

**TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**December 14, 2009**  
**New Trier High School - Northfield Campus**  
**7 Happ Road, Northfield, Illinois**  
**Cornog Auditorium & Multipurpose Room C-234**  
**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, December 14, 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  
Ms. Jan Borja, Principal – Northfield Campus  
Dr. Timothy Dohrer, Principal – Winnetka 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. Chris Johnson, Director of Technology; Mr. Doug Springer; Ms. Laurel Burman, Director of Special Education; Ms. Athena Petmezas, Director of Student Life; Ms. Michele Slav, Director of Business Services; Mr. Jay Rosenberg, Department of English and NTEA President; Mr. Matt Ottaviano, Assistant Principal, Winnetka Campus; Mr. Paul Waechtler, Assistant Principal, Northfield Campus; Ms. Nicole Dizon, Director of Communications; Katherine Schindler, Assistant Principal for Student Services, Winnetka Campus; Ms. Maureen Magee, Co-President NTESP; Dr. Debra Stacey, Director of Academic Services; Mr. Peter Tragos, Department of Social Studies; Ms. Debbie Johnson, Social Studies Department Chair; Mr. Steve Viktora, Mathematics Department Chair; Ms. Jenny Wexler, Department of Mathematics; Mr. Dave Conway, Physical Plant Services, Northfield; Mr. Chris Hale, Pepper Construction Co.; Mr. Kerry Hall, Department of Social Studies; Mr. Angel Villaluz, Department of Technology; Mr. Tom Garrity, Audio Visual/Multimedia Manager; Mr. Herbert Sorock; Ms. Onnie Scheyer; Mr. Robert Soare; Ms. Katie Okon, *Pioneer Press*; and members of the Community.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Koch called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and asked for a motion to call the meeting to Open Session. Mr. Harris moved and Mr. Merrick seconded the motion that the Board move from Closed Session to Open Session. Upon a voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

**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 November 16, 2009 (open session) and the Special Meeting of December 2, 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 the public to comment at this time. Kerry Hall, Debbie Johnson, and Robert Soare shared their thoughts in support of the Referendum Resolution and the Facilities Project Proposal. Mr. Sorock noted a recent court ruling regarding a school district's role in providing referendum information. Mr. Koch thanked all the Community members for their statements and comments.

**III. Special Orders of Business**

**A. Report from Campus Principals and Assistant Superintendents**

Ms. Borja, principal at the Northfield Campus reported on the various activities occurring which included the freshman play *Babes in Arms*, the winter play, *the Philadelphia Story* and the Winter Festival Music Concert.

Dr. Tim Dohrer, Principal at the Winnetka Campus reported on the Trevian Basketball win at Northwestern’s Welsh Ryan Arena against Evanston Township. Dr. Dohrer also noted the well attended senior class fundraiser in the Gaffney Auditorium with Tom Delucca on Saturday, December 12.

Ms. Borja previewed the Names Program events taking place Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. This program is in partnership with the Anti-Defamation League where students address issues of stereo-typing, bullying and harassment.

Dr. Debbie Stacey introduced the Australian exchange students from Pittwater High School who are ending their three-month stay here. Students Sophie Peet, Josie Waller, Aaron Bruce and Vincent Langen are part of the Mona Vale/Wilmette Sister Cities student exchange program. New Trier students will do the reverse exchange this summer. Dr. Stacey noted 61 band members from Pittwater High are also here visiting and performing in the area during their two-week tour.

*(Agenda Item III.C. Public Hearing 2009 Tax Levy was presented at this time)*

*(Agenda Item III. D. Textbook Report was presented at this time)*

**B. Winnetka Campus Facilities Project: Tours & Meetings**

Dr. Yonke reviewed the report by Communications Director, Nicole Dizon which summarized the numerous tours and meetings scheduled to inform the public about the Winnetka Campus Facilities Project. Dr. Yonke noted morning and evening tours are planned as well as three Saturday Open Houses in January.

**C. Public Hearing 2009 Tax Levy**

Mr. Goers reviewed the 2009 Tax Levy, which was based on estimates discussed and approved by the Board at the October 19, 2009 Regular Meeting. The recommended final Levy is \$82,900,000 for the Year 2009, excluding the Debt Service (Bond and Interest) Fund Levy. This figure is expected to decrease by \$750,000 due to the tax cap. The reduced levy of \$82,150,000 represents a 0.04% increase over the 2008 Tax Extension. The Bond and Interest Debt Service is estimated at \$3,240,000. Mr. Goers also noted additional resolutions abating a portion of the Bond and Interest Fund and a resolution to abate all but 2% of the standard supplement extension for the purposes of loss and collection of taxes. Mr. Goers reviewed the figures and detailed the distribution of the 2009 tax levy funds and recommended the Board approve the three resolutions. Mr. Koch requested comments from the Board and Mr. Goers responded to Board members questions regarding tax collections and allocations by the County. There were no public comments put forth and Mr. Koch requested a motion on the resolutions.

Mr. Myefski moved and Mr. Merrick seconded the motion that the Board approve the attached Resolution Levying Taxes for the Year 2009 in the amount of \$82,900,000 to be distributed as follows:

Educational	\$73,118,000
Operations & Maintenance	5,222,000
Transportation	1,824,000
Municipal Retirement	958,000
Social Security	<u>1,778,000</u>
Total:	\$82,900,000

It is further recommended that the Board approve the related resolutions, including the Resolution to abate a portion of the Debt Service (Bond and Interest) Fund and the Resolution to abate all but 2% of the loss and collection supplement. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motions passed unanimously.

**D. Textbook Report**

Mr. Paul Sally presented a comprehensive report on textbooks and fees, which is in response to an August 2009 request for information by the Board. Mr. Sally noted that included in the report is an update on electronic textbooks or “e-books” by Chris Johnson, Director of Technology. While the “e-book” field is a developing industry, the current need is still for traditional textbooks. Mr. Sally highlighted parts of the report which explored areas of book funding, purchasing and renting as well as rental and registration fees. The report also provides information on fees and book processes from other area schools. An examination of book source options includes the Bookstore new and used, borrowed books and online book purchasing. Lastly, Mr. Sally noted the curricular impact of buying books and their use in class with annotation. Mr. Sally invited comments and responded to Board members’ questions. Much Board discussion followed on ways to lessen the financial burden for parents, keep parents informed about Bookstore buy back time, implementation of efforts with Follett Bookstore to manage costs, options on fee structures to assist with textbook costs, and updates on technology as new procedures evolve. Mr. Sally noted further exploration needs to occur for many of the options. Dr. Yonke closed the discussion asking Mr. Sally to present a follow up report to the Board in March 2010.

*(Agenda Item III. B Winnetka Campus Facilities Project: Tours & Meetings was presented at this time).*

**E. Parking/Traffic Report**

Dr. Tim Dohrer presented an update report on the recent meetings of staff, parents, neighbors and community regarding the improvement of traffic and parking around the Winnetka Campus. These latest efforts began in July 2008 as a result of the Long Range Plan and specifically from a request for research made at the October 19, 2009 Regular Board meeting. Dr. Dohrer outlined the two committees formed to explore and to implement solutions on this issue. The first is the Community Committee composed of New Trier staff, administrators, Board member, parent and numerous neighbors of the Winnetka Campus. The other is an Administrative Task Force charged with implementation and oversight of the solutions generated by the Community Committee. Dr. Dohrer commended the group for their candid, collaborative and creative work thus far. He detailed the research and data information available to the committee as they address the various aspects of this issue at Winnetka. The goal is to form a comprehensive traffic and parking management plan which would include peak daily hours, special events, weekend needs, signage and bus/shuttle traffic. The committee plans to meet regularly in January and February. Dr. Dohrer responded to Board member comments. Mr. Dolinko, member of the Community Committee acknowledged the difficult challenge and various aspect of this issue and noted the good and productive start that the committee has made. Mr. Dolinko also noted the importance of the commitment to implementation and follow through. Ms. Serrino queried the definition and measuring of success and if there was any comparative research of other area institutions regarding their special event management. Further Board discussion followed on safety, communication, integrative solutions, cost and signage.

**F. NSERVE – Revised Intergovernmental Agreement & Fund Reserve**

Mr. Paul Sally reviewed the report by Dr. Debbie Stacey regarding the NSERVE Intergovernmental Agreement which required ratification by its member districts. The NSERVE Consortium assists high school and elementary students within the Oakton Community College area. The 21-year old agreement is being revised primarily to update the document and the formula for member districts’ share of administrative costs. NSERVE assists schools in acquiring federal and state funding for curricular and career programs and provides access to colleagues within the Consortium. Mr. Sally responded to Board members questions. Mr. Merrick moved and Mr. Harris seconded the motion to approve the revised NSERVE Intergovernmental Agreement as presented. 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.

### **G. Asbestos Removal Bid Approval**

Mr. Goers reported on the next phase of the renovations at the Northfield Campus which is the Asbestos Abatement Program. Eleven contractors participated in the pre-bid meeting and eight submitted bids for consideration. SB Enterprises was chosen for the recommendation having positive referrals and the low bid at \$218,749. Mr. Harris moved and Mr. Dolinko seconded the motion that the Board award a contract to SB Enterprises for \$218,749 to complete asbestos abatement work as detailed in the "Asbestos Abatement Specifications and Standards for New Trier High School Project No. 2009-2966-E" dated November 18, 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 motions passed unanimously.

### **IV. Routine/Recurrent Items (consent agenda)**

*- Bill List for the Period, November 1 – 30, 2009*

Mr. Goers presented the Bill List for the period November 1-30, 2009. He reported a normal month and noted the payment to Southern Bus Mobility was part of the Lease Financing agreement; however, due to the timing, payment was made and has been reimbursed. Mr. Goers invited questions of the Board. Mr. Dolinko moved and Mr. Myefski seconded the motion that the Board approve the Bill List for the period November 1-30, 2009 as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

### **V. Board Member Reports**

Mr. Harris reported on the Booster Club efforts for the upcoming fundraiser Saturday, January 23, 2010 with Second City. Excitement for the show coupled with the 50-year anniversary of Second City promises a successful event. Tickets are available online; however, they are close to selling out.

Ms. Serrino reported for the Technology Committee and invited Paul Sally and Chris Johnson to elaborate on the future planning. Mr. Sally noted the innovations and new technology tools being used in the classroom. Mr. Johnson commented on the use of tablets and online learning. Ms. Serrino requested a presentation for the Board to showcase the various uses of new technology.

Ms. Ducommun stated that the Parents Association endorsed the referendum for the Facilities at their last meeting. She also noted that their fundraising is going well for this year.

Mr. Myefski reported that Fine Arts fundraising is well underway and they are optimistic about meeting their goals for year.

Mr. Koch reported that the NSSSED has the shell for the new North Shore Academy up and the project is under budget. Planning for next year's budget is beginning.

### **VI. Administrative Items**

#### **A. Personnel Report**

Dr. Yonke presented the Personnel Report which included two support staff appointments, one resignation of support staff and one faculty member and one support staff retirement. Ms. Ducommun moved and Mr. Merrick seconded the motion to approve the Personnel Report as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

**B. Resolution – Flex Spending Plan Document**

Mr. Goers reviewed the changes and modifications to the Cafeteria Plan document which has been in place since 1986 and was last amended October 1, 2003. One substantive change made since that time is the limitation of a maximum contribution for participants in the Medical Reimbursement Plan to \$15,000 and other minor changes made by Discovery Benefits, the current Plan Administrator. Mr. Dolinko noted the coincidence of discussing the Transportation Fringe Benefit Plan at the same time as the discussions for Traffic and Parking at the Winnetka Campus. He emphasized the benefits and incentives for staff who use mass transit. They receive reimbursement with pre-tax dollars and at the same time ease some of the parking issues. Mr. Goers noted also that the Metra has added an additional stop at the Indian Hill Station during rush hours to accommodate more commuting to the high school. Mr. Dolinko moved and Mr. Harris seconded the motion that the Board approve the Resolution for the Cafeteria Plan, Transportation Fringe Benefit Plan and Related Documents. 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 motion passed unanimously.

**C. FOIA Policy – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

Mr. Goers reviewed the proposed changes to the Board of Education Policy 2-250 Access to District’s Public Records due to the significant amendments made to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) which becomes effective January 1, 2010. These changes include periodic training for designated staff, timeframe for FOIA responses, fees and more. Mr. Goers provided the amended Board Policy and Procedures for this first reading review and responded to Board members’ questions. The second reading of the policy and procedures will be presented at the January Regular Board meeting for approval.

**VI. Business Reports**

- *Financial Reports for November 2009*

Mr. Goers reviewed the financial reports for November 2009. Revenue and expenditures are behind compared to last year at this time due to the delay in receiving tax funds; however he anticipates cash flow needs will be met as funds come in. There were no questions by the Board members.

**VIII. Board of Education**

- **Calendar of Events**

Dr. Yonke noted the Winter Break begins Friday for two weeks. There will be holiday basketball tournaments during the break. Dr. Yonke highlighted that January will be very busy with Winnetka facility tours, the end of first semester, and final exams.

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

Mr. Koch noted there were no requests for information and no suggested agenda items.

**IX. Communications – Citizens’ Comments**

There was no one wishing to speak.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Dolinko moved and Mr. Harris seconded the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Koch adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

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James B. Koch, President