

TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
October 19, 2009
New Trier High School - Northfield Campus
Northfield Campus, Multipurpose Room C234, 7 Happ Road, Northfield, Illinois
Closed Session – 6:00 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, October 19, 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; Mr. Chuck Hirsch; Mr. George Sanders, Director of Human Resources; 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; Ms. Nicole Dizon, Director of Communications; Ms. Maureen Magee, Co-President NTESP; Ms. Elizabeth Blodgett, Co-President NTESP; Ms. Debbie Stacey, Director of Academic Services; Mr. Peter Tragos, Department of Social Studies and NTTEA President; Ms. Debbie Johnson, Social Studies Department Chair; Mr. Gerry Munley, Science Department Chair; Mr. David Ladd, Music Department Chair; Mr. Tim Estberg, Music Department; Mr. Stephen Murphy, Art Department Chair; Ms. Linda Oddo, Speech & Theater Department Chair; Mr. Jason Boumstein, Practical Arts Department Chair; Ms. Jennifer McDonough, Family & Consumer Sciences Coordinator; Mr. James Burnside, Department of Science; Mr. Jeremy Boscaccy, Department of Technology; Mr. Dan Gross, Student Activities Northfield Campus; Ms. Wendy Parks, Student Activities, Winnetka Campus; Mr. Mark Jolicoeur, Perkins + Will; Mr. Jerry Johnson, Perkins + Will; Mr. Bill Bennett, Pepper Construction Co.; Mr. Scott Higgins, Pepper Construction Co.; Mr. Robert Martinelli, Pepper Construction Co.; Ms. Maria Choca Urban; Mr. James Marran; Ms. Christine Kraemer; Ms. Cheryl Smith; Ms. Sharon Kristjanson; Mr. Wes Baumann; Mr. Mark Kraemer; Mr. Herbert Sorock; Mr. Gary Weitman; Mr. J.P. Rachmaninoff; Ms. Onnie Scheyer; Ms. Catherine King and numerous 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 Mr. Harris seconded the motion that the Board move from Closed Session to 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.

I. Minutes

Mr. Koch requested a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Merrick moved and Mr. Myefski seconded the motion that the Board approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 21, 2009 (open session and closed session) and the Special Joint Meeting of October 8, 2009 (open session and closed session). 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 motions passed unanimously.

II. Communications

Mr. Koch invited public comment at this time. Maria Urban, James Marran, Christine Kraemer, Cheryl Smith, Peter Tragos, Wes Bauman, Mark Kraemer, Herbert Sorock, Gary Weitman, J.P. Rachmaninoff, Onnie Scheyer, and Catherine King shared their thoughts regarding the Facilities Project. Residents addressed their support of the facilities proposal, as well as their opposition. Sharon Kristjanson expressed her concerns on neighborhood issues. Mr. Koch thanked all the members for their statements and comments.

III. Special Orders of Business

A. Report from Campus Principals and Assistant Superintendents

Dr. Tim Dohrer reported on Homecoming activities at the Winnetka Campus which included a pep rally, the victorious homecoming football game and the homecoming dance on Saturday night. Dr. Dohrer also reported that the fall theatre production of *Taming of the Shrew* was last week and the all student production of this year's Lagniappe-Potpourri will be this week, October 21, 22, & 23. The fall sports seasons are near completion. The boys and girls golf teams came in second in the state; Boys' Rowing was second and Girls' Rowing came in eighth at the Head of the Charles Regatta. Lacrosse will become an official IHSA sport for boys and girls next year in 2010-2011. The Family Awareness Network, New Trier Community Response Network and New Trier's Ethical Conduct and Global Citizenship parents' committee will present Howard Gardner, author of Five Minds for the Future, to speak on Thursday, October 29 in the Gaffney Auditorium for the Community and again Friday, October 30 in the Cornog Auditorium for teachers and staff. He will be speaking on Standards of Good Work.

Ms. Borja reported on the various activities at the Northfield Campus including the Pep Club's painting of windows for Homecoming, the freshman mixer, and the annual Freshman Go To School night, where parents shadow their students in their class schedules, meeting the teachers. Entertainment was provided by student improv groups and the jazz band. Freshmen also had a Pep Assembly to generate enthusiasm for the Homecoming Game.

B. Extra Curricular Participation Report

Mr. Tim Hayes reviewed the report on student participation in extracurricular activities for 2008-2009. This report includes more detailed analysis of participations in Athletics, Intramurals, Performing Arts and Student Activities than previous reports, which has allowed for added reflection on the opportunities presented. Mr. Hayes and Dr. Yonke responded to Board members' questions and comments. Ms. Serrino requested further articulation of directive next steps and the Athletic Department's recommendation to boost the lower Intramural participation.

C. Enrollment Report/Class Size Report

Dr. Yonke reviewed both the Enrollment and Class Size Reports. The Enrollment Report includes figures for this year and is in line with the projections of the Kasarda Demographic Report, which indicates a stable level of enrollment for the next 10 to 15 years. This is the report annually prepared for the State of Illinois. The Class Size Report reflects a mean increase in academic class size from 21.9 to 22.1 over the 2008-2009 school year. Dr. Yonke noted a slight decrease in the larger (30 +) classes while the number of small classes (16 or less) slightly increased. Dr. Yonke also responded to Board members' questions.

D. New Course Proposals

Mr. Paul Sally presented the New Course Proposals for 2010-2011 and highlighted details of them as they relate and respond to student needs. There are seven new courses in the English, Kinetic Wellness, Practical Arts and Science Departments; eleven courses with changes of status; and six retired courses. Mr. Sally responded to Board members' questions on these courses, their rigor and requirements, space, early bird options and interdisciplinary opportunities.

E. Facilities Update

- Winnetka and Northfield

Dr. Yonke presented an overview of the Facilities Project with the first of two PowerPoint presentations for the evening, the purpose of which was to share the culmination of the Schematic Design phase and associated budget for the Board's consideration. Dr. Yonke reviewed the three year planning process, the various proposals and options brought forth, and the integration of

Community input. Comparisons of growth needs in space and curriculum were cited in viewing the high school over the last forty years. Dr. Yonke noted the stewardship of past administrations and Boards and the responsibility for the present and future. Care and management of the aging structures at both campuses will cost the District \$85 million in maintenance, upkeep, and minor renovation at both campuses over the next 20 years. Acknowledging concern for economic conditions, Dr. Yonke pointed out that current building costs, interest rates and materials costs are very low. Features to be gained with the project include: ADA accessibility, improved fire safety and security, storm water management, sustainable design, energy efficiency, efficient use of space, additional science labs, replacement/renovated classrooms for English, Math, Social Studies, Modern & Classical Language, New Cafeteria and student commons, replacement of Music Classrooms, practice rooms, music storage, Art and Tech Arts classrooms/labs, Black Box and Magee Theatre. Dr. Yonke noted the Tower Building, Gaffney Auditorium, the North Building, the Pool and the 1974 Gyms will remain the same. A Cost/Benefit Analysis was reviewed. The total project cost is \$185 million with a taxpayer cost of \$278-\$335 per year, starting in 2011, on a \$10,000 tax bill.

Mr. Mark Jolicoeur and Mr. Jerry Johnson from Perkins + Will architectural firm presented their Schematic Design of the Winnetka Facilities Project. Mr. Jolicoeur reviewed the project timeline and design process. Mr. Johnson reviewed various existing and proposed site plans with artist renderings of the proposed spaces. Mr. Jolicoeur also explained the Leed certification qualifications. He reviewed the Construction Costs with other Costs based on a construction completion by summer 2012. Mr. Goers remarked that the financing would likely be phased in and taxpayers would not begin to see an impact on tax bills until two years from now. . Mr. Koch invited questions by the Board and Mr. Jolicoeur, Mr. Johnson, and Mr. Scott Higgins of Pepper Construction responded.

IV. Routine/Recurrent Items (consent agenda)

- *Bill List for the Period, September 1 – 30, 2009*
- *Intervene on Property Tax Appeal*

Mr. Goers presented the Bill List for the period September 1-30, 2009 and noted a quantitative error in the Disaster Recovery and Virtualization reporting, which will be corrected. The project is complete and under budget. Mr. Goers reviewed the List which included the District's NSSSED payment, construction work and summer work. There were two resolutions to intervene on property tax appeals. Mr. Goers responded to Board members' questions. Mr. Harris moved and Mr. Merrick seconded the motion that the Board approve the Bill List for the period September 1-30, 2009 as presented and the Resolutions Authorizing Intervention in a pending Property Tax Assessment Appeal. 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 motion passed unanimously.

V. Board Member Reports

Mr. Merrick reported for the Technology Planning Committee which has met several times this year. The committee membership includes Paul Sally, Chris Johnson, faculty, staff, students and parents working together on how best to integrate technology in the learning process.

Mr. Myefski noted that the Facilities Committee was busy reviewing the work done over the summer and the Fine Arts Committee report would echo the principal's report on the two excellent fall productions of *The Taming of the Shrew* and *Lagniappe-Potpourri*.

Mr. Harris reported that the Booster Club agreed at their last meeting to attend the Facilities Project Winnetka Campus Tour with the Superintendent Linda Yonke. Members were very enthusiastic for the proposal and began looking for ways that the Booster Club can support it.

Mr. Koch noted that the facility project at NSSSED was progressing and is coming in under budget.

VI. Administrative Items

A. Personnel Report

Dr. Yonke presented the Personnel Report which included two appointments, one change of status and one resignation. Ms. Ducommun moved and Mr. Dolinko seconded the motion to approve the Personnel Report as presented. 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.

B. Estimate of 2009 Proposed Levy

Mr. Goers reviewed the 2008 Tax Rate Report. The 2008 Tax Extension was reduced as a result of the tax cap by almost \$200,000 for a total of \$81,822,166. The difference in the actual extension compared to the District projections was attributed to new property coming in at \$67,742,986 (projected at \$20,000,000) and the increase of the equalized assessed evaluation (EAV) by 5.75%. While projections were conservative given the economic recession, the increase in assessed valuation exceeded the projections by about \$339 million. This resulted in a slight decrease in the projected tax rate from \$1.25 to \$1.24. Mr. Goers noted a delay in tax bills going out. They will be due by December 1.

Mr. Goers also presented the District 2009 Proposed Levy that supports the 2010-11 Budget. He detailed the calculation of the levy which will increase 0.1% plus an additional sum to add tax revenues generated from new property and bring the levy estimate to \$82,900,000. Based on the level of the levy estimate that is being recommended (if estimation does not exceed 105% of the previous year's extension) the district is not required to publish a notice or schedule a public hearing. However, the District historically has done so regardless of the levy amount. Mr. Goers recommended approval of the 2009 Levy estimate of \$82,900,000 and that a public hearing be held at the December 14, 2009 Regular Board meeting. Mr. Koch invited questions from the Board members and Mr. Goers responded to their comments and questions. Ms. Serrino moved that the Board approve the 2009 Levy estimate of \$82,900,000 and that a public hearing be held at the December 14, 2009 regularly scheduled Board meeting. Mr. Merrick seconded the motion. 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.

VII. Business Reports

- *Financial Reports for September 2009*

Mr. Goers reviewed the financial reports for September 2009. Revenues and expenses are similar to last year at this time. There were no questions by the Board members.

VIII. Board of Education

- **Calendar of Events**

Dr. Yonke noted the added Special Board of Education meeting on November 3 at the Winnetka Campus in the EPI Center, Room 301 at 7:00 pm for discussion of the Facilities Project.

November 9 is tentatively scheduled for another Board Meeting, if needed. The next Regular Board of Ed meeting is November 16. Dr. Yonke also noted the Lagniappe performances later in the week, October 21, 22 and 23.

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

Ms. Serrino requested further study into the neighborhood concerns for safety that were brought to the Board's attention at this Board meeting during the Communications segment.

Dr. Yonke responded about these issues for New Trier and other schools. Dr. Dohrer acknowledged the problems and will follow up with a report to the Board after more examination of the issues and potential solutions.

IX. Communications – Citizens' Comments

Mr. Sorock requested further explanation of comments made by Pepper Construction regarding the possible projected increase should the Facilities Project be postponed by one year. Mr. Higgins indicated increases may be realized in the final year of completion were the project to extend into 2013.

Adjournment

Mr. Merrick moved and Mr. Myefski seconded the motion that the meeting be adjourned.
Mr. Koch adjourned the meeting at 11:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

James B. Koch, President