards the contracts to American Interiors in the total amount of \$978,055.41 and further authorized the Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations to expend the funds from the 2019 Bond Fund.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

iPad Refresh

The Technology Department is requesting an iPad refresh of 1200 one-to one iPad refresh. These iPads were originally purchase in 2017 and the life expectancy for these devices was originally believed to be four years.

The specifications of the equipment being purchased are:

- **1200 Student iPads**
 - iPad 10.2-inch, Wi-Fi 256GB
- **1200 iPad cases**
 - Brenthaven Edge Bounce
- **1200 iPad licenses**
 - JAMF School (allows for management of devices)

Based on the REMC (Regional Educational Media Center Association of Michigan) competitive bid, the new iPad cost is 596,739.00 to come from the Capital Projects (Bond) 2019 fund.

This recommendation comes before the Board tonight for information and discussion. It will come back before the Board of approval at the June 15, 2023 meeting.

High School CAD Refresh

The Technology Department is requesting a CAD desktop refresh of 34 devices at the Novi High School. These CAD Desktops were originally purchased in 2016.

The specifications of the equipment being purchased are:

- **34 HP Zr Tower G9 700 Workstations**
 - Intel i7 12700K 3.6 0GB Processor (12 core)
 - 32 GB Ram
 - Nvidia 3070 RTX Video Card (8 GB)
 - 1 TB SSD Hard drive

Based on the REMC (Regional Educational Media Center Association of Michigan) competitive bid, the cost is amount of \$71, 600.00 from the Capital Projects (Bond) 2019 fund.

This recommendation comes before the Board tonight for information and discussion. It will come back before the Board of approval at the June 15, 2023 meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Capital Projects Committee

Mr. Tom Smith, Board Vice-President and Committee Chair, reported that the committee reviewed and discussed the land swap closing, 2023 construction projects, and the 2019 Master Planning.

Governance and Policy Committee

Dr. Ruskin, Board President and Committee Chair, reported that the committee continues to go through policies and discussed the need for additional meetings. She stated that they will look at the 2000 policies and hopefully bring it to the Board on June 15 for approval.

Curriculum Committee

Mr. Cook, Board Trustee and Committee Chair, reported that the committee discussed Artificial Intelligence in schools and instructional focus area for 2023-24. He stated that those focus areas are K-5 literacy, SEL character ed soft launch, and instructional framework.

Finance Committee

Mrs. Mary Anne Roney, Board Treasurer and Committee Chair, reported the committee met on May 9, 2023 and reviewed the L4029 Tax Levy. She stated that they discussed the state budget and the upcoming NCS D budget schedule and timeline.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Benjamin Mainka, Superintendent of Schools, expressed his gratitude to the Board for the passage of the contract and to the teachers who were on the bargaining team. He reported that it was a great team effort and they are excited to move forward with this foundation.

Mr. Mainka stated that we are doing a lot of fun things this summer. He said that we have our Summer Reading dates that we will be doing again this year. Mr. Mainka mentioned that he is working with our new principals to do some really fun kick-offs in August. Mr. Mainka reported that we are doing things with our secondary kids related to leadership camps. He stated that we will be announcing some summer plans over the next few weeks.

Mr. Mainka said that graduation is coming up on June 1st. He mentioned that we have a lot of senior activities next week and opportunities for parents who have seniors to reflect, take time to step back, and celebrate what incredible children that have come through our school system. Mr. Mainka reported that they are part of our family and we get to launch them into the world. He stated that it is an amazing time of the year.

Mr. Mainka said that we have a lot of summer programming as well for students who need some additional support and resources. He mentioned that we have the Feed the Need going, and an

incredible teaching and learning team who have planned a variety of activities for our kids. Mr. Mainka thanked the Board for their support of our staff and our work that we do on a daily basis.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mr. Devin Kling, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations, reported that as the year winds down, the business office winds up. He stated that they have been busy conducting and finalizing our financial statements, month by month. Mr. Kling said they are tightening up this year's final budget and next year's preliminary budget based on a lot of things that have been approved tonight.

Mr. Kling reported that he would set an opportunity to tour the three (3) major projects going on in Novi, that would include: Meadows, the high school, and the maintenance building. He stated that we were all in Meadows this week for a pizza party, from Carlene Smith (of McCarthy Smith) and got a chance to see the progress going on.

Mr. Kling said that there is a lot of drywall that went up and now they are putting up light fixtures. He mentioned that it is amazing how fast things are moving now. Mr. Kling reported that hopefully we will be occupying it by the summer and he believes that everything is on schedule for that major project and the same with the operations building. He stated that there was a slight delay based on Consumers Energy, but does not believe that will be a big delay.

Mr. Kling reported that the biggest item is the high school and that is mostly due to Mother Nature. He stated that we had a really wet spring and there is a lot of concrete being poured in that project. Mr. Kling said that it is a progression project where you have to pour concrete, let it sit, move it in, and eventually (when the last wall is poured) start the foundation. He mentioned that was a slight delay, but should not affect the football season.

Dr. Laura Carino, Assistant Superintendent of Talent Management and Development, reported that we just celebrated teacher and staff appreciation last week, so she wanted to recognize teachers and staff. She stated that our PTOs had spoiled them with multiple luncheons, breakfast goodies and treats. Dr. Carino said that they deserve every bit of it. She thanked them for all that they do. Dr. Carino reported that today is Speech and Language Pathologist Appreciation Day. She recognized them for all of the work that they do with our students.

Dr. Carino reported that they have been very busy hiring and tonight was a testament to just the beginning of that. She stated that we have our K-6 elementary teacher posting and they began interviews this week. Dr. Carino said that we have a very strong applicant pool and we will begin next round interviews, next week. She mentioned that we are in a good position to bring candidates to the Board at the June Board meeting. Dr. Carino stated that they are able to hire much earlier in the hiring season and obtain some excellent talent that is out there.

Dr. Carino reported that she and Mike recently had Focus Sessions with our staff on Social Emotional and Academic supports to see what teachers and staff thought we needed in the buildings. She stated that they are synthesizing that data and will be discussing it in cabinet and potential positions or realigning different roles to be able to best support our students.

Dr. Carino thanked the NEA for a very highly collaborative negotiation process. She reported that it was a privilege to partner with them and are very happy with the end product. Dr. Carino said they have started negotiations with the NTA unit and will begin with NESPA and NASA next week. She mentioned that they are in the throes of negotiations and hope to bring additional bargaining agreements to the Board in June.

Dr. Carino reported that they had a great Safety and Security meeting with Jason Russell. She stated that a few weeks ago he came to our district and had some additional conversation about our safety features, along with Julie and Sarah, our SROs. Dr. Carino said that it was a great collaborative partnership with them.

Dr. Carino reported that our therapy dog application information went out today and she has been getting emails non-stop this evening, from interested staff members, who really want one of the three (3) puppies. She stated they are super excited about all those things. Dr. Carino said that is just lots of things going on in the Talent Management and Development department.

Mr. Giromini, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, reported that the Sex Ed Advisory Board is going strong. He stated that had their last meeting on May 2nd and took an extraordinary deep dive into some of the community data that they had received from a survey a couple of years ago. Mr. Giromini said they are going to focus their next meeting, at the end of the month, on establishing some goals and getting that work done, so they can move forward with reviewing the curriculum and making some recommendations.

Mr. Giromini reported that our District DEI team is meeting next week for another full day work session. He stated they will work on formalizing goals and recommendations and, also, develop some guidance and expectations for our building level teams, so they have more alignment across those different groups.

Mr. Giromini said that as Jennifer, our student representative mentioned, our Advanced Placement exams have wrapped up, but he wanted to add that our IB Diploma Program exams are nearing completion at the high school. He mentioned that these exams, in both of these programs, represent the culmination of a great deal of hard work on the part of our students, our staff, and our teachers. He congratulated those who have wrapped up that testing and wished good luck to those still testing.

Mr. Giromini reported that this is a fast-paced time of year for our students, our staff, our administrators. He echoed the appreciation for all their efforts and finish of the school year.

BOARD COMMUNICATION

A Board member expressed her gratitude to the team for the amount of work that cabinet and the NEA negotiating team have done. She stated that this is happening and that is happening and it is pretty mind-blowing. The Board member said she thinks it is pretty amazing that there is so much output being delivered and not just talked about. She mentioned that it is pretty inspiring to see our team and all the administrators and the staff here.

The Board member reported the work that they do, because there is a lot on this agenda, was super robust and it is all super important. She stated to hear the report and the transparency piece between

your team and the Board, giving us all of the information that we really need to approve these things in this packet is really amazing. The Board member said that she was not sure if they had ever seen all of that and it is just incredible. She mentioned that we are all working together, at the same pace, and when staff is talking about something they are happy with or unhappy with, we as a team are part of the description understanding of what those concerns, questions, and happiness are. The Board member expressed her appreciation to the four (4) cabinet members and the NEA team.

A Board member reported that he took a couple of opportunities to get out and see events. He stated that he attended the Meadows Choir Concert. The Board member said Meadows 6th grade went over to the middle school and joined them for a tune. He said actually there were four (4) events and the director had to split it into two (2) nights.

The Board member reported that he also attended the high school choir concert. He stated that, as Jennifer mentioned, our high school choir director is on maternity leave, so the accompanist took over and is accompanying and directing the choir. The Board member said that she did an amazing job.

The Board member mentioned that he attended the middle school lacrosse game last night, when a part broke out at Deerfield, so he “crashed it.” He reported that the kids were running all over and it looked like families were having a good time. The Board member stated that while that was going on, Robotics was happening at the middle school. He said that everything went off without a hitch.

A Board member reported that this past Tuesday, we hosted a cool track meet at the high school. He stated that we host it annually and it is called the JV Invitational. The Board member said that there are close to 300 kids on our track; a team of boys and a team of girls. He mentioned that this meet was set up by our coaches many years ago and it gives kids, who do not have the opportunity to compete at the regional level, the opportunity to get in one more race, to get their times in.

The Board Member reported that on Wednesday Novi is doing something that we started doing a few years ago and that is hosting, at the high school, the Novi Middle School’s last track meet against Belleville’s McBride Middle School. He stated that it gives the kids an opportunity to run at the high school venue.

A Board Member reported that she attended the choir concert and was impressed. She stated that we have some wonderful talent coming and she is excited to see some of those voices as they mature. The Board member said that there are 15 days left of school and she knows that all of our teachers and students are very excited about the summer coming. She mentioned that we are almost there, so great job.

A Board member reported that they had a Board Round Table on the ninth and she, Willy, and Jason were along with a few parents. She stated that it was nice. The Board member said that there is another one on June 1st, at 8:30 in the morning and she hopes that there will be a lot of attendees. She mentioned that people can sign up online to help with Feed the Need. The Board member reported that they will do a background check and you can pick the things that you would like to do.

A Board member reported that the Board Round Tables are a nice venue to have conversations with the community, so if anyone has anything they would like to talk to Board members about, come and talk to us. He stated engage us in whatever is on your mind.

The Board member said that he had the pleasure of participating with the Deerfield seniors, the last day of school clap out, at Paradise Park. He mentioned that it was a cool event with the fourth graders. The Board member reported that had their Spring Fling, which was well attended. He thanked the PTO and all of the staff who helped to support that event. The Board member stated there are a lot of cool things, but the biggest attraction is the playground. He said that the District continues to invest in the elementary school playgrounds that will be utilized quite a bit over the summertime.

The Board member mentioned that VO is having their Multicultural day tomorrow, from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. He said that he hopes it is well attended. The Board member wished everyone a happy summer.

A Board member reported that she attended the dance performance at the high school. She stated that it was fantastic two-and-a-half-hour event. The Board member said that the talent that the kids have and the way the dance teacher put it together with each senior having an opportunity for a solo dance and be recognized. She mentioned that it was lovely to see.

The Board member reported that she went to Orchard Hills yesterday and she is going to Deerfield next Wednesday because she was invited to see the NEF grants in action. She stated that there were some manipulatives to play with and it gives the students an opportunity to tell about their evening. The Board member said that it is almost like recess before school. She mentioned that it is genius and the kids really seem to appreciate it.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Ayes: 6 Dr. Ruskin, Mr. Mena, Mrs. Roney, Mr. Cook, Mrs. Beaudoin, and Mr. Michener

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:34 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for August 3, 2023 at 7:00 p.m., at the Educational Services Building.

Willy Mena, Board of Education Secretary