

# Minutes of a Regular Meeting, March 4, 2021 Novi Community School District Board of Education

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Novi Community School District was held on Thursday, March 4, 2021, beginning at 7:00 PM via Zoom.

Present: Dr. Ruskin, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Hood, Mr. Mena, Mr. Cook, Mrs. Murphy,

and Mrs. Roney (by Roll Call)

Absent:

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

# APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Mrs. Murphy and supported by Mr. Smith that the Novi Board of Education approve the agenda as presented.

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

and Mrs. Roney (by Roll Call)

Nays: 0 MOTION CARRIED

# COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS

There were no comments from the audience tonight.

### CONSENT AGENDA A ITEMS

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.

# **CONSENT ITEMS**

- A. Approval of Minutes
  - a. Regular Meeting Minutes of February 18, 2021
- B. Approval of Bills
  - a. December Board Report
  - b. Check Register for December 2020
  - c. Purchase Card Report from October 31, 2020 through November 30, 2020
  - d. January Board Report
  - e. Check Register for January 2021
  - f. Purchase Card Report from December 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020

It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mr. Mena that the Novi Board of Education approves the consent item(s) as presented.

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

and Mrs. Roney (by Roll Call)

Nays: 0 MOTION CARRIED

### **ACTION ITEMS**

# Personnel Report

Gary Kinzer, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, presents for your consideration the following personnel changes:

<b>A.</b>					New Hires
<u>Name</u>	Bldg.	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Minnick, Sheila	Adult Ed	ESL Teacher	New Hire	Hourly	03-08-21

# **B.** Retirements and Resignations

<u>Name</u>	Bldg.	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Gordon, Brian	HS	Athletic Director	Retirement	06-30-21
Kohls, Andrea	MS/HS	ESL Interventionist	Retirement	06-11-21

#### C. Leaves of Absence

<u>Name</u>	<u>Bldg.</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Stauner, Melanie	ECEC	Speech Pathologist	LOA #1-Child Care	2021-2022 School Year
Akcasu, Audrey	NM	5th Grade Teacher	LOA #2-Personal	2021-2022 School Year

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

Ayes: 7 Dr. Ruskin, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Hood, Mr. Mena, Mr. Cook, Mrs. Murphy, and Mrs. Roney (by Roll Call)

Nays: 0 **MOTION CARRIED** 

## 2021 Roofing Program - Deerfield

On January 15, 2021 the District received bids from (3) contractors. After the receipt of bids, PMC participated in post bid reviews with two firms (CEI Roofing, and Butcher and Butcher). Concluding several discussions with both firms, the bond team recommends awarding to Butcher and Butcher. Butcher and Butcher's ability to meet our schedule and provide the specified materials were key factors in this recommendation.

The budget for the Deerfield Roofing replacement, including soft costs is: \$2,795,963.00. Based on this award and anticipated soft costs, we expect this work to come in under budget with an anticipated final cost of \$2,620,000.

The bond team recommends the District administration enter into a subcontract agreement with Butcher and Butcher pending final negotiation by Plante Moran Cresa (PMC) and Thrun Law Firm on behalf of NCSD.

Attached for reference is StructureTec's award recommendation package dated February 03, 2021. PMC is available at your convenience to answer any questions you may have regarding this recommendation for award.

It was moved by Mr. Cook and supported by Mrs. Murphy that the Novi Community School District Board of Education approves the District administration to enter into a subcontract agreement with Butcher and Butcher for the Deerfield roofing for an amount not to exceed \$2,795,963.00, pending final negotiation by Plante Moran Cresa (PMC) and Thrun Law Firm on behalf of NCSD.

Ayes: 7 Dr. Ruskin, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Hood, Mr. Mena, Mr. Cook, Mrs. Murphy, and Mrs. Roney (by Roll Call)

Nays: 0 **MOTION CARRIED** 

### IRS Closing Resolution Agreement

On September 4, 2012, the Michigan Public School Employee Retirement System (MPSERS) Act was

amended to require eligible public school employees to contribute 3 percent of their compensation to an irrevocable trust for retiree health benefits (the "3% retiree healthcare contribution") to be enrolled in the MPSERS health premium subsidy. The IRS has treated these contributions for federal income and FICA taxes purposes.

As it relates to the federal tax treatment of the 3% contribution to the MPSERS Health Care Trust, The Michigan Office of Retirement Services has confirmed that multiple Reporting Units received consistent favorable guidance from the IRS as to refund claims that had been submitted relative to federal income and FICA taxes that had been reported, deducted, and remitted under 2012 PA 300. We treated the 3% contribution as exempt from federal income tax and federal FICA, however if we participate in the closing agreement this will provide protection against a future unfavorable ruling for period 2013 through 2026.

It is not mandatory that we participate in the closing agreement. The closing agreement has not yet been finalized and is handled by W. Alan Wilk of Dykema Gossett, PLLC and the cost to participate is \$3,000, which may be paid by ORS on our behalf. Form 2848 (Power of Attorney) was submitted to meet the February 5<sup>th</sup> deadline and give Mr. Wilk authority to represent school districts in this matter. Form 2848 will need to be resubmitted along with the resolution should we choose to participate. ORS is not providing advice as to whether we should participate in the closing agreement or not. It is likely each Reporting Unit participating in the closing agreement will be listed on an addendum to the closing agreement.

We are a retainer client of Thrun Law Firm and Thrun has indicated 50 of their school district clients have adopted the resolution and they expect about 75-100 to be the final count.

It was moved by Mr. Mena and supported by Mrs. Hood that the Novi Community School District Board of Education approve the attached IRS Closing Agreement Resolution.

Ayes: 7 Dr. Ruskin, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Hood, Mr. Mena, Mr. Cook, Mrs. Murphy, and Mrs. Roney (by Roll Call)

Nays: 0 **MOTION CARRIED** 

#### Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan Reconfirmation

Each month the Novi Community School District Board of Education is required to reconfirm our Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan.

The legislation requires that the district report out on key metrics. The key metrics are reported by the Oakland County Health Division each week. Among the key indicators reported are the following:

The 7-day average of daily cases and the counts per day since school began on September 8, 2020:

	7 day average of daily cases	Counts by day
1-Jul	35	51
1-Aug	110	95
2-Sep	82	111
8-Sep	76	70
1-Oct	58	60
2-Nov	337	343
29-Nov	644	486
8-Dec	615	518
4-Jan	192	158
14-Jan	236	244
14-Feb	85	74

26-Feb	105	108
3-Mar	97	56

The daily cases per zip code numbers since September 8.

By zip code daily case per 10,000 residents			
	48374	48375	48377
8-Sep	22.5	13.6	22.7
8-Oct	16.0	19.8	20.3
8-Nov	44.3	38.6	65.1
30-Oct	21.8	27.7	37.5
31-Oct	23.7	27.7	41.2
2-Nov	32.1	32.1	51.6
28-Nov	112.9	94.8	154.2
30-Nov	111.6	95.3	153.0
8-Dec	109.1	115.9	159.1
4-Jan	62.2	53.1	91.6
14-Jan	40.4	32.1	49.2
13-Feb	32.7	30.3	25.2
26-Feb	20.5	16.2	19.0
3-Mar	18.6	14.9	16.0

The Oakland County Health Division also tracks data by school district boundary. They report the data as cases in the district per 10,000 residents. Here is the data for the Novi Community School District.

By district, cases per 10,000	
8/6 - 8/19	4.3
8/13 - 8/20	6.7
8/13 - 8/26	6.7
8/20 - 9/2	9.1
8/27 - 9/9	8.8
9/3 - 9/16	12.2
9/10 - 9/23	15.2
9/17 - 9/30	8.8
9/24 - 10/7	4.9
10/1 - 10/14	7.3
10/8 - 10/21	16.7
10/15 - 10/28	24.3
10/22 - 11/4	28.6
10/29 - 11/11	37.4
11/5 - 11/18	51.6
11/12 - 11/25	60.2
11/19 - 12/2	61.7
12/3 - 12/16	48.3
12/17-12/30	35.5
12/24 - 1/6	29.5
12/31 - 1/14	30.4
1/7 – 1/20	34.0
1/14 – 1/27	31.6
1/21 – 2/3	21.3
1/28 – 2/10	14.0

2/4 – 2/17	11.5
2/18 – 3/4	11.2

Also reported is the percent positive on COVID-19 tests:

	Positivity Rate Oakland County
2-Sep	4.44%
3-Oct	4.00%
4-Nov	11.80%
27-Nov	12.20%
8-Dec	11.04%
4-Jan	9.26%
4-Feb	3.36%
25-Feb	3.00%
2-Mar	3.84%

On February 4, 2021, the Novi Community School District Board of Education approved a revised Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan recommendation. Tonight the administration recommends reconfirming the following Recommendation One:

#### **Recommendation One**

- 1. That the Novi Community School District Board of Education approve returning K-6 hybrid students to five-day a week in-person learning if our COVID-19 case counts meet these thresholds:
  - a. Case counts per 10,000 residents in the Novi Community School District as reported on the Oakland County Health Division COVID website (<a href="https://www.oakgov.com/covid/casesByZip.html">https://www.oakgov.com/covid/casesByZip.html</a>) were at or below 30 for three consecutive weeks.
  - b. Case count average of the three Novi zip codes 48374, 48375, 48377 is at or below 55 for three consecutive weeks (as calculated by tracking daily numbers given at the Oakland County Health Division website <a href="https://www.oakgov.com/covid/casesByZip.html">https://www.oakgov.com/covid/casesByZip.html</a>)
  - c. 14 day average case counts in Oakland County are at or below 200 for three consecutive weeks as reported on the Oakland County Health Division Weekly COVID-19 Report (posted to the district website) for three consecutive weeks:
- 2. K-6 hybrid students would stay in five-day a week school unless numbers began to trend in the wrong direction.
  - a. Case counts per 10,000 residents in the Novi Community School District were at or above 45 for three consecutive weeks.
  - b. Case count average of the three Novi zip codes 48374, 48375, 48377 is at or above 75 for three consecutive weeks
  - c. Case counts in Oakland County are above 275 for three consecutive weeks
- 3. That the Novi Community School District Board of Education approve returning 7-12 hybrid students to five-day a week in-person learning if our COVID-19 case counts meet these thresholds:
  - a. Case counts per 10,000 residents in the Novi Community School District as reported on the Oakland County Health Division COVID website (<a href="https://www.oakgov.com/covid/casesByZip.html">https://www.oakgov.com/covid/casesByZip.html</a>) were at or below 20 for three consecutive weeks.
  - b. Case count average of the three Novi zip codes 48374, 48375, 48377 is at or below 40 for three consecutive weeks (as calculated by tracking daily numbers given at the

Oakland County Health Division website https://www.oakgov.com/covid/casesByZip.html)

- c. 14 day average case counts in Oakland County are at or below 125 for three consecutive weeks as reported on the Oakland County Health Division Weekly COVID-19 Report (posted to the district website) for three consecutive weeks:
- 4. 7-12 hybrid students would stay in five-day a week school unless numbers began to trend in the wrong direction.
  - d. Case counts per 10,000 residents in the Novi Community School District were at or above 40 for three consecutive weeks.
  - e. Case count average of the three Novi zip codes 48374, 48375, 48377 is at or above 60 for three consecutive weeks
  - f. Case counts in Oakland County are above 225 for three consecutive weeks
- 5. That the Board of Education directs the Superintendent to communicate weekly the status on meeting thresholds to the parent and school community.
- 6. That the Board of Education and administrative team work collaboratively with teachers and support staff to ensure that plans are in place to begin five-day in-person instruction for hybrid students when the thresholds are met.
- 7. That virtual students remain virtual as per their choice in December.

In discussions with the Board it was felt that some flexibility be given to the Superintendent. Recommendation Two is brought forth to address this issue:

#### **Recommendation Two**

That the Board of Education designates that the Superintendent has the authority to monitor the metrics and alter the learning plan if circumstances warrant such a change.

- a. The Board will be informed of any significant change before it is implemented
- b. The Board would be called to a special meeting to vote on a change assuming that it could be done in a timely manner that would not imperil student or staff safety.

It was moved by Mrs. Hood and supported by Mrs. Murphy that the Novi Community School District Board of Education reconfirm that the Extended COVID-19 Learning plan Recommendation One noted above and that the Novi Community School District Board of Education approve Recommendation Two as noted above.

Ayes: 7 Dr. Ruskin, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Hood, Mr. Mena, Mr. Cook, Mrs. Murphy, and Mrs. Roney (by Roll Call)

Nays: 0 **MOTION CARRIED** 

# **INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION**

Elementary Walk Zones and Redistricting

In fall 2021, all elementary schools will be starting at the same time. As a result, this has caused us to review our walk zones and our elementary bus routes.

We want to accomplish two primary objectives. First, we want to make the bus runs as efficient as possible because of the start and end times. We want students to arrive and depart school in a timely manner.

Second, we need to enforce walk zones at all levels because we need ensure that buses are available to transport students.

Our transportation policy 6009 states:

• Students who reside in the District and meet the following requirements are eligible for transportation to and from school:

o The student lives more than one and one-half (1½) miles from his or her school. However, a student who has been granted permission to attend a school other than the school to which he or she is assigned is not eligible for transportation by the School District.

Historically, we have not always enforced this policy. We were able to not enforce this policy because we had five bus runs each day. But, with the new start times which are good for kids, we will need to start living this policy.

In practice, what we will do next year is provide transportation for K-6 students who live one mile and further from school and for 7-12 students who live one and one-half miles and further from school.

Deerfield which currently has no walk zone will have this walk zone:



The middle school which currently has no walk zone will have this walk zone:



Orchard Hills walk zone will not change:



Parkview's walk zone will not change:



Village Oaks walk zone will expand. Current



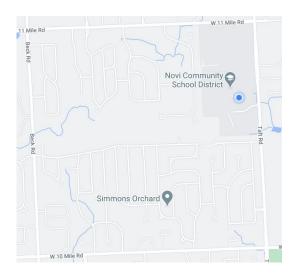
Proposed



The Novi Woods walk zone will expand and this will also impact redistricting between Novi Woods and Parkview Elementary schools.

As we extend the walk zones, one neighborhood currently in the Parkview attendance area needs to become part of the Novi Woods attendance area. The K-4 students in the Simmons Orchard neighborhood currently are bused to Parkview.

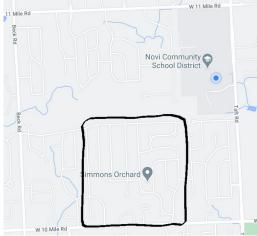
When we only bus those outside of one mile at the K-6 level the Simmons Orchard neighborhood becomes a walk zone for Parkview. But the only way for these students to walk to Parkview is if they go directly past Novi Woods. It makes sense to have the students stop at Novi Woods.



Currently only a slice of this area walks to Novi Woods.



With the enforcement of our policy, we would extend that walk zone.



The recommendation is that this section - Simmons Orchard – walks to Novi Woods.

The administration would recommend that any current 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student at Parkview who would be a 4<sup>th</sup> grade student next year would be allowed to continue at Parkview with parent transportation. All other K-2 students, siblings of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, would attend Novi Woods from this neighborhood.

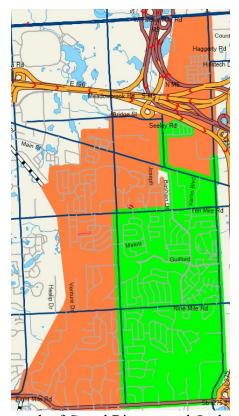
If this was implemented this current 2020-2021 school year the impact on enrollment would look like this.

Novi Woods – 446	Village Oaks - 482
K: 62 – 73	K: 91 – 80
1 <sup>st</sup> : 79 – 93	1 <sup>st</sup> : 104 - 90
2 <sup>nd</sup> : 89 – 97	2 <sup>nd</sup> : 120 – 112
3 <sup>rd</sup> : 73 – 85	3 <sup>rd</sup> : 104 – 92
4 <sup>th</sup> : 88 - 98	4 <sup>th</sup> : 118 - 108

In making the change to the start times we would like to also change a boundary between Village Oaks and Orchard Hills.

The Village Oaks and Orchard Hills change is unrelated to the walk zone issue. This recommendation comes to the Board because we believe that implementing this change at the same time as the start time change makes sense.

The administration recommends this change in boundary for two primary reasons. First, this organizes the bus run in this area of Novi. A bus for Orchard Hills is already going into this neighborhood. It is more efficient to have this area all be on school instead of two schools.



The proposal is to have everything north of Grand River attend Orchard Hills.

Second, the administration believes that decreasing the number of students at Village Oaks and increasing the number of students at Orchard Hills makes sense. Currently, Village Oaks has 601 students and Orchard Hills has 378. Even with the new physical additions at Village Oaks this makes

sense. Village Oaks would be under 600 - at 578, and Orchard Hills has the capacity to handle approximately 20 more students.

New approximate Orchard Hills and Village Oaks numbers with moving Highland Hills

Orchard Hills – 391	Village Oaks - 578
K: 74 – 79	K: 118 - 113
1 <sup>st</sup> : 62 – 69	1 <sup>st</sup> : 116 – 109
$2^{\text{nd}}$ : $71 - 73$	2 <sup>nd</sup> : 130 – 128
3 <sup>rd</sup> : 83 – 86	3 <sup>rd</sup> : 109 – 106
4 <sup>th</sup> : 78 – 84	4 <sup>th</sup> : 128 - 122

A recommendation will come to the Board at the March 18 board meeting to confirm our start times, approve the walk zone recommendation, and approve the boundary changes for Orchard Hills and Village Oaks and Novi Woods and Parkview.

# School Bus Purchase

In review of the district's bus fleet, it has been determined that due to condition, age and mileage, and repair costs, four (4) 2013 and 2014 Bluebird school buses that are scheduled to be replaced. The Business Office is recommending the purchase of four new buses from Holland Bus Company.

Utilizing the statewide public bid known as the Michigan Bus Purchasing Program as received by the Michigan School Business Officials, the cost of one (1) regular passenger bus from the Holland Bus Company is \$92,549.00, for a total cost for four (4) buses of \$370,196.00. The Business Office further recommends the source of the funds by the 2014 Bond Fund.

In addition to the Fleet replacement, we also recommend changing over to diesel fuel to gas fuel for the following reasons listed in the memo to Dr. Matthews below.

The bus purchases are presented tonight for information and discussion, with awarding of the bid at the March 18, Board meeting

## District's Technology 5-Year Refresh Plan

The Technology Department created a five-year refresh cycle plan for devices as they come to their end of use. In Phase one, the teachers each received a mobile laptop to help with their virtual and hybrid instruction.

We are now entering Phase two which will replace the existing workstation all-in-one, that are starting to fail, with a docking monitor allowing educators to utilize dual screen and connect to the HP Laptop. In addition, Phase two will refresh the student iPads that have come to their end of use. These devices will be placed into service for the 2021-2022 academic year.

The administration is recommending the Novi Board of Education approve the following purchases from the **Technology Capital Projects (Bond) 2019 fund** in the total amount of **\$906,087.70**. The pricing for these purchases is based on the REMC Educational Cooperative Bid. The specifications are listed in the Recommendation letter below.

This comes tonight for information and discussion and will come back to the Board for approval at the March 18, 2021 regular board meeting.

# Gardenbrook (formerly Walsh College) Property E-Rate Infrastructure

IDS worked with the district technology staff, TMP Architecture, Inc, McCarthy & Smith, Inc., and Plante Moran, PLLC to determine the technology infrastructure needs for the Gardenbrook (formerly

Walsh College) Property.

These projects include:

- Self-Provisioned Arial Fiber-Optic Cable
- Network Electronic (core switches)
- Structured Network Cabling
- Wireless Networking Equipment

These projects were bid out in February 2020 as part of the E-Rate Federal Program. The timeline requires contracts to be Board approved by March 28, 2021, with the work to begin April 1, per the E-Rate eligibility and conditions. All of these will be 2019 Bond expenses and will be filed for reimbursement with E-Rate. By using E-Rate funding program, we will save approximately 30% of the eligible expenses.

The four (4) letters of recommendation are attached.

## For Network Electronic (core switches):

Bidder's Name	Bid Bond	Familial Disclosure	Affidavit of Compliance	Base Bid
Presidio	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$47,472.88
Delta Network Services	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$36,659.55

The apparent low bidder is Delta Network Services, however their bid calls out for Extreme switches and the district currently uses Cisco switches. Therefore, IDS recommends award of the Network Electronics and Wireless go to Presidio, in the amount of \$47,472.88. IDS also recommends a district-managed contingency of \$7,121.

### For Wireless Networking Equipment:

Bidder's Name	Bid Bond	<b>Familial</b>	Affidavit of	Base Bid
		Disclosure	Compliance	
Presidio	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$27,068.24

Presidio bid a solution based on Cisco Meraki wireless access points. Novi is scheduled for a refresh during the 2021-2022 school year. The Cisco Meraki solution is compatible with the current Cisco solutions and will be considered for the district-wide refresh.

IDS recommends award of the Network Electronics and Wireless in the amount of \$27,068.24 and recommends a district-managed contingency of \$4,060.

# **For Structured Network Cabling:**

Bidder's Name	Bid Bond	Familial Disclosure	Affidavit of Compliance	Base Bid
Vector Technology	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$24,870
Amcomm	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$22,670

The apparent low bidder, Amcomm, successfully met all requirements of the bid specification.

IDS recommends award for Structured Cabling to Amcomm in the amount of \$22,670 along with a district-managed contingency of \$3,400.

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Bidder's Name	Bid Bond	<b>Familial</b>	Affidavit of	<b>Base Bid</b>
		Disclosure	Compliance	

Fiberlink Yes Yes Yes \$151,294

Fiberlink has successfully met all requirements of the bid specification.

IDS recommends award of the Self-Provisioned Arial Fiber-Optic Cable to Fiberlink in the amount of \$151,249 with a district-managed contingency of \$22,687.

This comes before the Board tonight for information and discussion and will come back for Board approval at the March 18, 2021 meeting for approval.

# Bid Package #5A: Novi Meadows Site and Soccer Pavillion Contracts

On Thursday, February 18, 2021, sealed bids were received and publicly opened for the Novi Meadows Site and Soccer Pavilion. In attendance for the bid opening were representatives from the Novi Community School District, Plante Moran Cresa, TMP Architecture, McCarthy & Smith, Inc. and interested bidders. Bids were opened, recorded, and tabulated through a Zoom meeting.

The project team conducted post bid interviews with each of the following, qualified bidders, for each bid division of work. During the post bid interview, the project team reviewed the scope of work, project schedule, manpower requirements, and specified materials with each of the contractors.

Based upon the project team's review of the proposals and bidders, we propose the following recommendations for contract award:

Bid Division 102: Asphalt Paving / Site Concrete

Mr. Rob Nagle

Nagle Paving Company Total Amount \$506, 685.00

**Bid Division 103: Selective Demolition** 

Mr. Scott Krall **Blue Star Inc.** 

Total Amount %21, 800.00

**Bid Division 104: Concrete Footings & Foundations** 

Mr. Matthew Crosby
Midtown Group, LLC
Total Amount \$86, 500.00

**Bid Division 106: Masonry** 

Mr. Brad Liedal

Liedal & Hart Mason Contractors, Inc.

Total Amount \$108, 400.00

Bid Division 107: Steel Mr. Travis Gilbert Wolverine Steel

Total Amount \$12,500.00

**Bid Division 108: General Trades / Carpentry** 

Mr. Aaron White
The Spieker Company
Total Amount \$362,000.00

**Bid Division 114: Aluminum Entrances / Storefront / Glass** 

/ Glazing

Mr. Ken VanBuskirk

Daniels Glass Inc.

Total Amount \$ 55,998.00

Bid Division 140 / 142 : Plumbing & HVAC

Mr. Jim Jagodzinski

Tempco Mechanical Contractors, Inc.\*

Total Amount \$141,000.00

\*2nd Low Bidder. First low did not have HVAC scope

included.

**Bid Division 143: Electrical** 

Mr. Ryan Howard

**Advance Contracting And Electrical Service** 

**Total Amount \$168,700.00** 

Total Award Recommendation Amount: \$1,463,583.00

This comes before the Board tonight for information and discussion and will come back for approval at the March 18, 2021 regular Board meeting.

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Report

Earlier this year, the Novi Educational Foundation (NEF) supported a grant request from the

Parents of African American Students in Novi (PAASN) to support bystander intervention training for our Novi Community School District staff. The purpose of this training was to continue discussions within the district on how to create an inclusive environment within our schools.

The first training session took place on February 16 with our middle school staff. A key element of the training was having our staff think through and think about scenarios that occur in our hallways and classrooms and how they could intervene to support students reinforce our district beliefs in the value of each person, and help students learn.

Another tool that the district has developed this year is a K-6 Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Guide. The purpose of the 2020-2021 NCSD: K-6 Social-Emotional Learning Guide is to provide information and resources to staff to support infusing Social-Emotional Learning frameworks into our existing school and classroom systems, into our instructional practices, and into cultivating strong positive relationships with students, colleagues, and families.

There are five social emotional competencies that we are working to help our students develop: self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision making.

Included in this process are social justice standards that focus on identity, diversity, justice, and action.

The social emotional learning guide is a tool to help us understand and support our students and supports our district goal of fostering a district-wide culture of unity and well-being. Students who feel good about themselves are able to be more inclusive and supportive of others. In traumatic times students who experience stress and anxiety can lash out and push others away. In our district, we are building a community that works to support students and staff so that we can develop inclusive, positive relationships that will work to support our learning goals.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### Capital Projects Committee

Mr. Mena, Board Secretary and Chair of the Curriculum Committee, reported that the committee discussed Walsh College and the associative programs that the District is planning on running in that facility. He stated that they are looking into planning on signage and branding opportunities for the property and discussed how the will do community updates.

#### **COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

There were 2 comments from the audience regarding DEI.

# SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Steve Matthews, Superintendent of Schools, highlighted that the NEF grant and the District working together are bringing therapy dogs into the District. He reported that the training started last Sunday and four (4) Novi staff and their dogs will be trained. Dr. Matthews stated that these dogs will be trained to be therapy dogs in our District. He mentioned that there are ten additional trained therapy dogs that will be helpful as we work with our students to provide them with support through some difficult times that they might go through. Dr. Matthews said these dogs will also

provide support for our staff in our buildings as well. He expressed his gratitude to the NEF for supporting the grant and working with the District to make this happen.

## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mr. Greg McIntyre, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations, expressed his gratitude to the Board for their approval of the IRS Closing Agreement and for their consideration on the bus purchase.

He reported that we are expecting another round of federal funds to come into the District and we will be looking at ways to best serve our students and get that money into the classrooms. Mr. McIntyre said that he will be meeting with the office of academics' team next week to make sure that happens.

Dr. Gary Kinzer, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, reported that our fifth Mentee Monday session of the school year will be on March 15gh. He stated that it will be a virtual session and it will be focusing on appropriate and effective utilization of social media it our new teachers.

# **BOARD COMMUNICATION**

Dr. Ruskin, Board President, congratulated the 102 students at Novi High School who were inducted into the Honor Society last night. She stated that Ms. Tobias did a beautiful job with her team putting together a virtual induction ceremony. Dr. Ruskin said that usually it is a highlight of the Board members to be able to be over at the high school, on stage, and congratulate them, but they had a humble ceremony, virtually, with their families.

She mentioned that OCSBA, which is the Oakland County School Board Association, had its' dinner last night, virtually. Dr. Ruskin reported that Dr. Jay Marks was the speaker and the moderator. She stated that a few of the Board members were in attendance. Dr. Ruskin said for those who could not attend, but would like to watch the recording, she received the Zoom recording today.

Dr. Ruskin thanked the administration, teachers, and the students for a well done transition over the last two (2) weeks. She stated that it has been a huge transition for everyone, including parents. Dr. Ruskin said that she saw Mr. Baker helping with the cars in the parking lot because not as many kids are riding the bus. She mentioned that there is so much that goes on behind the scenes to support our kiddos.

Mr. Smith, Board Vice President, reported that this is the second year in a row that the Novi Educational Foundation has not been able to hold their annual fundraiser. He encouraged everyone to visit their website to see the work that they are doing and support them.

Mr. Smith stated that he wanted to make us aware of the work that the Novi Youth Assistance is doing. He said that this is the second year that has impacted the annual NYA Bowl-A-Thon. He encouraged everyone to visit their website to see the work that they are doing and support them. Mr. Smith said that in the month of February 10 cases were referred to them for counseling. He mentioned that they provide counseling to kids anywhere for issues about depression, anxiety, and

schoolwork. Mr. Smith reported that all 10 referral cases had to do with depression and some anxiety issues the kids have been facing in school.

Mrs. Roney, Board Trustee, asked if this was going to be our last Zoom meeting. Dr. Matthews responded yes, but unfortunately we still have restrictions with our capacity lmits regarding public attendance, wo this will be a work in progress. He stated that we cannot go back to our norm, but was hoping that he could sit at te table with all of the Board members and have a regular in-person Board meeting.

# **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Ayes: 7 Dr. Ruskin, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Hood, Mr. Mena, Mr. Cook, Mrs. Murphy, and Mrs. Roney (by Roll Call)

Nays: 0 MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for March 18, 2021 at 7:00 p.m, at the Educational Services Building and Live Streamed on YouTube with public participation via the Board of Education Public Comment Request Form.

Willy Mena, Secretary

An online recording of this meeting is available on YouTube and on the District Website: <a href="mailto:novi.k12.mi.us">novi.k12.mi.us</a>