

TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
August 24, 2009
New Trier High School - Northfield Campus
Northfield Campus Cornog Auditorium & Multipurpose Room C234,
7 Happ Road, Northfield, Illinois
Closed Session – 6:30 p.m. Open Session – 7:30 p.m.

A **Regular Meeting** of the Board of Education of New Trier Township High School District 203, Cook County, Illinois was held at New Trier High School – Northfield Campus, 7 Happ Road, Northfield, Illinois, Room C234, on Monday, August 24, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

Members Present

Mr. James B. Koch, President
Ms. Wendy Serrino, Vice President
Mr. Alan R. Dolinko
Ms. Carol Ducommun
Mr. F. Malcolm Harris
Mr. Robert Merrick
Mr. John Myefski

Administrators Present at Table

Dr. Linda L. Yonke, Superintendent
Mr. Donald R. Goers, Associate Superintendent
Dr. Timothy Dohrer, Principal –
Winnetka Campus
Ms. Jan Borja, Principal – Northfield Campus
Mr. Timothy Hayes – Assistant Superintendent for
Student Services
Mr. Paul Sally – Assistant Superintendent for
Curriculum and Instruction

Also Present

Mr. John Neiweem, Director of Physical Plant Services; Mr. Paul Waechtler, Assistant Principal Northfield Campus; Mr. Chris Johnson, Director of Technology; Ms. Elizabeth Blodgett, NTESPA Co-President; Mr. Doug Springer; Mr. George Sanders, Director of Human Resources; Ms. Laurel Burman, Director of Special Education; Ms. Athena Petmezas, Director of Student Life; Ms. Robyn Ward, Science Coordinator; Mr. Gerry Munley, Science Department Chair; Mr. Steve Viktora, Mathematics Department Chair; Mr. David Ladd, Music Department Chair; Mr. Stephen Murphy, Art Department Chair; Tiffany Meyers, Social Work Department Coordinator; Mr. Jason Boumstein, Practical Arts Department Chair; Ms. Jennifer McDonough, Family & Consumer Science/Business Education Coordinator; Ms. Katherine Schindler, Assistant Principal for Student Services; Dr. Debbie Stacey, Director of Academic Services; Ms. Michele Slav, Director of Business Services; Mr. Jay Rosenberg, Department of English and NTEA President; Mr. Matt Ottaviano, Assistant Principal, Winnetka Campus; Mr. Jim Conroy, Department Chair Post High School Counseling; Mr. Jeremy Boscaccy, Department of Technology; Ms. Katie Okon, Pioneer Press and members of the Community.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Koch called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. and asked for a motion to call the meeting to Open Session. Mr. Merrick moved and Ms. Ducommun; seconded that the Board move from Closed Session to Open Session.

I. Minutes

Mr. Koch requested a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Myefski moved and Mr. Merrick seconded the motion that the Board approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 27, 2009 (open session and closed session), the Special Meeting of July 29, 2009 (open session) and the Special Meeting of August 11, 2009 (open session). Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Mr. Dolinko, Ms. Ducommun, Mr. Harris, Mr. Merrick, Mr. Myefski, Ms. Serrino, Mr. Koch

NAY: None

The motions passed unanimously.

II. Communications

Mr. Koch invited members of the community to speak before the Board. Mr. Gary Martin came forward to express his concerns about the high cost of textbooks. Dr. Yonke and Mr. Sally responded that the administration has discussed this issue as recently as last week, acknowledging it to be a complicated matter. The book costs are weighed when adopting new textbooks and when discussing the benefits of new editions.

There are online purchasing options as well as used books. Board discussion followed over the practice of purchasing books versus book rental. Mr. Koch indicated further investigation into this problem would occur.

(Agenda Item VI. A. Personnel Report was presented at this time.)

III. Special Orders of Business

A. Report from Campus Principals and Assistant Superintendents

- Reports on Summer Work

Dr. Timothy Dohrer followed the new teacher introductions with a report of the orientation program structured for them over three days before the start of school. This extensive program includes various speakers and activities to welcome and assist them as they begin their new roles at New Trier.

Ms. Borja extended a thank you to Dr. Debbie Stacy and Ms. Meg Beeler for organizing the New Teacher Orientation. The Leadership Workshop Day was held before the start of school to welcome back and explore leadership for the coming year. Ms. Borja reported on the many activities of the first day of school at the Northfield Campus. Over one thousand freshmen arrived to run through their class schedules with the assistance of teachers, advisers and senior helpers and to attend the Spirit Assembly.

Dr. Dohrer told of the similar welcome the sophomores received at the Winnetka Campus.

Mr. Paul Sally reported on the wide range of summer grant work. Over 150 teachers were involved in approximately 86 grants that covered areas of integration, vertical articulation, common assessments, new course proposals, and student research and study skill development.

Mr. Timothy Hayes highlighted the activities and work of the different areas of student assistance, Strategic Planning, student services, and extracurricular student activities. Within student assistance, summer work focused on behavior intervention plans for students with disabilities, youth risk behavior data and a student/adult mentoring program. In the area of Strategic Planning initiatives, goals were developed for Service Learning, Diversity, and ECGC. In the area of Student Services, the Adviser Program addressed the planning for digital safety and literacy program for the adviser rooms. In addition, the Social Work Department has moved to an online referral system as has the Health Services Department, and Health Services has been preparing for the upcoming flu season due to the reports of the H1N1 virus. The Performing Arts Department now has online ticketing for shows and the Athletic Department has published a new Quick Facts Guide of information for those interested in interscholastic sports. Mr. Hayes also noted that our dance team was honored by the Universal Dance Association for their exceptional performances, earning them an opportunity to perform at the half time show of the Capital One Bowl. Senior student Brin Rustin and junior Rachel DeSimone were selected for the All American team and invited to Rome for the New Year's Day parade.

Mr. Sally and Mr. Hayes explained the summer work grant process in response to Board members' questions. Mr. Koch commended students for their leadership initiative in aiding the homeless that was recently mentioned in the press. Dr. Dohrer added that our athletic teams are increasingly performing service projects and initiatives during the course of the season.

B. Technology Report

Mr. Chris Johnson shared with the Board the projects that the Technology Department worked on over the summer months along with scheduled maintenance. These included smartboard training, data warehousing, and software additions to encourage cutbacks in the amount of printing. Future planning in the department will include upgrades in the Finance and Human Resources systems to support new teachers. Board discussion followed with Mr. Johnson, Dr. Yonke, Mr. Sally, Mr. Hayes and Dr. Dohrer responding about the different areas of data analysis, technology competencies, next steps with the Strategic Plan, smart boards, paper consumption and participation data.

C. Facilities Update

- Winnetka and Northfield

Dr. Yonke introduced Mr. Mark Jolicoeur from Perkins + Will to present an update of Winnetka schematic designs, planning at the Northfield campus and a timeline for the Board. Mr. Jolicoeur reviewed the Northfield conceptual Plans and changes for each of the buildings on campus and the Budget Schedule reflecting pricing from Pepper Construction. Mr. Jolicoeur then went through the details of the schematic design for the Winnetka campus. The schematic design

work is 65% complete. A pricing package will be sent to Pepper Construction by the end of September. Review of the Construction cost and completion of design intent will occur in October. The final budget and estimating is scheduled for early November with the final recommended budget and vote for referendum (if chosen) in November. The filing of the referendum question with the county must occur by November 27th. Mr. Jolicoeur reviewed the items to be delivered to the Board by November and highlighted areas of the site plan. Board discussion followed regarding benefits of presentation models versus three dimensional computer animated visual renderings. Further discussion and study will occur about the best possible way to present the project and referendum information to the public with ease of accessibility.

D. Reimbursement Resolution

Mr. Don Goers reviewed the Reimbursement Resolution which will allow the District to be reimbursed for expenses incurred relating to the schematic design for the Winnetka campus facilities project and the renovations to the Northfield campus, including the 60 days prior to the passage of the resolution, from the proceeds of an obligation to be issued by the District.

Mr. Goers responded to Board members questions stating that the resolution is not a commitment to a referendum, but gives the District the flexibility to use bond funds to reimburse current expenditures. The resolution is applicable for two years upon passage. Mr. Merrick moved and Ms. Ducommun seconded the motion that the Board approve the Resolution expressing official intent regarding certain capital expenditures to be reimbursed from proceeds of an obligation to be issued by Township High School District Number 203, Cook County, Illinois. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Mr. Harris, Mr. Merrick, Mr. Myefski, Ms. Serrino, Mr. Dolinko, Ms Ducommun, Mr. Koch

NAY: None

The motions passed unanimously.

IV. Routine/Recurrent Items (consent agenda)

- Bill List for the Period, July 1 – 31, 2009

Mr. Goers presented the Bill List for the period July 1-31, 2009, which was the first for this fiscal year. He also highlighted the more significant expenditures in detail. Mr. Goers responded to Board members' questions and noted the added breakdown of the Project Status Report. Mr. Harris moved and Mr. Dolinko seconded the motion that the Board approve the Bill List for the period July 1-31, 2009. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Mr. Merrick, Mr. Myefski, Ms. Serrino, Mr. Dolinko, Ms. Ducommun, Mr. Harris, Mr. Koch

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

V. Board Member Reports

Mr. Harris reported on the meeting of the New Trier Education Foundation of August 12. He noted that the Foundations' major fundraiser "Pitch In!" Golf Outing will be on September 14 at Westmoreland Country Club. All were invited to come and support the benefit event for New Trier.

VI. Administrative Items (presented earlier in the meeting)

A. Personnel Report

Dr. Yonke introduced Mr. George Sanders, Director of Human Resources, who invited department chairs to introduce their new faculty members. Mr. Stephen Murphy (Art Department), Ms. Jen McDonough (Family & Consumer Science Coordinator), Mr. Jay Rosenberg for Mr. John Cadwell (English Department), Mr. Steve Viktora (Math Department), Mr. David Ladd (Music Department), Mr. Jim Conway (Post High School Counseling Department), Mr. Jason Boumstein (Practical Arts Department), Mr. Gerry Munley and Ms. Robyn Ward (Science Department), Ms. Tiffany Myers (Social Work Department), Ms. Laurel Burman (Special Education) and Mr. George Sanders for Linda Oddo (Speech & Theatre Department) presented fifteen new teachers and one new department chair to the Board and extended a warm welcome. Mr. Koch asked for a motion to approve the Personnel Report. Ms. Serrino moved that the Board approve the Personnel Report as presented. Mr. Dolinko seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Ms. Ducommun, Mr. Harris, Mr. Merrick, Mr. Myefski, Ms. Serrino, Mr. Dolinko, Mr. Koch

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Business Reports

- *Financial Reports for July 2009*

Mr. Goers reviewed the first financial report for July 2009. More detailed quarterly reports will be provided in the future.

VIII. Board of Education

- **Calendar of Events**

Dr. Yonke also noted the Golf Outing on September 14th. There will be a Special Financial Meeting for the Board, a budget workshop on August 31 at 6:00 p.m. in Room C234.

- **Board Members' Requests for Information and Staff Research and Suggested Agenda Items**

Dr. Yonke reiterated the earlier request by Mr. Myefski regarding textbook purchasing, to further examine the history and costs to students and families. Ms. Serrino requested a future agenda item regarding a look at the impact of eliminating level 5 and its effect on course enrollments. Ms. Serrino also requested a report from Post High School Counseling regarding GPA reporting to colleges and any needed recalibration for Naviance/Family Connection.

IX. Communications – Citizens' Comments

There was no one wishing to comment.

Adjournment

Mr. Harris moved and Mr. Myefski seconded the motion that the meeting be adjourned.

Mr. Koch adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

James B. Koch, President