

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

September 20, 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, September 20, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.

Members Present

Ms. Wendy Serrino, President
Mr. John Myefski, Vice President
Mr. Alan Dolinko (for Open Session only)
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 Waechtler, Assistant Principal -
Northfield Campus
Mr. Timothy Hayes, Assistant Superintendent
for Student Services
Mr. Paul Sally, Assistant Superintendent for
Curriculum & Instruction

Members Absent

Mr. Alan Dolinko (for Closed Session only)

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. Reiko Mrozik, Co-President NTESPA; Mr. Jim Burnside, President, New Trier Education Association; Ms. Katherine Schindler, Assistant Principal for Student Services; Ms. Athena Arvanitis, Director of Student Life; Ms. Teri Rodgers, Social Studies Department; Ms. Pam Beavin, Modern & Classical Language Department; Mr. Terry Phillips, Math Department; Mr. Michael O'Donovan, Business Education Department; Mr. Kerry Hall, Social Studies Department; Ms. Jenny Wexler, Math Department; Mr. Alf Estberg, Math Department; Mr. Daniel Lawler, English Department; Mr. Marc Garneau, Art Department; Ms. Susan Kwon, Art Department; Mr. Tom Lau, Art Department; Ms. Jennifer McDonough, Family & Consumer Sciences Department; Ms. Dawn Sullivan, Family & Consumer Science Department; Ms. Julie Masarsky, Family & Consumer Science Department; Ms. Judy Weiss, Modern & Classical Language Department; Ms. Mary Beth Barrett, Science Department; Ms. Megan Zajac, Special Education Department; Ms. Kay Pothast, Kinetic Wellness Department; Ms. Egle Baliukaite, English Department; Ms. Raquelle Brennan, Library Department; Mr. Robert Credo, Science Department; Mr. Nick Drozdoff, Science Department; Ms. Jackie Gnant, Science Department; Mr. Brett Rubin, English Department; Mr. Jay Rosenberg, English Department; Dr. John Gatta, ECRA Group; Mr. Andrew Cripe, Hinshaw & Culbertson, Legal Counsel; Mr. Herb Sorock; Ms. Vanessa Rachmaninoff; Ms. Cheryl Smith; Ms. Onnie Scheyer; Ms. Beth Bloom; Ms. Edith Abramson; Mr. Tim Sherman, and members of the Community.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Wendy Serrino called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order in open session at 6:34 p.m. and asked for a roll call attendance. All members were present except for Mr. Dolinko. Ms. Serrino requested a motion to adjourn to closed session to discuss matters of specific personnel and student discipline.

II. Adjournment to Closed Session

Mr. Merrick moved and Ms. Ducommun seconded the motion to adjourn to Closed Session to discuss matters related to specific personnel and a student disciplinary issue. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None.

Member Absent: Mr. Dolinko

The motion passed unanimously.

The purpose of the Closed Session is to discuss matters related to the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the District and a student disciplinary case.

The Closed Session adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

BUSINESS MEETING

III. Reconvene to Open Session-- 7:30 p.m.

Ms. Serrino reconvened the meeting to Open Session at 7:34 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance, specifically our Foreign Exchange Students and their host families. Ms. Serrino reminded everyone to follow the Guidelines for Public Comment, copies of which are on the side table. Ms. Serrino also noted the changes in the meetings' agenda as recently approved by Board policy. There is now only one Citizen Comment section at the beginning of the meeting. All Board members were present.

Ms. Serrino began the meeting with Agenda Item VI.B. - The Introduction of the Foreign Exchange Students

IV. Minutes

Mr. Koch moved and Mr. Harris seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 23, 2010 (open session). 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.

V. Communications

Ms. Serrino began the Communications agenda item with a correction of a letter she wrote for the *Chicago Tribune, TribLocal*. The letter stated that despite significant cuts to the State of Illinois funding the District expects to have a balanced budget for 2010-11 and add to the reserve levels this year. The correction is that the reserves were added to last year.

Ms. Serrino also addressed issues that were brought up in a Channel 2 News program last week about the New Trier Day Care. Ms. Serrino noted for context that the Day Care occupies only .05% of the total size of New Trier and is located in the newly restored Building B on the Northfield Campus. The program that has been studied by the District and the Teachers' Association since 1991, with discussions taking place almost every year since then. Until Building B became available to the District, there was no space to be found for such a program. Building B is the more important news to the District, as it has provided a new Science lab, extra Math and Science classrooms, a study hall, a reading center and relocated office space from Winnetka to allow for more classrooms on that campus. Ms. Serrino noted other area high school districts that have day care facilities, which included Deerfield, Highland Park, Evanston, Lake Forest, Stevenson, and Oak Park/River Forest. Bright Horizons assumes all liability and risk for the New Trier Day Care and pays all operating costs including janitorial services and utilities. Bright Horizons has a profit sharing agreement with New Trier whereby when the child care center is fully enrolled and operational, New Trier will share in the profits of running the Day Care. The tuition fee is not subsidized for the teachers and the current cost is competitive with area Day Cares. Benefits to New Trier include the two added professional development days to the school year at no cost to the District, which was part of a side letter agreement to the negotiated teacher contract. This will make New Trier comparable to other area schools for the number of professional development days. The Day Care also provides an important family benefit for teachers with young families in choosing or staying with New Trier. This added benefit package allows New Trier to recruit and keep top teaching and staff professionals and avoid losing them to the other area high schools and employers. The original recommendation for the Day Care was made on February 19, 2008 board of Education meeting and the vendor recommendation at the February 16, 2010 meeting. More information can be found at the school's website and final cost figures will be available to the public in the next few weeks.

Dr. Yonke relayed an update on Sarah Goone, the sophomore student involved in the car accident last May at the intersection of Winnetka Ave. and Green Bay Road. She is recovering remarkably well and is back at school.

Mr. Herb Sorock shared his prepared remarks on the Day Care.

VI. Special Orders of Business

A. Report from Campus Principals and Assistant Superintendents

Mr. Paul Waechtler, Assistant Principal at the Northfield Campus reviewed many start-of-the year activities at the Freshmen Campus, which included a dedication of the B-Building. This event allowed visitors the opportunity to see the classrooms, offices and student commons that have been added to the campus. There was a Freshman Adviser Parent night where students' Advisers were available to meet with parents. Wellness Week was last week; each day highlighted a different wellness activity. The Activities Fair was held outside; over 40 clubs and activities are presented to the freshmen to generate enthusiasm and membership. Homecoming week is this week, which will end with a pep rally on Friday. October 7, Thursday is Freshman Go-To-School night. At this annual event, parents follow their students' schedule, meeting their teachers for an evening of shortened classes.

Dr. Tim Dohrer, principal of the Winnetka Campus shared the activities of that campus. Wellness Week starts with the Run to Remember, a 5K run to commemorate the New Trier alumni lost in the porch collapse which occurred several years ago. The Parents' Association is on campus for the Wellness

Week handing out apples to the students and encouraging healthy eating. Dr. Dohrer noted the current Art exhibit in the Brierly Gallery at the Winnetka Campus, which is presenting our Art teachers' works. The Homecoming game will be this Friday and the Dance in the Gates Gym on Saturday. Lagniappe Potpourri, the student-run production will be performed on October 13, 14 and 15. Tickets are available at the box office and online.

Mr. Tim Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Activities added that there was also a Sophomore Adviser Parent Night at the Winnetka campus. It is similar to the freshman night and allows parents to meet their students' Sophomore Advisers. Mr. Hayes commended the decorating efforts of the Pep Club on both campuses as blue and green spirit was evident throughout the school.

Mr. Paul Sally, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction reported that the innovative classrooms are off to a good start for the year. A more detailed report will be presented to the Board later this year as well as a report on the late start / early dismissal days and other staff development days.

Mr. Don Goers, Associate Superintendent, reported that there were five Freedom of Information (FOIA) requests since the last regular Board of Education meeting in August. Mr. Goers reviewed the requests and stated that all have been closed out with the exception of the one for Mr. Bauman which will be completed this week.

B. Foreign Exchange Students

Ms. Athena Arvanitis, Director of Student Life, introduced five of this year's Foreign Exchange Students. She thanked the Global Exchange Students for all their hospitality efforts and activities that they have extended to welcome the Exchange Students. This year's Foreign Exchange Students from Germany are Catalina Flor, Philipp Roth, Julian Staebler, and Linda Voedisch; Maren Liven is from Norway; Hideki Tsuji is from Japan; and Laetitia Mercier Des Rochettes is from France. Appreciation and thanks were given to the host families of the students, Scott & Maria Valissariou McQuiston, Eugene & Moira Fahey-Ullrich, David & Sher Daverille Barch, Jennifer Kunetka & Michael Garrett, Wesley & Kristen Jasinski, Josh & Laura Lutton and Jason & Daphne Cody.

C. Community Survey – ECRA Group

Dr. Yonke introduced Mr. John Gatta of the ECRA Group, the firm chosen to assist with the community survey. A draft has been distributed to the Board for discussion, initial reactions and comments. Board members shared their concerns over the question of income and its relevance in the survey. Further discussion surrounded the questions on age; families with students in private schools; national and local economies; the purpose of the survey to look back at the failed referendum or forward; facilities question only on cafeteria to the exclusion of the other facility needs; renovate or build new facilities should be two questions; and student opportunity and access to technology questions. Mr. Gatta responded to their questions noting the importance of asking the right questions to answer the core purpose of the survey. He noted a theme from the focus groups was to slow the process down and listen to what the community's philosophy and vision is for New Trier. Ms. Serrino requested the Board to think about the survey and submit their questions to her or Dr. Yonke. The Committee will meet, refine and bring back another draft to consider. Dr. Yonke suggested scheduling a Special Meeting to discuss only the survey and she would poll the Board members for their availability. Mr. Gatta cautioned the Board to be mindful of the survey timeline and the optimal times to be sending such a survey home to families.

VII. Administrative Items

A. Financial Reports for August 2010

Mr. Goers noted the slight changes in format of the Financial Reports to make them easier to read. The September reports are the same as those in the past, starting with the Cash Flow Statements, the monthly Financial Statement, and the Investment Report. The available cash balance is in a favorable position and the report shows the adjustment between the Operations & Maintenance Fund and the Capital Projects Fund correcting the duplication. Ms. Ducommun suggested changes and the addition of notes or narrative.

B. Department of Communications Report

Ms. Nicole Dizon, Director of Communications reported on the numerous new initiatives the Communications Department has begun with specific goals to extend New Trier's community outreach, streamline school publications, maximize public relations and media opportunities that support the school's educational mission, and improve content on the school website to make New Trier the primary source of news and information about the District. Ms. Dizon announced that New Trier now has both a Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/newtrier203>) and a Twitter account (<http://twitter.com/newtrier203>) which gives the school access to the widely used social networking sites as another way to reach parents, students, staff and the community with the most current information. Ms. Dizon also noted three new publications, the free weekly newspapers the *Wilmette Beacon* and the *Winnetka Current*, and a bimonthly magazine *Quintessential New Trier*. Ms. Dizon and Chris Johnson have worked together to add more content to the school website and improve the ease of navigating the site. The school website allows the administration to anticipate the needs of the community and provide information on Finances, the Haiti Project, the Northfield Renovation Project or other current issues. Ms. Dizon invited questions or comments from the Board members and responded to them.

C. Board Policy Revision: First Reading – Policy 8-80

Dr. Yonke noted that this policy was reviewed at the last meeting; however, discussion revealed the need

for more changes. Dr. Yonke presented a new draft for a First Reading of Policy 8-80 School-Community Relations Gifts, Naming, Advertising, and Tribute Policy. She reviewed the specific changes and invited Board comments. Further Board discussion followed, noting a recognition precedent that has been set at the Gaffney Auditorium listing the donors of the Centennial Drive; that the Board has discretion and flexibility in the new policy, which is appropriate; and that the directive to prohibit naming opportunities is clear. The second reading for this policy will occur at the October Regular Meeting.

VIII. Consent Agenda

- **Bill List for the Period, August 1-31, 2010**
- **Personnel Report**
- **Board Policy Revision: Second Reading – Policy 2-230**
- **Application for Recognition of Schools ISBE**

Ms. Serrino noted that according to the revised Board Policy, the meeting agendas would include a consent agenda. Ms. Serrino asked if any member wished to remove any items for separate discussion. Dr. Yonke reviewed the use of consent agendas and the intent to streamline the meeting and the voting on motions. All members were in favor of the consent agenda as presented. Mr. Dolinko moved that the Board approve the Bill List for the Period, August 1-31, 2010; that the Board approve the Personnel Report for September 2010; that the Board approve the Second Reading of the Board Policy Revision of Board Policy 2-230; and that the Board approve the application for annual Recognition of Schools submitted to the ISBE. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. 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.

IX. Board Member Reports

Ms. Ducommun reported for the Parents' Association, noting the two meetings she attended since the last Regular Board meeting. She commented on the beneficial opportunity of answering parent questions with source documents. Ms. Ducommun also attended the All School Forum chaired by John O'Connor. The Forum meets monthly to offer a venue for the school community of staff, parents, students and community members comes together to discuss school issues.

Mr. Koch reviewed the recently approved budget of the North Suburban Special Education District (NSSSED). He noted the significant reductions and adjustments in staffing, while the tuition increased by only 1.2% of the \$43.6 million budget. There are no levies or taxes that specifically fund the district. NSSSED is solely supported by the eighteen member school districts across the suburban area. The \$100,000 balanced budget is in the black; however, the cuts to achieve this were deep.

Mr. Merrick reported for the Technology Planning Committee, which is chaired by Chris Johnson and Paul Sally and is comprised of faculty, students and members of the community. The focus last year was providing examples of the use of technology in the classroom. The Committee will continue with this topic and explore the further steps of incorporating technology utilization into the curriculum.

Mr. Harris, the Board liaison for the Booster Club, reviewed the presentation to the Board last month by Sarah Cohen, President of the Booster Club. The \$500,000 fund-raising proposal was created to enable installation of an artificial turf in the Northfield stadium. Mr. Harris noted he relayed the Board's position that it is appreciative of the proposal; however, due to the poor economy and the need for research of such a project, the Board could not commit. Dr. Yonke noted the interest of the Club to have a fundraising campaign called "the Year of the Turf" and that now they may look to the calendar year of 2011 with an installation time in 2012. This would allow for the needed time to research and determine if it could fit into the FY 2012 Budget.

Mr. Harris also reported on the successful New Trier Education Foundation annual Golf Outing on September 13. The day was beautiful and the event was a tremendous success with the Silent Auction and Dinner bringing in over \$90,000. With renewed enthusiasm, the Foundation continues to raise money to support the educational needs of the District.

Mr. Myefski reported on the Fine Arts Association's first meeting of the year where new members are introduced. Mr. Myefski also encouraged faculty and administration to find creative projects which the Association may assist in funding. Dr. Dohrer added that a newly installed display case, funded by the Fine Arts Association, is located in the Gaffney lobby. Currently on display in the case is a piece of artwork by a past AP student. Dr. Dohrer expressed appreciation to the Fine Arts Association for its part in creating this display.

Ms. Serrino reported on the first meeting of the Facilities Comparison Committee, which met in one of the new classrooms. The Committee is planning their strategies on how and where to collect their information and how best to report it. The next two meetings have been scheduled. Ms. Serrino also expressed her appreciation to her fellow Board members for their interest and efforts in the many areas of the school.

X. Board Members' Calendar of Events

- Calendar of Events

Dr. Yonke reminded everyone of the Lagniappe-Potpourri dates, which are October 13, 14, and 15. Freshman-

Go-To-School Night is October 7. There will be a Professional Development Day on October 8; the Columbus Day holiday is October 11 and the next Regular Meeting for the Board is October 18. Homecoming is this Friday, September 24. Dr. Yonke also noted the pre-game dinner for staff and encouraged everyone to come.

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

Ms. Serrino adjourned the meeting at 9:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

Wendy M. Serrino, President