

NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

November 15, 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, November 15, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

Members Present

Ms. Wendy Serrino, 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

Members Absent

Mr. John Myefski, Vice President

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. Peter Tragos, Assistant Director of Summer School, Social Studies Department; Ms. Elizabeth Plank Goodspeed, Social Studies Department; Mr. David Goodspeed, Science Department; Mr. John Cadwell, English Department Chair; Ms. Alissa Hammer, Mathematics Department; Ms. Julie Bar, Mathematics Department; Ms. Patricia Carlson, Science Department; Mr. Mark Colegrove, Kinetic Wellness Department; Ms. Kate Ferraro, Science Department; Ms. Larissa Hanson; Mr. Evan Hsieh, Mathematics Department; Ms. Hannah Hsieh, Science Department; Mr. Kevin Kansler, Business Education Department; Mr. Matt Koulentes, Special Education Department; Mr. Michael Lee, Science Department; Mr. Brian Lowery, New Trier Learning Center Department; Ms. Deborah Mauer, Science Department; Ms. Lauren Meyer, Science Department; Mr. Matthew Ravenscraft, Modern & Classical Languages Department; Ms. Tracy Smith, Science Department; Ms. Breanna Turcsanyi, Mathematics Department; Ms. Ellen Zemel, Social Work Department; Ms. Lauren Zuperku, Mathematics Department; Mr. Steven Belford, Business Education Department; Mr. Wesley Molyneaux, Science Department; Ms. Mary Beth Barrett, Science Department; Ms. Dawn Wilson, Family and Consumer Sciences Department; Mr. John Gridley, Science Department; Mr. Marty Laffey, Mathematics Department; Mr. Jeremy Boscaccy, Technology Department; Mr. Jamie Atwell, Social Studies Department; Ms. Kay Pothast, Kinetic Wellness Department; Ms. Anne O'Malley, Library Department; Mr. Mark Hines, Modern & Classical Languages/Social Studies Departments; Mr. Matt Stuczynski, Modern & Classical Languages Department; Ms. Katie Okon, *Pioneer Press*, Mr. Daniel Fox, Ms. Onnie Scheyer, Ms. Jude Offerle, Ms. Marcia Oley, Ms. Lori Goldstein, Mr. Tim Sherman, and members of the Community.

Open Session

I. CALL TO ORDER – 6:30 p.m.

Ms. Serrino called the meeting to order in open session at 6:31 p.m. and asked for a roll call attendance. All members were present except John Myefski.

II. Adjournment to Closed Session

Mr. Dolinko moved that the Board adjourn to closed session for the purpose of discussing collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees; and to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the District. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None.

Member absent: Mr. Myefski

The motion passed unanimously.

Reconvene to Open Session

III. BUSINESS MEETING – 7:30 p.m.

Ms. Wendy Serrino called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order once again in open session in Room C234 at 7:35 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. Ms. Serrino requested a motion to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2010 Regular meetings, open session.

IV. Minutes

Mr. Koch moved and Mr. Merrick seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 18, 2010 (open session). Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Mr. Harris, Mr. Koch, Mr. Merrick, Mr. Dolinko, Ms. Ducommun, 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. Daniel Fox spoke about the Community Survey.

Mr. Goers reported that there were no Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests since the last regular meeting.

Ms. Serrino reviewed a letter received from a New Trier parent regarding a request for parents to view the status of their students' lunch cards and spending histories. Mr. Goers related the response to the parent noting the challenge with software that does not allow for a real time current status of student account balances. The Technology Department is surveying other school districts in this area, in attempts to find a program which would be compatible with our data systems. In the meantime, parents are able to make a request to the Business Office for this information.

VI. Special Orders of Business

A. Report from Campus Principals and Assistant Superintendents

Mr. Paul Waechtler, Assistant Principal at the Northfield Campus, reviewed the various events and happenings at the freshman campus. He noted the last week of October was the end of First Quarter and Parent Teacher Conferences were held on November 10 & 11. The Play by Play panel discussion was well attended with freshman parents hearing advice covering the four year spectrum of high school. Approximately 1070 students have registered for the class of 2015. Placement tests for these incoming freshmen are scheduled for the first weekends in December. Mr. Waechtler also noted that winter sports have begun as well as lunchtime basketball. The Names program which will take place on November 30 and December 1.

Dr. Timothy Dohrer, Principal of the Winnetka Campus, noted the many concerts, performances and sports events going on at the east campus and that the first senior assembly for this year was held last week. This assembly kicks off the senior service project which is building a home for Habitat for Humanity. Seniors are selling tickets to the Tom DeLuca Show to help support their efforts. The next senior fundraiser will be Winter Carnival in March. The annual welcome back reunion for the Class of 2010 will be Tuesday, November 23 at 9:00am in the Cafeteria. The ECGC and Family Awareness Network are presenting a parent's program with speaker Dr. Barbara Fredrickson on "What Good Is It To Feel Good" and on November 30 in the Gaffney Auditorium at 7:00 p.m. the film "Race To Nowhere" will be shown. This exceptional film on the pressures experienced by students and families was presented at the staff Institute Day last Friday and generated important and insightful discussion. Tim Hayes and Paul Sally will be joined by principals from the District sender schools and parents to host a panel discussion on the film on December 2.

Mr. Timothy Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, began his report addressing areas to follow up from the Extracurricular Participation Report for 2009-10 presented at last month's Regular Board meeting. Areas that he will continue working on include using the information and results; improving the collection of information; and investigating the capacity for participation. Certain questions surfaced for Student Activities. For instance, there is a significant increase in participation between freshman and sophomore year and then again between junior and senior year. The assumption is that more clubs are at the Winnetka campus, so more students are able to participate. Also, juniors are interested in increasing their activities participation for college applications. Mr. Hayes would like to examine these assumptions more closely to determine if any changes need to be made. Also of note was the fact that 130 students participated in performing arts and athletics; Mr. Hayes will examine which sports and which

performing arts activities work well together to allow this type of scheduling. Mr. Hayes would like to research and analyze further the demographic patterns of participation as well as better understand an average day for these student participants. Lastly, Mr. Hayes addressed the question of whether participation is at capacity. He noted it is, and he elaborated on the limitations of facilities, scheduling and

staff. Mr. Hayes invited and responded to Board members' questions.

Mr. Paul Sally, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, discussed the events and discussion from the last Institute Day for faculty and staff from this past Friday, November 12. The day began with viewing the movie "Race To Nowhere," which documents the academic and personal pressures that students feel. Dr. Ron Ritchhart, a Senior Research Associate at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and Principal Investigator for the Cultures of Thinking Project followed, speaking to the staff on ways to create cultures of thinking in the classroom. Both the film and speaker generated much discussion on teaching and looking at the whole child.

B. 2010 Proposed Tax Levy

Mr. Goers reported on both the 2009 Tax Rate Report and the 2010 Proposed Tax Levy. The 2009 Tax Rate report from the County Clerk's office noted that the 2009 Tax Extension was reduced as a result of the tax cap by approximately \$14,000. This is significantly lower than the projected tax cap reduction of \$750,000. The difference in the actual tax extension from the projection was related to the amount of new property, which was \$82.5 million. The District's projection for new property was \$20.0 million. With the increase in new property, the District's actual equalized assessed evaluation (EAV) of \$6.97 billion was \$402 million higher than projected. While projections were conservative, a 13% increase in the County multiplier and the end of the 7% property value cap contributed to this unexpected increase.

Mr. Goers noted that the 2010 Tax Levy will support the 2011-12 School Year Budget. The Property Tax Extension Limitation Act limits the actual levy extension. For 2010, the limitation is 2.71% based on the December 2009 CPI. Also included in the calculation are the projected 2010 Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV) and the amount of the new construction projected in 2010. Historical data for both the EAV and new property was acquired from the County Assessor's Office. Mr. Goers is recommending an estimated Levy increase of 2.7% plus an additional sum to capture tax revenues from new property, which would bring the levy estimate to \$86,170,940, a 3.96% increase over the prior year's tax extension. Mr. Goers reviewed the tables and charts of the report and responded to Board members' questions and comments. Mr. Goers noted that the District is anticipating a deficit for the next year even with this levy increase and measures will be taken to address it and arrive at a balanced budget. In keeping with the Truth in Taxation Act, Mr. Goers is recommending having a public hearing even though the estimate does not exceed 105% of last year's extension. There was consensus to hold the public hearing and Ms. Serrino expressed her belief that a public notice be included. Mr. Dolinko moved and Mr. Harris seconded the motion that the Board approve the proposed 2010 Tax Levy estimate of \$86,170,940 (exclusive of the bond and interest) and that a public hearing be held at the December 13, 2010 regularly scheduled Board meeting. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None.

The motion passed unanimously.

C. Profile of Class of 2010 – School Report Card

Mr. Paul Sally presented the first report of the new series of reports to the Board about Curriculum and Instruction and Student Services that support student development. Dr. Yonke also noted that this series of reports will continue through May of this school year and that in addition to starting with the Profile of the Class of 2010, this report will include information on the Graduate Follow-up Study and the Freshman Survey. Mr. Sally briefly reviewed the academic awards and achievements of the Class of 2010, particularly highlighting the average ACT Score of 27.2; the average Advanced Placement Exam score of 4.2; and the high performances of non-AP students on the English ACT (26.4 average) and the Mathematics ACT (25.0 average).

Mr. Sally reviewed the course-taking pattern data, which is a new report, and which shows the number of students taking 4, 5 or 6 major courses per year and the number of students taking elective courses. Also included in the report is representative sampling of where students from the class of 2010 chose to go to college, disaggregated by course levels.

Mr. Tim Hayes reviewed student-use statistics in the area of Support Services, highlighting three programs in particular: GAP (Guided Assistance Program), the Social Work Department and the Bridges program.

Also of note for this class were changes in Athletics, since Rowing became part of the Athletic Department and Bass Fishing was approved by the IHSA, with New Trier fielding a team of ten. Arts Revolution offered students from this class the chance to choose from among 26 performing arts workshops during their freshman year. Mr. Hayes related the honors and accomplishments of their athletic teams and the great many hours of service activities they participated in over the course of their four years.

Dr. Yonke reported on the Graduate Follow-up Study and the Freshman Survey. The Graduate Study findings are consistent with those from the last two years where 98% of students rated their academic

experience as good to excellent. Many students found college to be easier than high school and felt well prepared academically for college. Dr. Yonke pointed out that Strategic Planning Initiatives for reducing

stress, minimizing competition and maximizing the intrinsic value of learning are on target for aiding students to negotiate the rigors of a New Trier education. The Freshman Survey was instituted two years ago when the sender school districts wished to follow-up on their students at New Trier and to assess their preparedness for high school. The current results show that students were most comfortable and well prepared in the areas of Social Studies, Science and Math and 75% of students felt they were placed in the correct level of classes. Many of the students rated their middle schools very high in the area of study skills and that they were well prepared for the homework expectations of high school. Between the two studies it was interesting to find that the outgoing seniors felt their writing skills most improved and ready for college whereas the freshmen rate the area of writing as the area in which they feel least prepared. Further study into this may reveal if this is a natural transition or a possible area to be worked on cooperatively with the sender schools.

Dr. Yonke reviewed the 2010 Illinois School District Report Card. The report includes demographic information as well as test scores. New Trier class size is larger than the average state class size and 90% of our teachers have master's degrees. While the Prairie State test is given to juniors this 2010 report is for last year's senior class who scored on average 27.2 on the ACT. The state average was 20.5. Dr. Yonke reviewed the Adequate Yearly Progress report and highlighted that New Trier was ranked highest for open enrollment public schools on the PSAE. Dr. Yonke noted that the District did not meet AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) for the "students with disabilities" subgroup; however, no high school in Illinois met that mark with this subgroup. Interestingly, our students with disabilities scored an average of 22.6 on their ACT, which is higher than the overall state average of 20.5 for *all* students. Dr. Yonke reported that New Trier students are achieving well and making progress and invited the Board to comment and ask questions. Board discussion followed on comparing this information to past data; highlighting the good news of these statistics; further researching information on teachers and staff that facilitates these records; finding factors that might inhibit the process of improving scores; examining support services, crisis counselors, performing arts opportunities and sports; communicating this data to parents and community; focusing on the 10% students who have underperformed; and implementing assistance programs for them before they leave the school. Dr. Yonke, Mr. Hayes and Mr. Sally all responded to the Board members.

D. Summer School Report

Mrs. Athena Arvanitis, Director of Student Life, and Mr. Peter Tragos, Assistant Summer School Director, presented the Annual Summer School Report, which reviewed the program from this past summer of 2010. Mrs. Arvanitis noted that the program enrollment had increased from 2009 and offers students experiences in four areas: Academics, Enrichment, Sports and Travel. A successful new online registration process was launched which handled approximately 70% of the student registrations. The co-directors' financial overview of the program recommends correcting some tuition rate discrepancies found among individual course tuition rates and implementing a tuition increase for 2011 of 1.5% to cover anticipated expenditure increases. Mrs. Arvanitis and Mr. Tragos invited questions from the Board and responded.

VII. Administrative Items

A. Financial Reports for October 2010

Mr. Goers noted that more detailed reports were presented at the October Regular meeting. This month shows the cash flow statements, the Financial Statement for October and the Summary of Investment Report. There were no Board member questions raised.

B. Appoint Board Secretary Representatives

Dr. Yonke explained that the time for accepting candidate nomination papers for the next Board of Education Elections is the week of December 13 through December 20, 2010. It is recommended to appoint Board Secretary Representatives to cover for Ms. Kelly in the event that she is out of the office for any reason during that time. Ms. Joan Wideman, Ms. Renee Mosley and Dr. Yonke will act in that capacity to accept nomination papers. Mr. Koch moved and Mr. Merrick seconded the motion that the Board approve the appointments of Joan Wideman, Renee Mosley and Linda Yonke as representatives for the Board Secretary to receive nomination papers for the April 5, 2011 School Board Elections. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None.

The motion passed unanimously.

C. 2011-12 School Year Calendar

Dr. Yonke presented the draft School Year Calendar for 2011-12 which was developed with Mr. Jim Burnside, the president of the New Trier Education Association. Dr. Yonke noted that it is created in conjunction with the sender school calendars, especially with regard to winter and spring vacations. President's Day is a school day this year; however, many parents voiced concerns about the hardship this creates with younger students in the District who have the day off when the High School does not. Next year President's Day will be an Institute Day; therefore students will have the day off and staff will attend the Institute Day. Dr. Yonke also noted that the two Professional Days from this year are not in the

calendar for next year. If through negotiations this would change, then the days would be added back. Dr. Yonke opened the discussion for Board members' comments and questions. Mr. Koch moved and Mr. Merrick seconded the motion that the Board approve the 2011-12 School Year Calendar as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None.

The motion passed unanimously.

D. Board Policy – Food Allergies, First Reading

Dr. Yonke noted that Mr. Tim Hayes has been working on a Food Allergy Management plan for two years with a committee of our Health Services staff and parents. Recent legislation requires all schools to have a Food Allergy Management policy in place by January 1, 2011. Mr. Hayes and the Board Policy Committee have met to draft a policy, and used the IASB policy on Food Allergies, Policy 7-285, as a model. Mr. Dolinko noted that this is now a requirement throughout the state and is an issue of serious consequence for students with food allergies or life threatening conditions. Mr. Hayes applauded the work of Health Services Department Chair and Coordinator Colleen Sheridan and Joan Liess, who are training staff about cleaning procedures, implementing treatment, and working with families of students with allergies. Board discussion followed with regard to District obligation, risk minimization and preparing high school students for personal independence. Dr. Yonke noted that this is the first reading for this policy. Footnotes were included for reference and will be deleted on the final draft for next months' second reading.

VIII. Consent Agenda

- **Bill List for the Period, October 1-31, 2010**
- **Personnel Report**
- **New Course Proposals**

Ms. Serrino reviewed the items within the consent agenda and asked if any items should be pulled out for discussion. No items were singled out. Mr. Dolinko moved that the Board approve the Bill List for the Period, October 1-31, 2010 as presented; that the Board approve the Personnel Report for October 2010 as presented; and that the Board approve the New Course Proposals that were first presented at the October 18 Regular Meeting. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None.

The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Board Member Reports

Mr. Koch noted that there had not been any meetings for the NSSED.

Mr. Merrick reported that the Strategic Planning Evaluation Committee met on October 25 and the various subcommittees were busy at work. The Facilities Comparison Committee met twice, on October 26 and November 9. Committee members recently toured Glenbrook North, taking many photos for the committee to discuss. There are plans to see numerous other area high schools. The Technology Planning Committee meets tomorrow, November 16.

Mr. Harris attended the Booster Club meeting and noted that they voted to allocate \$35,000 to support various New Trier athletic requests such as wrestling mats, additional ice machines and wall decals. Mr. Harris highlighted that the Club is holding out other budgetary funds for the potential new turf field. The next major fundraiser for the Booster Club will be held on January 29 and is a repeat of the successful event last year, "Second City Lampoons New Trier". There will be two shows that evening at 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Ticket sales are brisk and are available online.

Ms. Ducommun reported that the Parents' Association has been very busy. She also noted that their collections have been down and they are considering doing another solicitation.

Mr. Dolinko noted that the Policy Committee reported earlier in the meeting on Food Allergy Management. He also reported for the Traffic & Parking Committee. Mr. Dolinko stated that the committee, along with the Village of Winnetka and the Police Department, have made great strides in alleviating the crush of traffic in and around the school. Both Mr. Dolinko and Dr. Dohrer noted the vastly improved parking and traffic situation during the recent Parent Teacher Conferences. Dr. Dohrer praised the great team effort of our Physical Plant Services staff and Security staff where greater communication made the difference managing these high traffic-volume events.

Dr. Yonke reported for the New Trier Education Foundation which had a day long Strategic Planning Session on October 30. Jim Marran was the facilitator for the meetings which focused on how to work more closely with the school to fund larger projects. To date their efforts had been used to assist teachers in their classrooms

with smaller items. They are looking to engage alumni interest in more significant ways. Dr. Yonke also announced that the Alumni Achievement Award winners have been selected and requested everyone to save the date of March 22 for the First Annual Hall of Honor Awards Event.

X. Board Members' Calendar of Events

- Calendar of Events

There were no events highlighted.

- 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. Merrick seconded the motion. All were in favor. Upon a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Serrino adjourned the meeting at 9:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

Wendy M. Serrino, President