

TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
June 7, 2010
New Trier High School - Northfield Campus
Cornog Auditorium/Multipurpose Room C234
7 Happ Road, Northfield, Illinois
Open Session – 7:00 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, Cornog Auditorium/Room C234, on Monday, June 7, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present

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

Administrators Present at Table

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

Also Present

Mr. George Sanders, Director of Human Resources; Ms. Laurel Burman, Director of Special Education; Mr. Matt Ottaviano, Assistant Principal, Winnetka Campus; Mr. John Neiweem, Director of Physical Plant Services; Ms. Niki Dizon, Director of Communications; Mr. Jay Rosenberg, Department of English and NTEA President; Ms. Debbie Stacey, Director of Academic Services; Mr. Jim Conroy, Department Chair Post High School Counseling; Ms. Sue Connaughton; Mr. Herbert Sorock; Ms. Vanessa Rachmaninoff; Mr. Wes Bauman; Mr. Daniel Fox; Ms. Marcia Oley; Ms. Onnie Scheyer; Ms. Katie Okon and numerous members of the Community.

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Serrino called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Cornog Auditorium.

Agenda Item III.A. Student/Staff Recognition was presented at this time.

At the completion of the recognition ceremony, the Regular Meeting moved at 8:05 p.m. to C234.

I. Minutes

Ms. Serrino called for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Koch moved and Mr. Merrick seconded the motion that the Board approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of May 10, 2010 (closed session) and the Regular Meeting of May 17, 2010 (open and closed session). Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

II. Communications

Ms. Serrino invited public comment at this time. Five residents spoke to the Board: Mr. Herb Sorock spoke of capital project updates; Mr. Wes Bauman spoke of information pertaining to Special Meetings; Mr. Daniel Fox expressed his concerns about the survey from July 2009, Ms. Vanessa Rachmaninoff addressed the issue of traffic safety around the school; and Ms. Onnie Scheyer refuted comments from an earlier speaker. Ms. Serrino thanked them all for their statements and comments.

III. Special Orders of Business

A. Student/Staff Recognition

Dr. Tim Dohrer, Principal at the Winnetka Campus welcomed the Community, students and staff to the final recognition program of this school year. One hundred and sixty-nine certificates were presented for Girls' Badminton, New Trier Rowing, Boys' Tennis, Boys' Lacrosse, Girls' Lacrosse, IHSA All-State Academic Award, New Trier Math Team, Boys' Gymnastics, Girls' Track & Field, the Edyth May Slyffe Mathematics Award, New Trier Republican Club, Science Olympiad, and the Junior Travel Award by the National Spanish Examinations.

B. Report from Campus Principals and Assistant Superintendents

Mr. Paul Waechtler, Assistant Principal at the Northfield Campus reported on the busy activities of the last three weeks at the Northfield Campus. Many parents attended the Shakespeare Festival, held on May 26. Spring Fest was held on May 20 in the north courtyard which provided a final opportunity for fundraising of the many clubs of the Northfield Campus. It also allowed a final opportunity for the Haiti Project fundraiser to reach their goal of \$100,000, accomplished just as school was ending. Freshmen were introduced to their sophomore advisers in preparation for next fall. Final exams were scheduled and groundwork is started for next year's incoming freshman class of 1072.

Dr. Tim Dohrer, Principal at the Winnetka Campus, reviewed activities at the Winnetka Campus as the year ended. Rehearsal for graduation was held and the graduation itself occurred on May 30. The Parents' Association hosted the annual graduation party at the Northfield campus, which saw an incredible turnout for this year. Dr. Dohrer thanked the Parents' Association for all the work they do, but especially for these festivities that keep our seniors safe at graduation time. Last Friday was the last day of school and today starts Summer School for 2010.

Mr. Paul Sally, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, recapped the end of this school year and outlined plans for next fall. This includes the work on the Master Schedule for 4,000+ students by Matt Ottaviano and Paul Waechtler. Mr. Sally thanked the two gentlemen for their efforts with this monumental task. Mr. Sally noted that further discussions are taking place with Follett for the book rental program and book sale for this fall.

Mr. Don Goers reported on the two FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) requests that were received since the May meeting. Both requests have been answered and are closed out.

C. Benchmarking Consortium

Dr. Yonke reported on the Benchmarking Consortium of which New Trier is a member. The Consortium is a group of schools from across the country brought together to discuss relevant issues to their districts. Member schools are from Highland Park, Texas; Eanes, Texas (Austin); Ladue, Missouri (St. Louis); Westside, Nebraska (Omaha); Palo Alto, California; Wilton, Connecticut; and New Trier. Paul Sally and Tim Hayes accompanied Dr. Yonke to the recent meeting this past April 21-23. The recent focus of their work has been on the high school-to-college articulation research project. For this project, representatives from the Consortium schools interviewed deans from community colleges, universities and state schools in their areas to gather information on student's transition to college. Dr. Yonke said their findings and commonalities have been very interesting and she is eager to share this published work with the Board and the community. Dr. Yonke responded to Board members questions and comments.

D. Traffic Safety Follow-up

Dr. Tim Dohrer presented a follow up report to the Traffic & Safety Plan that was presented at the May 2010 Board meeting to address a number of questions that had arisen. He reiterated that safety for pedestrians and drivers remains the top priority. Dr. Dohrer noted that the recommendations are provided for in the budget, though expenditures in the area of security will be higher next year than this year. Dr. Dohrer highlighted some of the areas to be addressed, including additional coverage of pedestrian and car traffic management before and after school, and security/traffic supervision during special events. Two full-time and one part-time position that were unfilled during significant portions of the past school year will be filled, and one security position from Northfield will be transferred to Winnetka. There will also be adjustments to shift schedules to allow for greater coverage at Winnetka during the peak traffic times before and after school. There are also plans to hire part time crossing guards to be assigned at Green Bay Road & Winnetka Avenue and Wilson & Winnetka Avenue. In summary, there will be 27 full time security positions (15 at Winnetka and 12 at Northfield), 3 part time evening positions at the Winnetka campus, and two part time security positions with crossing guard responsibilities at the noted locations. The

Village of Winnetka and the Illinois Department of Transportation are working at the Winnetka Avenue & Green Bay intersection this summer, which will address some of the safety issues (i.e. turn lanes and arrow lights). The committee has plans to reassess all the changes at that intersection upon completion of the changes and construction. Dr. Dohrer stated this is an ongoing process of implementation, monitoring and adjustment. Board discussion followed and Dr. Dohrer responded to Board members comments and questions on staffing positions, budget impact, and community requests to look at other areas such as Sheridan & Winnetka Avenue, a follow up traffic study, a second transportation survey, and security during Summer School. Mr. Myefski noted the importance of coordinating all the traffic studies with the Facilities Steering Committee.

E. Level 5 Elimination Report

Mr. Paul Sally presented a follow-up report on the impact of eliminating level 5 grade weights. The Board of Education voted in 2007 to eliminate grade weighting for level 5 classes starting with the class of 2011. This class of students will start applying to college in the fall of 2010. Important background information to note is: 1) the sixth semester transcript at the end of junior year is the most important one for college admissions; 2) in previous years, access to level 5 courses was always limited for students before their senior year; 3) 93% of the students in the class of 2011 will have the same GPA at the end of junior year as they would have had in the previous years; 4) the use of Naviance by students and parents will be virtually unaffected by this change; and 5) a letter is being sent to the Director of Admissions of every college to which our students have applied in the past three years explaining the change. Information on this change will also be included on the New Trier Profile which is mailed with every transcript. Board discussion followed as Mr. Sally responded to Board members questions and comments.

IV. Routine/Recurrent Items (consent agenda)

- Bill List for the Period, May 1 – 31, 2010

Mr. Goers presented the Bill List and the Capital Project Status Report for the period May 1-31, 2010. He noted most of the capital projects were completed save for the Technology Hardware replacements, the Web-CMS Software & Consulting and the Wireless PA Systems for both campuses. The Bill List reflects some of the expenses of the Northfield Project. Mr. Harris commended Mr. Goers for his good work in budget management. Mr. Koch moved and Mr. Merrick seconded the motion that the Board approve the Bill List for the period May 1-31, 2010 as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

V. Board Member Reports

Ms. Ducommun thanked Mr. Bauman for catching her error in reporting those in attendance at the December Special Meeting. Ms. Ducommun misspoke and was actually remembering the March 25 Special Meeting. She also noted that the minutes were correct in stating that the Board discussed the status of the Northfield project.

Mr. Dolinko reported that the Board Policy Committee has met and will be addressing numerous policy items on communication of information to the public, transparency, Board meeting documentation publication, FOIA request publication, and committee information publication. The committee will review these and report back to the Board by the end of the summer. Additional policies to be examined are the policy on student fee waivers, search of students, and the Gifts & Naming Policy.

Mr. Myefski reported that the Steering Committee will meet on June 21 to gather all the research that has been worked on from the sub-committees. Mr. Myefski noted that the process is starting at the beginning with a review of the land usage before moving on to building usage, and that absolutely everything will be looked at with a fresh start. Ms. Ducommun also noted that the meeting on June 21 will be for planning the structure of the committees going forward, which would include opportunities for community involvement. All of the research and information gathered will then be presented to the Board.

VI. Administrative Items

A. Personnel Report

Dr. Yonke presented the Personnel Report. She noted that there still remained two faculty positions to be filled. The report also reflects some of the frequent turnover in support staff positions. Dr. Yonke noted the additional Addendum for a Memorandum of Understanding with the faculty association. Mr. Goers explained that it concerned the review process for extracurricular stipends. He noted that the stipend review process will also be revisited in the next collective bargaining agreement. Mr. Dolinko moved and Mr. Harris seconded the motion to approve the Personnel Report and Addendum as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

B. Revised 2010-11 Budget Calendar

Mr. Goers reviewed the status of the Budget Calendar and noted the need for additional time in preparing the Budget given the uncertainty with state funding. There will only be a one month delay. The Tentative Budget will be presented in July and the Public Hearing and the Final Budget will occur at the August meeting. The change in date still allows for the mandatory 30 days public display of the budget. Mr. Dolinko noted that this may allow for a more effective budgetary process as the final Budget is closer to the time that actual staffing figures are known. Board discussion followed as Mr. Goers responded to questions. Mr. Harris moved and Mr. Merrick seconded the motion to approve the revised 2010-11 Budget Calendar as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

C. Prevailing Wage Approval

Mr. Goers reviewed the annual requirement to pass the Prevailing Wage Resolution. This Resolution requires that all bid specifications are in compliance with the Prevailing Wage Act. Mr. Merrick moved and Mr. Harris seconded the motion to approve the Prevailing Wage Act Resolution as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

D. 2009-10 Capital Project Update

Mr. Goers reported on two capital projects for 2009-10, the Wireless Network Upgrade and the Activity Bus purchase. The final cost to complete the Wireless Network Upgrade project is \$299,738 due to scaling back of some of the scope of the project and price negotiations. Mr. Goers reviewed the Board's previous approval authorization for FY 2010-11 and noted that many of the 2009 projects cost less than expected. Therefore, in using these funds, he recommended that the Board approve the completion of the entire project in the summer of 2010. Board discussion followed regarding the use and needs of the wireless network and the budgeted funds to cover the upgrade. Mr. Goers responded to Board's various questions and also noted the proposal to replace the large passenger vans with two activity buses, as required by new state law. Mr. Merrick moved and Mr. Koch seconded the motion that the Board approve the complete Wireless Network Upgrade project and the purchase of two activity buses in FY 2009-10, as recommended. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Business Reports

- Financial Reports for May 2010

Mr. Goers reviewed the financial reports for May noting that the cash flow projections are ahead of this time last year. Mr. Goers also noted the efforts of all the staff to be more conscious of expenses and spending. A more detailed report will follow next month that will show this. Mr. Goers responded to Board members comments.

VIII. Board of Education

- Calendar of Events

Dr. Yonke noted that Summer School started today. She reminded the Board that there will be a Special Board meeting on June 28 in the Board Room, C234, from 6:00-9:00 p.m. Dr. Yonke noted that the school leaders will be gathering on June 8 and the Administrative team will have their annual retreat on June 16 and June 17. Scheduling another Special Meeting in July is difficult, so an additional Special Meeting will be scheduled to begin in the afternoon of July 19, the same day as the July Regular Board Meeting. The Special Meeting will begin at 3:00 p.m., break for dinner at 6:30 p.m., and begin the regular business meeting at 7:30 p.m. here in C234. There is also a Facilities Steering Committee meeting scheduled for June 21.

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

Ms. Serrino reminded everyone that a request for staff research is due in July for test score analysis and enumerated follow-up items to note: the Benchmarking Consortium published report in late fall; Budgetary impacts of traffic & parking; the Policy Committee work later in the summer; and the budget chart from Mr. Goers to assist in tracking the 2009-10 Capital Budget.

IX. Communications – Citizens' Comments

Mr. Herb Sorock offered additional comments about the District daycare facility and teacher stipends.

Ms. Serrino noted there was no one else wishing to comment and asked for a motion to adjourn.

Adjournment

Mr. Koch moved and Mr. Myefski seconded the motion that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Ms. Serrino adjourned the meeting at 10:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

Wendy M. Serrino, President