

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

July 19, 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, 7 Happ Road, Northfield, IL. Room C234, Monday, July 19, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

Members Present

Ms. Wendy Serrino, President
Mr. John Myefski, Vice President
Mr. Alan R. 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
Dr. Timothy Dohrer, Principal -
Winnetka Campus
Mr. Paul Waechter, 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. Randy Oberembt, Athletic Director; 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; Mr.
Jeremy Boscaccy, Department of Technology; Ms. Reiko Mrozik, Co-President NTESPA; Mr. Brian Crowley,
Franczek Radelet; Mr. Robert Martinelli, Pepper Construction; Mr. Wes Bauman, Mr. Daniel Fox; Mr. Herb Sorock;
Ms. Vanessa Rachmaninoff; Ms. Onnie Scheyer; Ms. Marcia Oley; Mr. Tim Sherman; Ms. Katie Okon, and members
of the Community.

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Wendy Serrino called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:33 p.m. and asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meetings.

I. Minutes

Dr. Linda Yonke briefly explained the reason for the amended minutes of the regular meetings of April and May being presented for approval. The minutes for April 19, 2010 and May 17, 2010 open session are corrected to show the motion to move to closed session. The motions had occurred in open session, but were recorded in the closed session minutes for those dates. These open session minutes were corrected to appropriately show the motion, including the reason for the closed session. The minutes for May 10, 2010 were also submitted for approval, again to show the motion and reason for the closed session meeting of that date. Minutes for June 7, 2010 and June 28, 2010 were presented for approval.

Mr. Koch moved and Mr. Merrick seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 7, 2010 (open session), the Special Meeting of June 28, 2010 (open and closed session), the Special Meeting of May 10, 2010 (open session), and the corrected minutes of the Regular Meetings of April 19, 2010 and May 17, 2010 (open sessions). Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None.

The motion passed unanimously.

II. Communications

Ms. Serrino requested members of the Community wishing to provide public comment at the Board of Education meetings to retrieve a copy of the Public Comment Guidelines, which are available at the side table with the Public Communication Request forms.

The Public Comment Guidelines include:

The individuals appearing before the Board of Education are expected to follow these guidelines:

- 1) Speakers are to make known their desire to address the Board of Education by filling out and submitting a request card at the start of the meeting. The card will contain the individual's name, address and phone number along with a brief indication as to the nature of the subject matter.
- 2) Speakers must abide by the rules of order governing such Board of Education Meetings and are asked to confine their remarks to no more than five minutes at the designated time. Normally, thirty minutes will be allowed for this portion of the meeting; however, this position may be altered at the discretion of the presiding officer.
- 3) Comments which are substantially repetitive of comments made by preceding speakers should be presented as briefly as possible or through a spokesperson for a group.

- 4) The President may deny an individual the opportunity to speak if the individual has previously addressed the Board of Education on the same subject within the past two months.
- 5) Speakers shall conduct themselves with respect and civility towards others and otherwise abide by Board Policy.
- 6) Questions and comments should address the Board of Education as a whole ONLY – no comments should be made to an individual board member, audience, principals or other staff members.
- 7) The Board of Education will not entertain charges or complaints against individual employees by persons who address it during a board meeting. Rather, a charge or complaint against an employee must be in writing and signed by the person who makes it, and the Board of Education will refer any such charge or complaint for appropriate review taking into consideration the procedural due process rights of the individual in question.

Ms. Serrino addressed the Board and the Community with her comments:

“New Trier is blessed with engaged, caring and intelligent residents who deeply care about the education we provide for our students and our Community. We are never short on opinions and passion about any decisions regarding New Trier. We on the Board and the Administration are thankful for and value every one of those opinions. We read and think about every email we receive. We carefully listen to every comment made. Your input is extremely valuable. Please remember that by definition any decision that must take into account competing interests will not please everyone. Our job is to find the common ground that ultimately is supported by the Community and continues to maintain the excellence of the educational environment at New Trier.

I have left the last few meetings asking myself if there is a way to create a better environment for public comment. I know that across our township, across our nation, governing bodies are struggling with the rising tide of incivility. This has been talked about in Winnetka and Glencoe by both the village presidents and is written about extensively in the national press. I am concerned about it for New Trier as we grapple over the next few years with the very complex issue of facilities. In response, I started researching the best practice of public engagement. It is a delicate balance of trying to find the best way to balance the rights of the Community to speak their minds about issues important to them and the need to make our limited time as a Board as productive and constructive as possible. In my research, I spent time viewing the public participation Board policies of surrounding school districts. I spoke at length with the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) attorney and our own New Trier legal counsel. In addition, I have read all the relevant documents from the IASB on the topic of public comment. What I found to be a glaring absence in our current policy is the call to civility. School boards are charged with adopting policies and procedures for hearing citizens in a manner that does not obstruct the conduct of business. Because I believe that our current Policy on public comment is vague and incomplete, I have created some guidelines based on the models of public comment that I have researched from the surrounding communities. It is my recommendation that the Board Policy Committee consider adopting these into an amended official policy in the near future.

In the meantime, I use my authority as the presiding officer to use these guidelines until such time that a revised board policy can be voted on. I want you to know that I hold the Board to the same or higher standards I am asking of the Community in these guidelines. My suggested guidelines have some simple changes versus the current Policy. The first is that civility is of utmost importance. This is to make sure we create an environment where we can hear each others’ concerns in a non-threatening way. We want to strike the correct balance with the public’s right to speak its mind and the District’s right against abuse. The second change is to simply reduce the repetition of comment, to use our time more effectively. Our only motivation as a Board of Education is to serve honestly and respectfully the best interests of New Trier High School and the Community.

We the Board of Education are Community members and are your neighbors. We are freely contributing our time and effort to make New Trier High School the best it can be. Our administrators and our teachers are people of integrity that truly have the best interests of our students in mind. I am hopeful that the Policy Committee will meet and in the near future create a proposed policy for review at an upcoming meeting sometime this fall. But in the meantime, I believe these guidelines will work much better for us in creating a more civil and constructive environment.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation with these guidelines.”

During the Public Comment section, four residents addressed the Board: Ms. Rachmaninoff, Mr. Sorock, Mr. Fox and Ms. Scheyer. The speakers shared their concerns about the 2010-11 Budget; civility and discourse at Board meetings, and meeting transparency. Mr. Koch responded to the comments of an earlier speaker. Ms. Serrino noted that the Budget issues would be addressed later in the meeting and thanked everyone for their comments.

III. Special Orders of Business

A. Report from Campus Principals and Assistant Superintendents

Mr. Paul Waechtler reported on the summer activities at the Northfield Campus. He is working with Matt Ottaviano on finishing 4100 student schedules for the fall. Schedules should be mailed out next week. Advisory assignments are complete with their Senior Helpers preparing for activities prior to the start of school.

Dr. Tim Dohrer commented on the last week of a successful Summer School term. Eighteen hundred students were enrolled in athletic and academic programs. The Winnetka Campus also hosts a Summer Fun program for younger children of the District with sports classes. Dr. Dohrer reported that other summer research and planning projects are being completed in preparation for the start of school.

Mr. John Neiweem, Director of Physical Plant Services and Mr. Robert Martinelli of Pepper Construction reported on the status of the Operating Union 150 strike. Work at the Northfield Campus is stopped and everyone is hoping for a quick resolution. An extended strike would affect the completion dates on the

Northfield Campus renovation work.

Mr. Tim Hayes noted ongoing summer planning activities from his office.

Mr. Paul Sally reported on the classroom design work using the larger classroom space to explore classroom needs. He also noted the planning being done on professional development days and the Institute Days for the coming year. The Book Store rental program is in its final planning stage and will be ready for implementation soon.

B. Test Score Analysis

Mr. Paul Sally presented his report on ACT Analysis for the Class of 2010. He highlighted some key findings, which included that New Trier's composite ACT average is one of the highest in the state; many of our non-AP students are far ahead of the state and national averages; and that the academic growth of our students from the PLAN test to the ACT test far outstrips the nation at all achievement levels. Mr. Sally noted that this exceptional growth at all levels and the depth of achievement on these tests is a message that needs to be consistently delivered to the colleges and the community. Mr. Sally responded to Board members' questions and comments. Mr. Sally intends for this type of analysis to be periodically reported to the Board and the Community. Discussion followed on maintaining a strong curriculum from which strong test scores would follow.

Agenda Item V. Board Member Reports followed at this time.

IV. Routine/Recurrent Items (consent agenda)

- **Bill List for the Period, June 1-30, 2010**
- **Open Closed Session Minutes**

Mr. Don Goers presented the Bill List for the month of June that represents the final bill list for the fiscal year. He noted that these payments have been reflected in the Budget Status Report. Mr. Goers also responded to Board members' questions. Dr. Yonke noted that the semi-annual review of Closed Session minutes occurs at this meeting, in order to make the determination as to whether or not the need for confidentiality still exists. The Closed Session minutes up for review cover January 2009 through June 2009. Mr. Koch moved and Mr. Harris seconded the motion that the Board approve the Bill List for the period June 1-30, 2010 as presented, and that the Board approve the opening of the Closed Session minutes of January 2009 through June 2009; and that the Board also approve the motion to destroy the Closed Session and Special Meeting tapes of July 2008 through December 2008. 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. Board Member Reports

There were no specific Board reports for this meeting.

VI. Administrative Items

A. Personnel Report

Dr. Yonke presented the Personnel Report, which reflected the last newly hired teachers and several support staff appointments.

Mr. Dolinko moved and Mr. Merrick seconded that the Board approve the Personnel Report as presented. 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.

B. Tentative 2010-11 Budget

Mr. Goers noted that at the last Board meeting, the Board approved extending the 2010-11 Budget Calendar by one month to allow additional time to identify appropriate expenditure levels and the actual revenues at the state level. Therefore, Mr. Goers presented to the Board for approval the FY 2010-11 Tentative Budget. He is also recommending the budget document be approved and that a Public Hearing on the Final Budget be set for August 23, 2010. Mr. Goers reviewed the work of updating the projections of both the revenues and the expenditures. The Tentative Budget Operating Fund revenues of \$89.72 million is an increase of \$141,000 over the Projected May Budget. The Tentative Budget Operating Fund expenditures show a decrease of about \$20,000 to \$90.24 million. The net result now shows a small surplus of \$104,000 for the FY 2010-11 Operating Fund. He noted the various budget changes as well as a summary of revenues and expenditures of the 09-10 Budget that included Capital Projects and Health Life Safety figures. Upon approval, the Tentative Budget will be on public display for thirty days. The Final 2010-2011 Budget will be presented for approval after the Public Hearing at the August Regular Board meeting. Mr. Goers

requested comment of the Board and responded to their questions. Mr. Merrick moved and Mr. Dolinko seconded the motion that the Board approve the 2010-11 Tentative Budget and that a Public Hearing date be set for August 23, 2010 and that the 2010-11 Tentative Budget be placed on public display from July 20 through the Public Hearing. 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.

C. Clearwire Lease Amendment

Mr. Goers reviewed the lease agreement between the District, the New Trier Technology Cooperative (NTTC) and Sprint, Peoples' Choice TV to lease the radio frequency spectrum that was assigned to New Trier by the FCC in the 1960s. The Sprint spinoff company Clearwire has leased approximately 75% of our capacity and is now looking to lease an additional 20%. In exchange for the additional capacity, the monthly compensation increased by \$7,000 to \$29,657.38 and includes an annual increase of 3% each August. Mr. Goers recommended the approval pending review by legal counsel. Mr. Merrick moved and Mr. Harris seconded the motion that the Board approve the Clearwire Lease Amendment as presented, subject to 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.

D. Board Policy Revisions: First Reading - Policies 2-150; 2-190; 2-200; 2-220; 2-250.

Dr. Yonke reviewed the activities of the Board Policy Committee, which met June 1 and July 13, 2010. She noted the committees plan to review Board policies on a regular schedule with the goal of a complete review of the Policy Manual every five years. The committee chose policies to review and used the Illinois Association of School Board's (IASB) policy service as well as policies from other school districts to compare and update our policies. The policies that are under review are Policy 2-150 Committees; Policy 2-190 Mailing Lists for Receiving Board Material; Policy 2-200 Types of Board of Education Meetings; Policy 2-220 Board of Education Meeting Procedure and Policy 2-250 Access to District's Public Records. Board member Mr. Alan R. Dolinko and Associate Superintendent Mr. Donald Goers are members of the Policy Committee with Dr. Yonke. Mr. Dolinko reviewed the types of committees that the Board has and their roles and procedures. Ms. Serrino requested that these committees post their meeting dates on the school website for anyone interested to attend. Dr. Yonke reviewed the changes to the Policy 2-190 regarding mailing lists, noting the printed materials that must be made available and the documents posted online. Board discussion followed on the changes and additions made to the Policy 2-200 on the types of Board of Education meetings. Dr. Yonke noted the changes to the Policy 2-220 on meeting procedures and Mr. Dolinko elaborated on the details and logic for the changes. Lastly, a procedure for publishing a list of FOIA requests and the status of the responses was added to the Policy 2-250 Access to District's Public Records. The next Policy Committee meeting will be August 11 at 4:00 p.m.

VII. Business Reports

- Financial Reports for June 2010

Mr. Goers reviewed the Financial Reports for June, which included Cash Flow Statements for 2007-08, 2008-09, and 2009-10; the June Financial Statement for June 2010; June 2010 Investment Report; the Quarterly Revenue Report; the Quarterly Expenditure Report; the New Trier Extension Report; and the Cafeteria Report. Mr. Goers also highlighted details of the Budget Status reports and responded to Board members' questions.

VIII. Board of Education

- Calendar of Events

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

Dr. Yonke noted the next five weeks are a quiet time for the summer. The August Regular Board meeting is August 23, which is also the first Institute Day for faculty and staff. New Teacher Orientation is August 17, 18, and 19. The first day of student attendance is August 25. Summer School ends this Friday on July 23.

IX. Communication – Citizens' Comments

Mr. Herb Sorock and Mr. Daniel Fox made comments about the budget, FOIA requests, and a complaint filed by Mr. Fox.

Dr. Yonke noted that all FOIA requests will be listed on a monthly report that will be published each month; per the new Board policy, the report will also be published on the website. Board Committee meeting dates will be posted and published. The Finance Committee and Board Policy Committee will meet on August 11 at 2:00 and 4:00 respectively.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Ms. Serrino adjourned the meeting at 9:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

Wendy M. Serrino, President