

**NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

December 13, 2010

**New Trier Township High School
7 Happ Road, Room C234
Northfield, IL 60093**

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 13, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

Members Present

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

Administrator Present

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

Also Present

Ms. Niki Dizon, Director of Communications; Ms. Laurel Burman, Director of Special Education; Mr. Chris Johnson, Director of Technology; Mr. Matt Ottaviano, Assistant Principal for Administrative Services; Dr. Debbie Stacey, Director of Academic Services; Mr. John Neiweem, Director of Physical Plant Services; Mr. George Sanders, Director of Human Resources; Ms. Michele Slav, Director of Business Services; Ms. Reiko Mrozik, Co-President NTESPA; Mr. Jim Burnside, President, New Trier Education Association, Science Department; Ms. Athena Arvanitis, Director of Student Life; Mr. Matt Ottaviano, Assistant Principal Administrative Services; Ms. Katherine Schindler, Assistant Principal for Student Services; Ms. Joan Leiss, Health Services; Mr. Mitch Jones, Social Studies Department; Mr. Jim Conroy, Post High School Counseling Department; Ms. Sarah Axon, Special Education Department; Mr. Jason Dane, Kinetic Wellness Department; Mr. Richard Dreis, Mathematics Department; Ms. Kimberly Hafron, Modern & Classical Languages Department; Ms. Deborah Lazar, Library Department; Ms. Jennifer Lim, English Department; Ms. Molly Greene Lombardi, Social Studies Department; Mr. Michael Napoleon, Kinetic Wellness; Mr. Gardiner O’Kain, Art Department; Ms. Daniella Rossmann, Modern & Classical Languages Department; Mr. Robert Rowe, Mathematics Department; Mr. Matthew Sloan, Science Department; Ms. Lori Willer, Modern & Classical Languages Department; Mr. Joshua Wood, Technology Education Department; Mr. Randy Zamin, Mathematics Department; Mr. Terry Phillips, Mathematics Department; Mr. Dan Rogan, Post High School Department; Mr. Michael O’Connor, English Department; Ms. Mary Beth Barrett, Science Department; Mr. Larry Stoegbauer, Kinetic Wellness Department; Mr. Tom Shorrocks, Post High School Counseling Department; Ms. Marianne Breen, New Trier Education Foundation; Mr. Harry Secaras, New Trier Education Foundation; Mr. Jim Marran, New Trier Education Foundation; Mr. “Buz” John Graetinger; Ms. Onnie Scheyer; Ms. Lori Goldstein; Mr. Tim Scherman; Mr. Ronnie Wachter, *Pioneer Press*, and members of the Community.

Student/Staff Recognition – Cornog Auditorium – 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Dohrer welcomed students, parents and community members to the first Board Recognition Program for the 2010-11 school year. Recognition was extended to 100 students and staff for Girls’ Cross Country, Girls’ Tennis, Aiding Africa Club, Girls’ Rowing, Veterans Day Participants, Girls’ Swimming & Diving, Girls’ Golf, Boys’ Golf and Field Hockey.

I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:30 p.m.

Ms. Serrino called the regular meeting to order in open session at 7:38 p.m. and asked for a roll call attendance. All members were present.

II. Closed Session – (No Closed Session)

Open Session

III. BUSINESS MEETING

Ms. Wendy Serrino called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order in open session in Room C234 at 7:38 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. Public comment requests and guidelines are located on the side table and any comments directed for the tax levy will be heard in the Public Hearing portion of the meeting. Ms. Serrino requested a motion to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2010 Regular meetings (open session and closed session), and the minutes of the Special Meeting of November 15, 2010 (open session).

IV. Minutes

Mr. Koch moved and Mr. Merrick seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting on November 15, 2010 (open session) and the Regular Meeting of November 15, 2010 (open session and closed session). Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None.

The motion passed unanimously.

V. Communications

Ms. Serrino welcomed all in attendance and invited members of the Community to share their comments. Mr. John “Buz” Graetinger and Jeremy Levine-Drizin spoke about the Alumni Achievement Awards. Ms. Reiko Mrozik thanked the Board and Administration for the Staff Appreciation Breakfast that was provided on Educational Support Professionals Day, November 17.

Ms. Serrino addressed those who spoke on the Alumni Hall of Honor Awards and thanked them for their comments about the selectees. She noted there is a variety of opinion on the choice of nominees; while the Board did endorse the establishment of the alumni recognition program, the Board did not select the honorees. She stated she would convey their comments and concerns to the committee and to the Education Foundation.

VI. Special Orders of Business

A. Report from Campus Principals and Assistant Superintendents

Mr. Paul Waechtler, Assistant Principal at the Northfield Campus, shared events and happenings on the freshman campus. He noted the recent Thanksgiving Break and the approaching Winter Break. Friday, December 17 offers a holiday celebration with student choral groups performing for students and staff. The very successful Names Program took place the week following Thanksgiving and the freshman-sophomore musical, “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee” was performed in the Cornog Auditorium on December 9 and 10. Winter sports are going well as is lunchtime basketball. Mr. Waechtler reported that 1,116 eighth grade students registered for next year and took their placement tests and Academic Life is scheduled to begin the first week back in January.

Dr. Timothy Dohrer, Principal of the Winnetka Campus, also reported on the student performances of “Iphigenia 2.0”, a multi-media production, and the Winter Music Festival held annually in the Gates Gym. Dr. Dohrer acknowledged and thanked all involved in helping bring this holiday event to the parents and community. More holiday musical performances, including the High Five Choir are scheduled for Friday, December 17 on the second floor rotunda. After the Winter Break there will be two weeks of classes in January followed by first semester exams on January 18 through 20 with Grading Day on January 21. Dr. Dohrer asked Debbie Stacey to introduce this year’s exchange students from Australia.

Dr. Debbie Stacey presented students Tatum Ansiewicz, Nadia Tate, Storm Menzies and Charlie Hilliger who are part of the Wilmette Sister Cities Association Student Exchange Program. This exchange program began in 1988 with New Trier teacher Bill Stewart and Pittwater High School teacher Richard Mitchell coordinating the exchange. Students from Pittwater High School in Mona Vale, Australia come to New Trier for 10 weeks in the fall and New Trier students travel to Pittwater High for 10 weeks over the summer. The Australian students introduced themselves, shared their impressions of New Trier and their experiences, and thanked the Board for the opportunity to study here. Dr. Yonke thanked the students for coming this evening and particularly the host families of Ruthie Helmer, Will Deheeger, Michael Johnson, and Alexandra Fisher.

Mr. Goers reported that there were three Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests since the last regular meeting. The first was a request for commercial information on the mail/postage equipment lease and the second was for paperwork related to the ten chosen alumni for the Alumni Achievement Awards. Information on the first request has been provided and the request has been closed out. The second request has a deadline after Winter Break and is still being reviewed. The third request seeks information on performance of musical productions by New Trier students. This request is still in process, as it was received on Friday, December 10.

B. Audit Report

Mr. Goers presented a draft copy of the District’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the year ended June 30, 2010. This is the first audit by McGladrey & Pullen, LLP. Mr. Goers summarized the various sections of the report, which includes an introduction; a financial section with the Independent Auditor’s Report to the Board; the Management’s Discussion & Analysis (MD&A) section; Basic Financial Statements completed by the auditors; a Required Supplementary Information section on historical pension information; and the Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget to Actual. Also included is a statistical section, an Annual Financial Report (AFR) on the cash basis of accounting, and a “Report to the Board of Education”, required by the new Statements on Auditing Standards. Mr. Goers reviewed the areas of deficiency and weakness and noted the changes made or to be made in addressing them. Mr. John George, partner of McGladrey & Pullen, addressed the Board on the audit process and highlighted certain areas of the audit and responded to Board members’ questions. Mr. Goers also responded to questions on the cost of a performance bond for Michele Slav, the student capacity noted for the Northfield Campus, and the changes in the amount of tax collections in the first half of the year. Mr. George noted the audit process ran very smoothly and that the District achieved the highest level of recognition by the ISBE. The District exhibits a very sophisticated finance department and technical expertise. Mr. Dolinko moved and Mr. Harris seconded that the Board accept the comprehensive

Annual Financial Report and other related reports for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2010. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None.

The motion passed unanimously.

C. Public Hearing 2010 Tax Levy

Ms. Serrino called the Public Hearing for the 2010 Tax Levy to order. She noted that anyone wishing to speak or comment on the 2010 Tax Levy should fill out a yellow comment form. Comments will be heard at the close of the presentation on the tax levy. Mr. Goers reviewed the 2010 Tax Levy of \$86,170,940 in a PowerPoint presentation. He began by noting the District was in compliance with the Truth in Taxation Act and proceeded to review the Property Tax Extension Limitation Act; the CPI History between 1994-2010; New Property; Maximum Tax Rate Extension for 2010; Summary of Assessed Valuations, Tax Rates and Tax Extensions; Current and Projected Operating Fund Revenues & Expenditures; Sources of Revenues and Major Cost Components; a Summary of Revenues and Expenditures; the Recommended Resolution Levying Taxes for 2010 as well as Other Related Resolutions to abate portions of the Debt Service Fund Levy and the loss and collection supplement to general levies and debt service levies. Mr. Goers responded to Board members comments and questions. Ms. Serrino invited comment from the audience. No one came forward to speak. Further Board discussion followed reviewing that the levy is based on the CPI of the previous year with new property being the operative variable. Mr. Dolinko moved and Mr. Merrick seconded the motion that the Board close and adjourn the Public Hearing for the 2010 Tax Levy. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Dolinko moved and Mr. Koch seconded the motion that the Board approve the attached Resolution Levying Taxes for the Year 2010 in the amount of \$86,170,940 to be distributed as follows:

Educational	\$74,623,940
Operations & Maintenance	7,066,000
Transportation	1,465,000
Municipal Retirement	1,054,000
Social Security	<u>1,962,000</u>
	\$86,170,940

Mr. Dolinko further moved that the Board approve the related resolutions, including the Resolution to abate a portion of the Debt Service Fund Levy, and the Resolution to abate a portion of the loss and collection supplement by deleting and abating 1% of the standard 3% supplement for purposes of loss and collection, and deleting and abating 2% of the standard 5% supplement extension for purposes of loss and collection from the School District's Debt Service Bond & Interest Fund, and to note that the abatement of the 1% will be from General Operating Funds. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Goers noted that with the approval of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report final copies will be distributed to the Board and placed on the website along with the PowerPoint presentation and the 2010 Tax Levy.

D. New Trier Education Foundation Annual Report

Dr. Yonke introduced Marianne Breen, the Director of the New Trier Education Foundation, who along with Mr. Harry Secaras and Mr. Jim Marran provided information about the Foundation and its many activities. Mr. Secaras reported that the Foundation has funded over \$200,000 in grants to students and staff for opportunities that otherwise have no funding. The Foundation has sent band and orchestra students on national competition trips as well as special needs students to Springfield and Washington, D.C. Teachers also have benefited from the Foundation's financial support by facilitating the trips to present and publish papers. The Foundation's goal is to provide supplemental enrichment opportunities for the New Trier students and faculty. The recent strategic plan for the Foundation proposes annual reports to the Board and greater accessibility to the Board. Mr. Secaras and Ms. Breen responded to Board member's questions regarding foundation comparisons to other high schools, the foundation's expenses and the need for more defined projects. Mr. Secaras expressed the Foundation's desire to move up to the next level of

funding larger endeavors. Board member Mac Harris, liaison for the New Trier Education Foundation, attested to the positive rhetoric at the meetings to meet the next level of projects. He also notes that the alumni are the key to bringing this about. Mr. Myefski encouraged Mr. Secaras and Ms. Breen to reach out to the sender school districts for assistance.

E. Presentation of Teaching & Learning in the Classroom

Mr. Paul Sally thanked the Foundation for all the support they have extended to the faculty. Mr. Sally and Mr. Tim Hayes, Assistant Superintendents for Curriculum & Instruction and Student Services, reported on Teaching and Learning in the Classroom as the second in the series of presentations for this year's Board agendas. The focus of their presentation was the various ways skilled teachers determine the best learning strategies for students in their classes. A video presentation highlighted five different instructional approaches: Teacher-centered lecture; Discussion; Collaborative learning; Communication & Public Speaking; and Kinesthetic Learning. Mr. Sally noted that one of the discussion scenes took place in an adviser room, which is also a major part of students' learning experience. Mr. Hayes highlighted that it is through the art of teaching and creating a community in the classroom that invisible learning takes place. Mr. Sally and Mr. Hayes responded to Board members' comments and questions. Mr. Harris referred to his day spent at school where he witnessed the "learning by doing," or Kinesthetic Learning, and how visibly engaging it was. Further discussion included the potential benefit of the video as a useful tool for incoming students and parents to actually see learning in the classroom. The Board also discussed the continual evolution of teachers' skills as new faculty is hired and collaborative learning takes place during the professional development days and within the department offices.

Dr. Yonke noted that the level of thinking about teaching here is extraordinary compared to other schools. Mr. Sally pointed out that the level of autonomy is significant, that teachers know their goals and curriculum, and their knowledge and skill is beneficial to students. There will be two public forums, one on January 26 and the other on February 8, in Room C234 on the Northfield Campus to promote discussion and dialogue with the community on learning in the classroom.

VII. Administrative Items

A. Financial Reports for November 2010

Mr. Goers noted that this month shows the cash flow statements comparing November 2010 to the previous two Novembers. Cash balances appear to be behind; however, this will balance out later. March tax revenues will be delayed one month.

B. Food Service Contract

The District's current Food Service Contract with Sodexo is scheduled to expire at the end of the 2010-11 school year. Mr. Goers reviewed this contract compared to the previous agreement noting improvements in management and the marketing program. He also noted the improved quality of food and the overall efficiency of the program under the management of the Food Service manager, John Strzok. Mr. Goers reported on a New York court settlement with Sodexo for overcharging schools. The court case charged that Sodexo received rebates from national suppliers and failed to pass those savings on to the school districts in accordance with their contracts. These schools participate in the National School Lunch Program and New Trier does not. Mr. Goers found that our contract does not provide recourse for New Trier to recover any of these rebates. After further examination of food service contracts with other area schools, Mr. Goers met with Sodexo's management to discuss the current contract. After several negotiation sessions an amendment was made to the current Management Agreement with the following key provisions:

1. Maintain the \$60,000 surplus guarantee and the 80/20 split in excess of the guarantee.
2. The District will receive all National discounts, rebates, and other applicable credits accruing to Sodexo that are allocable to the District. The rebate credit is to be received in one lump sum with the May invoice and would be separate from the surplus calculation and not an offset to operating expenses.
3. The management, administration and supervision fees increase to 7.5%.

The benefits of this amendment include the likely net gain of an additional \$80,000 to \$100,000 as a result of the rebates, after adjusting for the higher fees. Mr. Goers responded to Board members' comments and questions. Mr. Koch moved and Mr. Harris seconded the motion that the Board approve the Management Agreement Amendment with Sodexo subject to final review by legal counsel. 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.

Ms. Ducommun inquired about when the final Northfield Campus Project figures would be out. Mr. Goers responded that the project looked as though it would come in under budget and he was waiting for final invoices to be received before publishing the report.

VIII. Consent Agenda

- **Bill List for the Period, November 1-30, 2010**
- **Personnel Report**
- **Board Policy 7-285 Food Allergies Management, Second Reading**

Ms. Serrino reviewed the items within the consent agenda and asked if any items should be removed for discussion. No items were pulled out. Mr. Dolinko moved that the Board approve the Bill List for the Period, November 1-30, 2010 as presented; the Personnel Report as presented; and the School Board Policy 7-285 Food Allergies Management as presented. Mr. Merrick seconded the motion. 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.

IX. Board Member Reports

Mr. Harris reported that the Booster Club did not meet. The New Trier Education Foundation reported earlier in the meeting. He did attend the Winter Concert at the Gates Gymnasium on the Winnetka campus on Sunday, December 12 and reported it was terrific - a wonderful performance and event for the community.

Ms. Serrino noted that the Classroom Design Committee would provide an update next month.

Mr. Merrick reported the Technology Committee met and continues to look at e-books; there will be a report about online textbooks by the end of the year. The Facilities Comparison Committee met on December 2 for an internal tour of the school. This will serve as a baseline for tours of other schools. The Strategic Planning Evaluation Committee is hearing from the numerous sub-committees as they are reporting back on their work. The final report will be very informative when it is completed.

Ms. Ducommun noted that the All School Forum enjoyed a lively discussion among parents, teachers and students on the topic of "Habits of Mind."

Ms. Serrino remarked about the record number of parents and Community members who attended the screening of "Race to Nowhere." Dr. Dohrer reported that almost 1200 came to see the movie and another 100 attended the panel discussion with staff members from New Trier, Washburn, and Harper schools. He said the discussion was wonderful and the events provided good feedback.

Mr. Harris noted that he had not yet received his copy of the New Trier Community Survey by ECRA. Dr. Yonke reported that the deadline date has been changed to December 30. Dr. Yonke requested that the Board members email her when they did receive them so she would know when surveys are arriving in the different communities. Ms. Ducommun recommended to Dr. Yonke a phone call to the post offices would be appropriate to urge them to not lose the surveys in the holiday mail.

X. Board Members' Calendar of Events

- Calendar of Events

Dr. Yonke noted the highlights of the coming weeks, which included Dance Day all day on December 15, and the performances of the High Five Choir on Friday, December 18 at 11:00 am in the McGee Theater; next week starts Winter Break. The Administrative offices will be open Monday and Tuesday next week and Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday the following week. After break, the first two weeks holds Academic Life at the Northfield Campus, final exams and the end of the first semester on January 24. Dr. Dohrer reviewed Dance Day and invited all to see dance students perform.

- Board Members' Requests for Staff Research and Suggested Future Agenda Items
There were no requests for staff research or suggested future agenda items.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Koch moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Dolinko seconded the motion. All were in favor. Upon a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Serrino adjourned the meeting at 10:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

Wendy M. Serrino, President