



**Minutes of a Regular Board Meeting, March 20, 2025**  
**Novi Community School District**  
**Board of Education**

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A Regular Meeting of the Novi Community School District Board of Education was held Thursday, March 20, 2025 beginning at 6:01 PM, at the Educational Services Building.

Present: Dr. Ruskin, President; Mr. Cook, Vice-President; Mr. Michener, Secretary; Mrs. Roney, Treasurer; Mr. Mena, Trustee; Mrs. Beaudoin, Trustee; and Mrs. Kliebert, Trustee

Absent:

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Four students from Deerfield Elementary School Lead members of the audience and the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Mr. Cook, Board Vice-President stated that he would like to add Committee Reports to the Agenda. A motion was made by Mr. Cook and supported by Mr. Mena that the Novi Community School District Board of Education that approve the agenda as amended.

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

Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

**STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Cameron Lipscomb, Student Board Representative, reported the following topics:

- The Awkward Pause;
- Spring Sports;
- Student Council GloCo;
- March is a peaceful month.

**REPORTS TO THE BOARD**

**Wildcat Launch**

Administration introduced the Wildcat Launch Program for our younger learners to ensure that they had the support they needed to be successful in their learning process. Tonight, Laura Bidlack, the Director of Elementary Curriculum, along with Ally Gowaki, Heather Stewart, Barb Zimmerman, and Liz Allerton, updated the board on the Wildcat Launch Program.

**CELEBRATIONS**

**2025 Educators of the Year**

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

On Monday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, four (4) of our finest Educators were recognized for their dedication to the students of the Novi Community School District. This evening we present the 2025 Novi Educators of the Year for Board recognition.

- 🌱 Novi's 2025 Pre-K/Elementary Educator of the Year – Carly Musa
- 🌱 Novi's 2025 Grades 5 - 8 Educator of the Year – Kim Kozlowski
- 🌱 Novi's 2025 Ancillary Staff Educator of the Year – Andrea Tobis
- 🌱 Novi's 2024 Grades 9-12, Career Prep, Adult Ed. Educator of the Year – Peggy Bassett

It was moved by Mr. Cook and supported by Mrs. Beaudoin that the Novi Community School District Board of Education recognizes Carly Musa, Kim Kozlowski, Andrea Tobis, and Peggy Bassett as the 2025 Novi Educators of the Year and extend appreciation for their commitment and excellence and dedication to our students

#### Board Member Achievement

Mr. Mainka, Superintendent of Schools, was notified this week that one of our Board members, Trustee Mary Ann Roney, completed the Data Skills Specialty Certification through MASB. He recognized her for her continued work in that area and expressed his gratitude and extended his congratulations.

The Board took a brief break beginning at 6:31 PM and returned at 6:41 PM.

#### COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

There was one comment from that audience who expressed his appreciation of the community and the staff stating that everyone is phenomenal.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

Items included in the Consent Items are those which have previously been considered by the Board in committee or at a prior meeting, or of such a routine nature, that discussion is not required. Board members may request that any items be removed from Consent Items for further discussion, if additional information is needed or available.

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

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

Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### DONATIONS

The District is in receipt of a generous donation in the total amount of \$1,000.00 to be used for the Boys' Basketball Program.

It was moved by Mr. Cook and supported by Mrs. Roney that the Novi Community School Board of Education accept the generous donation in the total amount of \$1,000 as presented with great appreciation and thanks.

#### ACTION ITEMS

### Personnel Report A

Dr. Laura Carino, Assistant Superintendent of Talent Management and Development, presented the personnel changes for the Board's consideration.

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

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

Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

### INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

#### Proposed Athletic Handbook Discussion

On July 23, 2024, the Board approved the newly revised Student Handbook. It has been sometime since the Athletic Handbook has been updated, so tonight, Dr. Laura Carino, Assistant Superintendent of Talent Management and Development, will present the draft handbook to the Board for information and discussion.

#### Policy Items Discussion (Policies: 3118, 4113, 3304.02)

On March 12, 2025, the Governance and Policy Committee of the Whole met to review and discuss Thrun Law's policy updates and revisit verbiage from existing policies. These policies come tonight for Board information and discussion.

- 3118
- 3304.02
- 4113

#### New Textbook Discussion

On March 13, 2025, the Curriculum Committee of the Whole met to review a request by the Novi High School AP/IB Team for three (3) new textbooks. The College Board requires that the textbooks used must have been published within the past 10 years.

The textbooks they are looking at are:

1. The AP Environmental Science Textbook,
2. The IB Spanish Digital Textbook, and the
3. IB Sports, Exercise, and Health Science Digital Textbook
4. IB ToK (Theory of Knowledge)

These textbooks are brought this evening for information and discussion. They will come back for approval at the April 24, 2025 Regular Board Meeting.

#### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade House Furniture Discussion

Quotes were received from multiple contractors for the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade House furnishing Package. The attached quote identifies each category's associate costs, furniture manufacturer, and contract utilized. This furniture package is for Administration, Robotics, Adult Education, Special Education, and the Japanese School. Pricing was received from multiple vendors via cooperative pricing.

The initial budget for the project was \$2,000,000. PMR is recommending that the Board award the purchase of furniture through multiple vendors is the amount listed below:

• 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade House Furniture Recommendation	\$1,834,184.39
• Recommended Contingency 3%	<u>55, 025.53</u>
• Total Recommendation	<b>\$1,889,209.92</b>

This purchase will come out the 2019 Capital Projects Bond fund.

**TOTAL RECOMMENDATION AMOUNT: \$1,889,209.92**

This comes before the Board tonight for information and discussion. It will come back before the Board, at the April 24, 2025 Regular Meeting of the Board for approval and the recommendation will be that the Novi Community School District Board of Education awards the purchase of the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade House furniture as presented in the total amount of \$1,889,209.92 and further authorizes the Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations to expend the funds from the 2019 Bond Fund.

NHS Furniture Discussion

As part of the high school's most recent remodel, the teacher stations were going to be updated and refreshed. The allowed budget for 120 teacher stations is \$450,000.

Attached are sample pictures of teacher workstation furnishings. There will be more to come. This comes tonight for information and discussion and will come back to the Board at the April 24, 2025 Board Meeting.

Novi Meadows Robotics WPI Invitational

Lauren Sundquist, Novi Meadows Robotics Club Sponsor, is requesting that the Novi Meadows Robotics Team 38269 (Smiley Faces) travel to Worcester, Massachusetts to compete in the WPI Invitational. 26 Students will participate in this event. The cost per student is \$845.00 to cover the hotel and registration fees. These fees are covered by the upper elementary robotics.

It was moved by Mr. Michener and supported by Mr. Cook that the Novi Community School Board of Education approves the Novi Meadows Robotics Club Trip to the WPI Invitational, in Worcester, Massachusetts, from June 12<sup>th</sup> through June 15<sup>th</sup>.

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

Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Capital Projects Committee of the Whole

Mrs. Beaudoin, Board Trustee and Committee Chair, reported on: What goes into the Activity Center; the Current Pool and space usage; the new pool and the diving bay; how will this impact the performing art wing; bringing natural light; and parking.

Governance and Policy Committee of the Whole

Mr. Cook, Board Vice-President and Committee Chair, reported on: new policies; ESTA, Title IX, Memorial, attendance, and the wellness center policy.

#### Joint DEI/Curriculum Committee of the Whole

Dr. Ruskin, Board President and Committee Chair, reported on: District DEI Updates and multicultural nights; student survey submissions for the Paths We Take multicultural night; new AP/IB textbooks; iReady Report; Robotics Furniture; and Field Trip Support.

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Ben Mainka, Superintendent of Schools, reported on the following items:

- Spring Break is right around the corner;
- MS Musical, *Emma*, a jukebox musical;
- Awkward Pause; and
- Baseball/softball fields passed the preliminary inspections for Monday's practice.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mr. Mainka reported for Ms. Rebecca Scicluna, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations, on the following items:

- Food Services' Novi Chopped winners;
- looking forward to practice on Monday; and
- meeting with EnviroClean to discuss their staffing levels;

Dr. Carino, Assistant Superintendent of Talent Management and Development, reported on the following items:

- Successful first negotiation session with Teamsters, maintenance group;
- Hopeful for a tentative agreement in April;
- Working hard planning on the Wellness Center and intentionally thinking about every feature;
- Working on policy language; and
- Excited about the hospitality house kick-off;
- Starting to look at staffing for 2025-2026 school year and the potential for hiring staff;
- Having the first Novi Job Fair;
- working with our mentor coordinators to enhance the mentor program in order to retain and support staff;
- Focusing on initiatives to support staff wellness;
- Partnering with Novi Public Library and Starbucks café to provide discounts for staff; and
- wishing everyone a wonderful spring break.

Mr. Giromini, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, reported on the following items;

- March is Reading Month and an opportunity to celebrate the joy of learning;
- March 10<sup>th</sup> marked the last day of PD for the school year; and
- Expressed his gratitude to the Emily Pohlonski, Paige Frankie, and the Teaching and Learning Department; and
- Novi attending the MACUL, founded in 1976, Conference in Detroit, collaborating with teams from around the country on AI.

## BOARD COMMUNICATION

Mr. Mena, Board Trustee, reported on the following items:

- attending the Michigan Interclass Athletic Administration Association Conference, In Traverse City;
- Implementing something new for track and field;
- Finding new ways to use our Video Boards with live cameras along the track; and
- Baseball's first game is on Tuesday and Daktronics is wiring up both boards;

Mrs. Beaudoin, Board Trustee, reported on the following items:

- Wishing families a Happy Ramadan;
- Thanked staff for supporting students who are fasting this month;
- Applauded NEF for their successful Go for the Green Event;
- Raffling off the Superintendent Ice Cream Party where he will scoop ice cream;
- Congratulated Mr. Mainka for the amazing job he did on the State of the District Event; and
- the next Community Town Hall is April 14<sup>th</sup>, at Novi Meadows;

Mrs. Kliebert, Board Trustee, reported on the following items:

- Interschool Council Update;
- Revamping and Improving the structure.

Mrs. Roney, Board Treasurer, reported on the following items:

- The joint high school/middle school pre-festival choir concert;
- the middle school swim and dive finished undefeated, beating out Northville and Brighton;
- She thanked the coaches;
- Mason Oluia, the Oakland County Wrestling Champion;
- Celebrated Joseph Green, Assistant Auditorium Manager and Drama Club Sponsor, for *Emma*;
- judging the Novi Chopped cooking event and looking forward to the next one; and
- Reminded the Board that April 2<sup>nd</sup> is the OCSBA dinner meeting and the Spring Institute is coming up;

Mr. Cook, Board Vice-President, reported on the following items:

- Judging the Novi Chopped Event was difficult to select a winner, everything was awesome;
- Kim Sinclair and her team brought in executive chefs from Chartwells to judge and sue chefs to help the kids;
- All Novi Choirs received a number 1 rating at the festival;
- Choral received a perfect score for sight reading and performance;
- Awkward Pause has two plays and two performances;
- The kids doing a wonderful job at performing and the majority of the pieces were written by students;
- Special Ed planning an Inclusion Day towards the beginning of May – details to come;

Dr. Ruskin, Board President, reported the following items:

- All Board Members were invited to be judges in the Novi Chopped Event;

- The food critic from the Detroit News was a judge, along with Nicole Carter and Rebecca Scicluna;
- Envisioning in 5 years that Novi Shopped will be the hottest event;
- publically acknowledging Kim Sinclair for this innovative idea and being an integral part of our school district; and
- the very talented students we have;

#### 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 Mr. Cook, Dr. Ruskin, Mr. Mena, Mrs. Roney, Mrs. Beaudoin, Mr. Michener, and Mrs. Kliebert

Nays: 0

#### **MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for April 24, 2025 at 6:00 p.m., at the Educational Services Building.

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Jason Michener,  
Board of Education Secretary