



Minutes of a Regular Board Meeting, November 14, 2024
Novi Community School District
Board of Education

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Novi Community School District was held Thursday, November 14, 2024 beginning at 6:01 PM.

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

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. Beaudoin and supported by Mr. Michener that the Novi Community School District Board of Education that approve the agenda as presented.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Cameron Lipscomb, student board representative, reported that a lot has happened in the last month. He stated that this is the first time that we have had a Fall Break and it was a big success with the students. Cameron said that many teams had try-outs for the winter sports this week and it went really well. He mentioned that hockey had their first game last night and they beat Bloomfield Hills.

Cameron reported that the girls swim and dive were diving this week and are actually swimming right now. He stated that girls swim had their conferences last week, which he attended during advisory. Cameron said that there were able to beat some of the teams that they had lost to during the Dual meets at the conferences. He mentioned that they had signing day yesterday and five (5) students signed for sports: soccer, volleyball, field hockey, baseball, and rowing.

Cameron reported that we had 14 soloists perform at the festival and they received D1 ratings for Novi. He stated that the eighth graders all sent on the Washington DC trip last weekend and it went very smoothly. Cameron said that he spoke with a few of them and they said it was very cool and they learned a lot about our history.

REPORTS TO THE BOARD

Fall 2024 iReady and MTSS Process Model Report

Mike Giromini, the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, presented the Fall 2024 i-Ready Report and the MTSS Process Model to the Board of Education.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

There were two (2) comments from that audience regarding the NEF grants and teaching students.

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. Michener and supported by Mrs. Roney 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, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Beaudoin, and Mr. Michener

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

DONATIONS

Novi Athletic Boosters Donation

The District Athletic Department is in receipt of a generous anonymous donation in the total amount of \$5,500.00. The anonymous donor is asking that these fund be used for the Novi High School Wrestling Team. It was moved by Mrs. Roney and supported by Dr. Ruskin that the Novi Community School Board of Education accept the generous donation in the total amount of \$5,500.00 as presented, with appreciation and thanks.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Novi Educational Foundation Grant Donations

The Novi Educational Foundation Grant Committee met to review the teacher grants that had been submitted. Tonight, they are presenting the grants that they would like to award in the total amount of \$21,463.00. It was moved by Mr. Michener and supported by Mr. Beaudoin that the Novi Community School Board of Education accept the generous donation in the total amount of \$21,463.00 as presented, with appreciation and thanks.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

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. Roney and supported by Dr. Ruskin 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, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Beaudoin, and Mr. Michener

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Emergency Virtual Days Discussion

At the February 1, 2024 Regular Meeting of the Board, the administration had presented and the Board approved the Emergency Virtual Days Plan. This was one of the many revisions to the manual (21f)

that included a provision for districts to hold virtual learning days in case of an emergency situation. It gives districts the ability to hold classes virtually and have them count as a day of instruction, rather than having to make up that day in June.

The new regulations now require that districts present the plan to the Board of Education for approval every year.

Tonight, the administration will present the plan to the Board for approval. There have been no changes or revisions to the originally approved plan.

It was moved by Mr. Michener and supported by Mr. Mena that the Novi Community School District Board of Education approves the proposed OCSBA bylaws amendment(s) as presented.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Maintenance Equipment Purchase Discussion

The Novi Schools Maintenance Department is in need of few items that are critical to maintaining the district's operations. The maintenance department would like to request that the items listed below be purchased from 2019 Bond funds. Attached are the proposals and below is a breakdown of the rationale for these items for your consideration.

1. Custodial Equipment

The District is in need of several pieces (11) of custodial equipment. Some are to replace aged and broken equipment, some are additional to improve the quality of cleaning, and some are to supplement the different floor types at the new Meadows building. Attached is a proposal from Nichols for \$104,120.98. This equipment is cooperatively bid through Omnia #202329-01.

2. Genie Scissor Lift

The District is also in need of a scissor lift that can reach higher than our current 19' and 26' foot platforms. The maintenance department is proposing that the district purchase a GS-3232. This will lift a person's feet 32' off the ground, and it is 32" wide, so it can easily fit through doorways. Our personnel struggles to service the high areas of our district, such as the performance gyms, field house, middle school media center & cafeteria, and now the components located in the ceiling at the new Meadows building.

A search was conducted for a cooperative bid on this type of equipment and we cannot find a unit under cooperative bid that can reach this height while maintaining this narrow width. We did get three prices and the best price is with Bell Forklift for a cost of \$31,096.

The total cost for all items listed above is **\$135,216.98**

It was moved by Mrs. Roney and supported by Dr. Ruskin that the Novi Community School District Board of Education approve the Novi Wellness Center Plan as presented.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

High School Chiller Replacement Discussion

The high school chiller is 21 years old and has exceeded its’ 20-year useful life expectancy. One of the two circuits has failed and the working circuit is experiencing intermittent problems. Replacement of the unit is the best option. In order to have the unit delivered and installed the week of March 24th, it would have to be ordered by December 16th.

The recommendation is to approve purchase and installation of the new chiller that will be procured via consortium and funded from bond and sinking funds, in the total amount of \$571,899.80.

- Consortium Pricing for New York Chiller \$ 490,480.00
- Tax for Chiller Purchase \$ 29,428.80
- Recommended 10% Contingency \$ 51,991.00
- Total Funded from Bond and Sinking Funds **\$ 571,899.80**

This recommendation came for information and discussion but it was decided to make a motion and approve the purchase. A motion was made by Mr. Mena and supported by Dr. Ruskin to purchase the chiller. After a small discussion, the motion was retracted and a new motion was put forth.

It was moved by Mr. Mena and supported by Mrs. Beaudoin that the Novi Community School District Board of Education approve the purchase and installation of the new chiller in the total amount of \$571,899.80 and to be funded from the sinking funds and 2019 Bond.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Video Board Proposals Discussion

After a thorough review and discussion, it was decided that it would be in the best interest of the district to install video boards in lieu of the standard scoreboards. Plante Moran Realpointe (PMR) is requesting credit pricing from McCarthy and Smith for the original scoreboards and request consortium pricing from Daktronics for the new video boards. These boards would be installed at the baseball and softball area and the increase will be funded from the originally approved price contingency.

- Original Scoreboard(s) Credit (\$142,500.00)
- Consortium Pricing for New Video Board(s) \$ 273,360.00
- Tax for New Video Boards \$ 16,401.60
- Installation Costs for New Video Boards \$ 59,000.00
- Total Increase Funded from Project Contingency **\$ 206,261.60**

This recommendation came for information and discussion but it was decided to make a motion and approve the purchase.

It was moved by Mr. Mena and supported by Mrs. Roney that the Novi Community School District Board of Education approve the purchase and installation of the new video boards in the total amount of \$206,261.00 and to be funded from the 2019 Bond and project contingency funds.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Master Planning AdHoc Committee

Paul Cook, Committee Chair and Board President, reported that they had a brief meeting and talked about putting out educational goals in a kind of bucket and what we would do once we split those up. He stated that they looked at the district's facility needs and if there was anything in particular that is needed to meet the goals of the Master Planning Committee. Mr. Cook said that this would be for the next Bon and they were looking 10 years out. He mentioned that they are trying to get their arms around a long-term direction for where we want the district to go and look like.

Finance Committee

Mary Ann Roney, Committee Chair and Board Treasurer, reported that the audits had a presentation for them and they were excited to hear their audit report because there were no findings. She expressed her gratitude to Steve LeBlanc and the entire finance team for doing such a great job.

Jessica Rolfe, auditor from Yeo & Yeo, shared a summary of her Finance Committee presentation with the Board and public.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Ben Mainka, Superintendent of Schools, reported that not only are our students, but our staff as well absolutely loving the fall break this year. He stated that it was a big hit, an opportunity that they had discussed about having staff and students spend a little time apart after the first long stretch of the year. Mr. Mainka said that a number of our buildings are in the middle of conference season.

Mr. Mainka reported that he has been conducting his listening tours in the buildings and has his student superintendent advisory team meetings. He stated that those have been really enlightening and he will prepare a summary for the Board once he has concluded with the listening tours.

Mr. Mainka said they had their town hall meeting on Monday evening, in the Meadows cafeteria. He mentioned that it was an interesting way to kick off what the future possibilities for our facilities will look like at our high school. Mr. Mainka reported that we had a chance to hear from some of our students, on student council, who participated in the discussion. He stated that there will be a follow-up town hall on December 2, at the same location and time. Mr. Mainka encouraged the community to come out and provide their input on what might be ideal educational facilities moving forward. He mentioned that we have Thanksgiving Break coming up in a couple of short weeks. Mr. Mainka expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the Board for their support and energy that they bring to the district.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mr. Giromini, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, reported that there is one interesting little addendum to his presentation. He stated that the Teaching and Learning Team is sitting in at all of these data and MTSS meetings, so that they can monitor the process and get feedback to make it better. Mr. Giromini said that they really appreciate all of the directors involving themselves because it spans every person in their department.

Mr. Giromini reported that next week they have guided walkthroughs for the new literacy knowledge building program, Wit and Wisdom. He explained that this is the curriculum company and they actually provide support to help our coaches and helps our administrators develop capacity to better support our teachers with the implementation. Mr. Giromini stated that they are going to come in and have a mini training or briefing and then there will be three (3) days of walkthroughs, visiting classrooms, to check out what is going on and get a sense of how our implementation is going. He said that is what they are really interested in. Mr. Giromini mentioned he is really excited about that and come cabinet members will be participating, along with the principals and coaches.

Ms. Rebecca Scicluna, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations, reported that last month she spoke about the EV Vans, the Transit Vans. She stated that two (2) of the three (3) had been delivered. Ms. Scicluna said that they are currently getting proposal to have the vans outfitted with the Novi Logo, basically an advertisement on wheels. She mentioned that they will be very efficient for us to drive small groups of kids around the district, to the different facilities and it should offset some of our transportation costs. Ms. Scicluna said they are looking forward to getting them wrapped up and on the ground, moving with kids inside of them.

Ms. Scicluna reported that in the spirit of continuous improvement, following a stellar financial audit, the team continues to work on the system transition to SMART. She stated that the district moved to SMART over the summer, but they currently still operating payroll and benefits out of the old system, Business Plus. Ms. Scicluna said that the payroll team has been working very hard to get everything on track for the transition that is scheduled for January 1st. She expressed her gratitude to the team for all of their hard work.

Ms. Scicluna reported that she has been touring with Kim Sinclair, our Director of Food Service. She stated that they have excess funds in the Food Balance account and these funds have to be utilized in the wisest manner that suits the needs of our students, not only today, but in the future. Ms. Scicluna said the best way to do that is to go into the schools during lunchtime to see how their lunch is functioning and where the current needs are. She mentioned that yesterday she had the opportunity to visit the middle school and Kim gave her a tour of the facility. Ms. Scicluna stated that possibly next week, they will do the high school, so more to come.

Dr. Carino, Assistant Superintendent of Talent Management and Development, reported that they continue to hire and fill vacancies. She stated that they are close to being fully staffed. She stated that she attended the District Visions Meeting on Monday evening. Dr. Carino praised our high school students who helped to facilitate that meeting. She said that they were so incredibly impressive and were able to articulate their thoughts.

Dr. Carino reported that it is National School Psychologist week, so she recognized our school psychologists for the difference that they make with our students and staff. She stated that they are a tremendous asset and she is grateful for them and she publicly recognized them.

Dr. Carino said that the fall break was appreciated by students and staff. She mentioned that in August, when the weather was beautiful, people did not want to come back, so the timing of this break came at a great time to give people the strength to push forward to Thanksgiving. Dr. Carino wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

BOARD COMMUNICATION

Mr. Jason Michener, Board Trustee, reported that there have been a lot of events going on. He highlighted Meadows PTO movie night and how they utilized the soccer field video board. Mr. Michener said there was beautiful weather and the students enjoyed it. He mentioned that he envisions the softball and baseball field being more multifunctional with their video boards. Mr. Michener reported that the PTO had Red Ribbon Week and bingo night in the cafeteria space. He stated that the attendance was up from previous years. Mr. Michener, said that the Finance Committee also utilized the common area space for their meeting.

Mr. Michener reported that we are making wise investments in our district resources that have multi-uses for our community. He stated that Novi Parks and Rec uses our elementary and Middle schools' gyms quite often for practices and games. Mr. Michener said that the meadows gym is a lot like the middle school where there is much more room on the sidelines. He mentioned that it is a much better experience for both players, coaches, parents, and the staff.

Mr. Michener put a plug in for the multicultural nights that are coming up at Parkview and Village Oaks. He encouraged everyone to attend and enjoy different culture foods.

Mr. Mena, Board Secretary, reported that he attended the Athletic Booster Meeting last night. He stated that it is always nice listening to our Athletic Director give a report of what has been happening during the Fall Season. Mr. Mena said that a couple of takeaways were the field hockey has been a non-MHSAA sport forever and, in the 2025-2026 school year, MHSAA is adding a new spring sport and that is boys' volleyball. He mentioned that depending on what happens this weekend in division on, we will most likely be hosting the state semi-final game here in Novi as we have for the past five (5) or six (6) years.

Mr. Mena reported that he received an invitation from the Athletic Director at Catholic Central, Aaron Babits. He expressed his gratitude for the invitation to come up and check out their game day operations, in their Press Box and video board. Mr. Mena stated that it was very impressive. He said that he shared some of the things that we do at Novi as well as learn quite a bit and some of the cool things they are doing.

Mrs. Beaudoin, Board Trustee, reported that she attended the meeting at Meadows about the planning long term for the district. She stated that it was great hearing from Young Zhao, whose background is an educational innovator and a longtime researcher. Mrs. Beaudoin said that he had many thought-provoking ideas and one of the things that struck her was that in our society, we focus on trying to have our students be really good at everything. She mentioned that his idea was that maybe we do not need to be an expert at everything we touch.

Mrs. Beaudoin reported that looking at it from a lens of how do we find what we are good at, what we love, what we are passionate about, then really hone those skills. She stated that if you are going to be an artist, your algebra is not going to be your main focus, but we still need to meet our graduation requirement and focus on those too. Mrs. Beaudoin said that if you are going to be an engineer, a more technical writing course may be more important. She mentioned that her is going to be back on December 2nd and she encouraged the community to attend.

Mrs. Beaudoin wanted to communicate that everyone at this table is committed to the belonging and safety of all our students, families, and they continue to uphold those expectations.

Mrs. Roney, Board Treasurer, reported that on Veterans Day Novi Rotary had a celebration at the Novi Civic Center and they helped to serve. She stated that she was surprised to see at the table, on top of every placemat, a little thank you American Hero. She stated that she believes it was from our fourth graders at Deerfield and the note said, "I appreciate your bravery and courage, so thank you for serving our country and protecting our community. I wish you a happy Veterans Day." and they signed their names. Mrs. Roney said it was wonderful that our schools took part in this. She mentioned that the Novi Singers participated in the ceremony. Mrs. Roney stated that they were wonderful.

Dr. Ruskin, Board Vice-President reported that she attended the educational facilities planning meeting and thought that it was quite thought provoking. She stated that she has been pondering all the conversations that Yong Zhao brought to the table. Dr. Ruskin said that she was super impressed with our student council members and how they went through that project. She mentioned that they did a better job that we did at Master Planning. Dr. Ruskin reported that they took the task in have and opened up their mind a lot bigger that we adults sometimes do.

Mr. Cook reported that last night he attended the awkward pause and it is an interesting group that supports each other without judgement or ridicule. He stated that they are all very supportive, spend a lot of time together, are from various backgrounds, and their mission is to be thought provoking enough to just take that awkward pause. Mr. Cook said the kids did a wonderful job.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Mena 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, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Beaudoin, and Mr. Michener

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for December 19, 2024 at 6:00 p.m., at the Educational Services Building.

Willy Mena, Board of Education Secretary