



Minutes of a Regular Board Meeting, September 22, 2022
Novi Community School District
Board of Education

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Novi Community School District was held Thursday, September 22, 2022, beginning at 7:00 PM.

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

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 Mr. Mena and supported by Mr. Cook that the Novi Community School Board of Education approve the agenda as presented.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

On October 18, 2021, Deerfield Elementary students participated in an all-day Kids Heart Challenge (FUN Challenge). All students participated and the challenge was coordinated by Mr. Danny Taylor, the physical education teacher at Deerfield Elementary.

The Novi Community School was contacted by Nicole Collia, of the American Heart Association, who announced that Deerfield had raised an extraordinary amount of donation for the American Heart Association through this event and earned a Top School Award.

Representatives from the American Heart Association are here tonight to present Mr. Ryan Francis, principal of Deerfield, and Mr. Danny Taylor with this prestigious award.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

There were two (2) comments from the audience regarding the American Heart Association Award this evening and Novi employment.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Ben Mainka, Superintendent of Schools, reported that now that we are in our third week of school and everybody is settling in. He stated that he noticed a tremendous amount of kindness in our students as they walk through the halls and they are engaging with the adults. Mr. Mainka said that one example of this is that Mr. Gary, one of our bus drivers, had a birthday and the kids on his bus organized a plan to give him birthday cards and had signs at the bus stops, which really made his day.

Mr Mainka reported that on our Personnel Report tonight is Mr. McIntyre who has served our District very well for the past couple of years. He stated that we appreciate the work that he did for the district and his dedication. Mr. Mainka said that his position was posted last Monday and we will be moving through the process.

Mr. Mainka reported that the Novi Mental Health Alliance, in collaboration with the Novi Educational Foundation, the Novi Community Coalition, will be bringing the first ever Novi Parent Camp, actually a boot camp. He stated that it will be held at the Novi High School on Saturday, October 8. Mr. Mainka said that PJ Brady, founder of the Brave, Smart, Kind, Company and author of, soon to be released book, *Raising Kids to be Brave, Smart, and Kind*, will be the keynote speaker. He mentioned that there will be breakout session dealing with stress, mindfulness, college admissions, screen time, and many others.

Mr. Mainka said that at our last meeting he had asked about a Board work session to talk about the way our Board operates in relationship to the cabinet and the superintendent. He stated that it is an opportunity for us to establish norms and talk about the way that the Board wants to receive communication, the way we set-up our agendas that best serves the needs of the Board, about the different roles and responsibilities. Mr. Mainka said that he sent out a poll and the majority of the people can attend the work session on October 13, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

Mr. Mainka presented a graphic of the Village Oaks playground and showed the positive progress that is being made. He stated the they had talked about a timeline and September 26 being the target date for having the majority of the playground done. Mr. Mainka said that there are a couple of areas that can be utilized a few days later. He mentioned that there is a rubber surfacing that goes over a large portion of the playground and it has to cure for about 48 hours. Mr. Mainka reported that he is pleased with the progress and the VOICE PTO is arranging a ribbon cutting ceremony. He stated that George is working with the PTO on setting a date.

Mr. Mainka said that on October 3 is our first parent to parent book study. He mentioned that the book is *Screenwise* and the District and the Novi Public Library are plugging the book. Mr. Mainka reported that it will take place in the evening, at the library, and that he is looking forward to a good discussion.

Mr. Mainka stated that he would like to talk about the student Board representative. He shared a little history and a draft process for selecting the representative and said that he would truly like their feedback. Mr. Mainka mentioned that the administration would jointly determine the selection process and would recommend that candidate for an interview with the superintendent. He reported that an alternate would also be selected because oftentimes the representative might have another commitment and not be able to attend.

Mr. Mainka stated that this representative would go out to the other buildings and develop authentic ways of getting the student voice that they could share and report to the Board. He said that it would be like a liaison position. Mr. Mainka mentioned that if the Board has any feedback, please do not hesitate to contact him.

Mr. Mainka shared a draft document with the Board around the SEAB (Sex Education Advisory Board) process. He thanked Mr. Giromini for his work on this and stated that he was actually the mastermind behind it. Mr. Mainka reported that they brainstormed on what this would look like. He stated that he was not looking for approval, but wanted to go through this concept and get the Board's feedback and bring it back for approval on October 6.

Mr. Mainka reported that the law requires the Board to do two (2) things; one, the Board needs to vote on the two (2) co-chairs and; two, the law requires that the Board approve the process. Mr. Mainka went through the process outlined in the draft document. He stated that an interest survey would be sent out in October to gather a variety of information on interested people including describing their role and why they are interested in serving on the SEAB Board and a background on their experience and knowledge that might assist the committee in their work. Mr. Mainka mentioned that they would have to be willing to attend approximately four (4) afternoon or evening meetings each school year.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Dr. Laura Carino, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, reported that they have been very busy in the Office of Human Resources. She stated that they held their first paraprofessional online job fair. Dr. Carino said that this was shared on social media earlier this week and that the majority of the slots were already taken for online screening. She mentioned that typically they have a hard time filling this position, so they are very excited about all the interest this has generated.

Dr. Carino reported that they have begun reaching out to the colleges and universities, so they can begin talking to their School of Education Departments to begin collaborative relationships and talk about recruiting high quality candidates who are very diverse. She stated that building those relationships is a priority for both Mr. Mainka and her. Dr. Carina said that they are looking forward to have great conversation with various organizations.

Dr. Carino reported that they are reviewing a lot of our policies and procedures and are going to be bringing some of that to the Board in October. She stated that these will be regarding the visitor and volunteer policies now that we have our new Raptor system, which is a visitor management system that was installed last year. Dr. Carino said that they are hopeful to get it up and running in the month of October.

Dr. Carino mentioned that they will be transitioning to a digital iChat form for all volunteers in school. She reported that instead of parents filling out paperwork, we will have an online Google form to make it easier for parent volunteers to volunteer in schools.

Mr. Mike Giromini, Assistant Superintendent of Academic Services, reported that Oakland Schools, our Intermediate School District, has refreshed their Teaching and Learning Council. He stated that people, in his roles in districts in Oakland County, meet monthly for the purpose of working together on common goals and improving teaching and learning across the county. Mr. Giromini said that it is a different way of doing things from what they have done in the past. He mentioned that it is a nice reboot and he is excited to learn together and contribute.

Mr. Giromini reported that on Tuesday they held their first Novi Instructional Leadership Team (NILT) meeting. He stated that the Oakland Community Health Network came and presented. Mr.

Giromini said that group works to connect families with low to now cost mental health resources and support. He mentioned that they make referral to them and the administrators were able to learn about the resources that this program offers. Mr. Giromini stated that in October they are going to come to a meeting with our counselors and social workers, so that we can take full advantage of what the program has to offer.

Mr. Giromini reported that yesterday we had a few volunteers from our Novi Rotary visit the early childhood center and read to the students. He stated that the beginning of the year and getting into the buildings, he knows the kids love the stories and we are appreciative of our volunteers' time and their support.

BOARD COMMUNICATION

Board members reported on the NEF pancake breakfast, the FONS donation, the MASA conference with David Arson and a Michigan State University 3-year student, Michigan statistics on Mental Health and guidance on staffing in schools, the OCSBA Meeting with Jason Russell the keynote speaker, TasteFest, and teachers leaving to go to other districts. Board members also reported on the fact that board members were not able to be in schools until this year, how we hired people seven to ten years ago is different than today for a number of reasons, retaining the teachers we have and make them feel appreciated, having a finance 101 workshop for families to help them understand, the field hockey game on Saturday at Novi High School, and field hockey beating Huron last week.

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

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

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

DONATIONS

Robotics

Donations totaling \$10,500 were donated to sponsor the Frog Force FIRST Robotics team. These generous donations were given by the following sponsors:

Name	Reason	Check #	Amount
NISSAN	Donation	141956848	\$ 5,000.00
FIRST IN MICHIGAN	Donation	7219	\$ 3,000.00
FIRST IN MICHIGAN	Donation	7218	\$ 1,500.00
CHANGER &DRESSER	Donation	21582	\$ 1,000.00

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

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

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Community Financial Credit Union/Friends of Novi Schools (FONS)

The Friends of Novi Schools, a new organization supporting mental health, safety, and well-being, is presenting donations to the Novi Community School District buildings as listed below. These generous donations, totaling \$ 12,700.00, will be utilized in buildings K through 12:

Name	Where	Amount per Building	Amount
Zen Room Supplies	K-6 Buildings	\$500.00 per school	\$ 3,000.00
Calming Caddie Supplies	K-6 Buildings	\$500.00 per school	\$ 3,000.00
Student Sensory Items	K-6 Buildings	\$500.00 per school	\$ 3,000.00
Mental Wellness Books	Administration	30 copies Connections Over Compliance Books	\$ 700.00
First Aid Kits	All K-12 buildings	15 Kits per building K-12	\$ 3,000.00

It was moved by Mrs. Hood 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, Mrs. Murphy, Mr. Mena, Mrs. Roney, Mr. Smith, Mr. Cook, and Mrs. Hood

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

CLOSED SESSION

The Board of Education will move into a closed session for the following reasons:

- 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(2)].
- A public body may meet in a closed session only for one or more purposes as specified in the Open Meetings Act. Tonight, the Board will move into a closed session to discuss District land [OMA Sect. 8(3)].

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

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

Nays: 0

By Roll Call Vote

MOTION CARRIED

The Board went into the closed session at 8:24 PM and returned at 9:12 PM.

ACTION ITEMS

Personnel Report

Dr. Laura Carino, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, presented the personnel report.

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

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

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Land Swap

The Novi Community School District, the City of Novi, Plante Moran Cresa representatives, and respective attorneys have met several times since December 2020 for the purpose of discussing a land swap between the District and the city. The proposal was presented to and discussed by the Board on November 18, 2021.

Tonight, Mr. Ben Mainka provided the history behind the land swap and Mr. Kevin Donnelly, of Plante Moran CRESA, presented and explained the various properties considered in the Land Swap.

It was moved by Mr. Mena and supported by Mrs. Roney that the Novi Community School District Board of Education approve the Property Exchange Agreement as presented tonight.

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

Nays: 0

By Roll Call Vote

MOTION CARRIED

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

Surplus Property

Under Board Policy 5004, Surplus Property - Equipment and Supplies, the Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations is authorized to dispose of obsolete instructional and other property by selling it to the highest bidder, by donation to appropriate parties, or by proper waste removal.

After a thorough review of musical instruments at the middle school, the attached list was compiled and a value of \$750.00 per instrument was determined.

This comes tonight as information and discussion and will come back before the Board for approval at the October 6, 2022 regular meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for October 6, 2022 at 7:00 p.m., at the Educational Services Building.

Bobbie Murphy, Secretary