

NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
June 6, 2011
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, Room C234 on Monday, June 6, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present

Mr. John Myefski, President
Ms. Carol F. Ducommun, Vice President
Mr. Alan Dolinko
Mr. Peter Fischer
Ms. Lori Goldstein
Mr. F. Malcolm Harris
Mr. Patrick O'Donoghue

Administrator Present

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

Also Present

Ms. Laurel Burman, Director of Special Education; Ms. Niki Dizon, Director of Communications;
Mr. Christopher 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. Jamie Atwell, Social Studies Department; Mr. Ed Zwirner, English Department Coordinator; Ms. Maria Barraza, Modern and Classical Language Department; Ms. Ariell Bachman, English Department; Ms. Ellen Zemel, Social Work Department; Mr. Mike Baeb, Social Studies Department; Mr. Mitch Jones, Social Studies Department; Ms. Egle Baliukaite, English Department; Mr. Steve Belford, Business Education Department, Ms. Sara Bosa, Modern & Classical Language Department; Mr. Mark Wukas, English Department; Mr. Andy Virkus, English Department; Mr. Bruce Johnson, English Department; Ms. Julie Novak, Social Studies Department; Ms. Anne Morris, English Department; Mr. James Wright, Social Studies Department; Mr. Dave Wisner, Mathematics Department; Mr. Paul Kermgard, Special Education Department; Ms. Sue Ellen Haak, Kinetic Wellness Department; Ms. Liette Brisebois, Modern & Classical Language Department; Mr. Marc Garneau, Business Education Department; Ms. Claudia Furman, English Department; Mr. Matt Sloan, Science Department; Ms. Tricia Laguna, Special Education Department; Ms. Sarah Fergus, Special Education Department; Mr. Bob Spagnoli, Technology Education Department; Ms. Breanna Turcsanyi, Mathematics Department; Ms. Susie Thorngren, Post High School Counseling Department; Mr. Brent Strom, English Department; Ms. Patti Bowler-Johnson, Mathematics Department; Ms. Katie Buckingham, Special Education Department; Mr. Dan Licata, English Department; Ms. Mindy Rotman, English Department; Mr. Jeff Markham, English Department; Ms. Barbara Joyce, English Department; Mr. Marty Laffey, Mathematics Department; Ms. Molly Lombardi, Social Studies Department; Mr. Dean Pinos, Social Studies Department Coordinator; Mr. Terry Phillips, Mathematics Department; Mr. Wes Molyneaux, Kinetic Wellness Department; Mr. Tony Harper, Science Department; Mr. John Burnside, Science Department; Mr. Gary McManus, English Department; Ms. Jackie Gnant, Science Department; Ms. Heidi Hauelsen, Driver Education Department; Ms. Aileen Heidkamp, English Department; Mr. Matt Temple, Music Department; Mr. Dan Lawler, English Department; Mr. Matt Koulentes, Special Education Department; Mr. Dan Daly, Science Department; Mr. Mike Clough, Science Department; Mr. Andy Horne, Kinetic Wellness Department; Mr. Brandon Stiller, Science Department; Ms. Marie Thomas, Special Education Department; Mr. Peter Tragos, Social Studies Department; Ms. Bobbie Leonard, Mathematics Department; Ms. Jeannie Logan, Social Studies Department; Mr. Jay Rosenberg, English Department; Mr. Gary Schubert, Modern & Classical Language Department; Ms. Christine Estberg, Science Department; Mr. Steve Drajpuch, Social Studies Department; Mr. Pete Drevline, Kinetic Wellness Department; Ms. Kerri Manzi, Science Department; Ms. Jen McDonough, Family & Consumer Sciences Department; Mr. Brett Rubin, English Department; Ms. Tracy Smith, Science Department; Mr. Carlo Trovato, English Department; Mr. Greg Sego, Mathematics Department; Ms. Venera Stabinsky, Modern & Classical Languages Department; Mr. Matt Stucynski, Modern & Classical Languages Department; Mr. Brian VanMersbergen, Kinetic Wellness Department; Mr. Jon Lepasca, Mathematics Department; Mr. John Miller, Science Department; Ms. Joan Liess, Health Services Department; Mr. Jason Dane, Kinetic Wellness Department; Ms. Laura Deutsch, Kinetic Wellness Department; Ms. Ana Del Ray, Modern & Classical Languages Department; Mr. Ryan Dunn, Science Department; Mr. David Hjelmgren, Social Studies Department; Ms. J.J. Hill, Modern & Classical Language Department; Mr. Tony Gudwein, English Department; Mr. Craig Fairbairn, Driver Education Department; Mr. Sarah Gompers, English Department; Ms. Kim Hafron, Modern & Classical Languages Department; Ms. Stephanie Farruggia, Special Education Department; Ms. Jaylyn Hermann, Department; Ms. Kathy Flanagan, Department; Mr. Tim Estberg, Music Department; Mr. Paul Easton, English Department; Mr. Andrew Docktor, English Department; Mr. Dick Dreis, Math Department; Mr. Matt Ravenscraft, Modern & Classical Languages Department; Mr. Dan Rogan, Post-High School Counseling Department; Ms. Johannah Wininsky, Kinetic Wellness Department; Mr. Eric Berliant, English Department; Ms. Trish Sheridan, English Department; Ms. Gretchen Stauder, Post High School Counseling Department; Ms. Kathy Heublein, Co-President NTESPA; Ms. Reiko Mrozik, Technology Department, Co-President, NTESPA; Mr. Jim Burnside, President, New Trier Education Association, Science Department; Ms. Kay Pothast, Kinetic Wellness Department; Ms. Mary Beth Barrett, Science Department; Ms. Teri Cross, New Trier Fine Arts Association President; Mr. John Huston, Chicago Tribune; Ms. Onnie Scheyer; Mr. Wes Bauman, and members of the Community.

I. CALL TO ORDER – 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Myefski called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to Order at 6:00 p.m. Roll call was taken. All members were present. Mr. Myefski noted the first item of business was in Closed Session. Mr. Dolinko moved and Mr. Harris seconded the motion that the Board move to closed session for the purpose of discussing the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity; and to discuss 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 evidence or testimony presented in open hearing, or in closed hearing where authorized by law, to a quasi-adjudicative body, as defined in the Open Meetings Act, provided that the body prepares and makes available for public inspection a written decision with its determinative reasoning; and to discuss litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular District has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the District finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the closed meeting minutes; and to discuss the placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Ms. Ducommun, Mr. Fischer, Ms. Goldstein, Mr. Harris, Mr. O'Donoghue, Mr. Dolinko, Mr. Myefski

NAY: None

The motion passed.

Adjournment to Closed Session – 6:01 p.m.

II. Closed Session – Rm. A201A

The Closed Session meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

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

BUSINESS MEETING

III. Reconvene to Open Session – 7:30 p.m. – C234

Mr. John Myefski reconvened in open session and called the Regular Business Meeting of the Board of Education to order in Room C234 at 7:50 p.m., after the recognition program. All Board members were present. Mr. Myefski welcomed those in attendance and indicated the procedure for sharing comments or concerns during the Communication time of the meeting.

IV. Minutes

Mr. Myefski noted the first agenda item was to approve the minutes of May 16, 2011. Mr. Dolinko moved and Ms. Goldstein seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of May 16, 2011, open and closed session, and approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of May 16, 2011, open and closed session. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Ms. Ducommun, Mr. Fischer, Ms. Goldstein, Mr. Harris, Mr. O'Donoghue, Mr. Dolinko, Mr. Myefski

NAY: None

The motion passed

V. Communications

Mr. Myefski invited members of the Community to share their comments with the Board. No one came forward to speak.

VI. Special Orders of Business

A. Report from Campus Principals and Assistant Superintendents

Mr. Paul Waechtler, Assistant Principal of the Northfield Campus, reported on the year wrapping up with finals and the last day of school this week. The Shakespeare Festival, sponsored by the English Department, took place at various locations of the campus over three days and went very well. Mr. Waechtler also noted the Spring Fest Service Project raised over \$5,000 to build a school in Haiti and sent over one hundred boxes of supplies. Looking forward, New Trier's Northfield Campus will host the Township Language Arts Institute on June 14 & 15. Over seventy teachers from grades 6-12, many from the sender schools, will participate in the two day workshops on presentation and writing.

Dr. Timothy Dohrer, Principal of the Winnetka Campus, recounted the many activities surrounding saying goodbye to the senior class as they transition out of New Trier. He noted the start of a few new "traditions" this year beginning with the distribution of yearbooks to the seniors on their last day of attendance. This was followed by the Senior Award Ceremony, the Commencement Concert, and the Commencement rehearsal. Commencement took place at Northwestern University's Welsh-Ryan Arena on Sunday, June 5.

Senior Class President, Jeremy Levine-Drizin, presented the Class Gift and the Commencement Speaker was Robin Schmid of the Class of 2011. The graduation ceremony was followed by the Commencement Party at the Northfield Campus with dancing, food, and games, sponsored by the Parents Association.

Dr. Dohrer noted it was a fabulous group of seniors, a “class with class” and it is sad to see them go. Dr. Yonke added her thanks to all who were involved with the commencement events and made a special note of recognizing New Trier alumna Bernice Cole of the class of 1928. She was attending with her son, grandson and granddaughter who was part of the Class of 2011 - all New Trier alumni. Dr. Yonke also applauded the new emphasis on the student speakers at the ceremony. Mr. Myefski thanked the Class of 2011 for their \$100,000 gift to the school of a new home constructed through Habitat for Humanity.

Mr. Timothy Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, noted that the final meeting of the Equity Team would be a celebration on Monday, June 13. All of the team partners will be included and Mr. Hayes is looking forward to this opportunity to thank them for all of their efforts and interest over the past year and looking forward to next year.

Mr. Sally, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, reported on the hiring process which is finishing up and is a part of this month’s Personnel Report. Mr. Sally commended the work of the Department Hiring Committees in recruiting another great generation of teachers for our students.

Mr. Don Goers, Associate Superintendent, reported on the two FOIA requests received since the last regular Board of Education meeting. The first was related to curriculum and curriculum maps for Spanish courses and the other involved the costs related to sexual harassment training.

Dr. Yonke reported on a story published by the Washington Post on ranking high schools. The ranking system is called the Challenge Index, created by Jay Matthews. It ranks schools by the number of AP exams given divided by the number of seniors. Newsweek no longer uses this index. Dr. Yonke noted that New Trier does not press freshmen and sophomores to take AP courses and we have strong faith in the four level curriculum offered here. Many schools scoring high on the index do emphasize AP courses and exams to freshmen and sophomores.

B. Transitions

Mr. Tim Hayes prepared the report with Paul Sally regarding the way New Trier manages the three main transition experiences for students and parents. The transition periods include eighth grade to freshman year, freshman year to sophomore year, and senior year to post-high school life. Mr. Hayes detailed the type of help and information needed for both parents and students to navigate all of these challenging changes. Mr. Hayes invited questions or comments from the Board. General discussion followed about the importance of the transition piece in the Strategic Plan and the benefits of the improved communications with the sender schools on preparing students for high school. Additional avenues for communication and outreach were identified with the principals’ meetings and meetings with the Parents’ Associations.

C. Report on Special Meeting of May 16, 2011

Dr. Yonke reviewed the activities and the discussions of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education held on May 16, 2011 in the afternoon. It was a Closed Session meeting for the purpose of discussing self-evaluation, practices and procedures and professional ethics with a member of the Illinois Association of School Boards, Mr. John Cassel. Dr. Yonke noted that the Board has participated in this type of self-evaluation every year for the past five years. Discussion included the characteristics of a quality, and functioning team and principles of effective governance. The desire to engage the community in a two-way conversation with the community was a strong theme in the afternoon discussions. Ms. Ducommun noted that goal setting is external to the closed session and she would like to find time on the calendar to add that to an open meeting agenda. District goals will be part of the June 27 Special Meeting when the Strategic Planning Assessment is presented and discussed. Mr. Harris was appreciative of the opportunity to meet and talk with fellow Board Members about these topics, facilitated by the state board representative. Mr. Fischer emphasized that the June 27 meeting was an open meeting and encouraged the public to come and participate in constructive positive dialogue. Mr. Myefski noted the changes in seating and camera locations to improve and facilitate community conversation.

VII. Administrative Items

A. Financial Reports for May 2011

Mr. Goers reviewed the May 2011 Financial Reports and noted that more detailed reports will follow next month as all the year-end data will be completed. This month’s report includes the cash flow statements and the Investment reports. Mr. Goers invited questions from the Board members. Mr. Dolinko inquired if any more property tax receipts were expected, as it appeared that most had been collected by April. Mr. Goers agreed that this was the case; no new significant receipts were expected.

B. Preliminary Budget

Mr. Goers summarized the 2011-2012 Preliminary Budget, highlighting the main areas of salaries, employee benefits, capital, and other expenditures and revenues. He noted that while the FY 2011-12 is balanced, there remains a projected \$2.25 million deficit for FY 2012-13 despite the reinstatement of General State Aid. The 2011-12 Tentative Budget will be presented at the July 18, 2011 Regular Board of Education meeting which will include updated information on revenue and expenditure projections. Upon approval of the Tentative Budget in July, a Public Hearing will be scheduled at the Regular August 22, 2011 Board meeting with a recommendation to approve the Final 2011-12 Budget. Mr. Goers responded to Board members’ comments and questions.

C. Testing Day – Calendar Modification

Mr. Paul Sally reviewed the proposed calendar modification to accommodate a two-year pilot administering the PSAT and the PLAN tests on a regular school day. Mr. Sally explained the reasons for the change as well as the benefits for the students. Both tests represent important transitions for students in their sophomore and junior years. The PSAT exam awards collegiate scholarship opportunities and the PLAN test is used for career and college counseling. Moving the test to a regular school day eliminates an important conflict for many students whose schedules include Saturday athletics or other activities. Week day testing would also allow more time for the staff for professional development and faculty collaboration. Much Board discussion followed about better testing conditions on school days resulting in better test outcomes; Prairie State testing; possible loss of Federal and State funding for assessments; seniors using the time to prep college applications; the logistics of the testing day; and the integrity of the testing environment. Mr. Sally noted that seniors would have a free day to prepare their college applications and freshmen would have an early dismissal, allowing faculty learning cohorts to meet in the afternoon. Mr. Dolinko moved that the Board approve the recommendation for the School Day Standardized Testing Pilot in October 2011 as presented. Mr. O’Donoghue seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follow:

AYE: Mr. Fischer, Ms. Goldstein, Mr. Harris, Mr. O’Donoghue, Mr. Dolinko, Ms. Ducommun, Mr. Myefski

NAY: None

The motion passed.

D. Residency Appeal

Mr. Myefski asked for a motion. Mr. Dolinko moved that the Board approve the Hearing Officer’s recommendation on the residency appeal before the Board as presented. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follow:

AYE: Ms. Goldstein, Mr. Harris, Mr. O’Donoghue, Mr. Dolinko, Ms. Ducommun, Mr. Fischer, Mr. Myefski

NAY: None

The motion passed.

VIII. Consent Agenda

- Bill List for the Period May 1-31, 2011
- Personnel Report
- Prevailing Wage Approval

Mr. Myefski reviewed the items within the consent agenda and asked if any items should be removed for discussion. None was proposed for discussion. Mr. Dolinko moved and Mr. Fischer seconded the motion that the Board approve the Consent Agenda items which include the Bill List for the period of May 1-31, 2011 as presented; the Personnel Report with Addendum as presented; and the Prevailing Wage Resolution as presented.

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Mr. Harris, Mr. O’Donoghue, Ms. Ducommun, Mr. Dolinko, Mr. Fischer, Ms. Goldstein, Mr. Myefski

NAY: None

The motion passed.

IX. Board Member Reports

Mr. Myefski reported on the meeting he attended with Dr. Yonke and the Intergovernmental Agencies of Winnetka. He noted the opportunities for communication and cooperation among the different entities, most specifically the Winnetka Library. Dr. Yonke commented on the need for more library time at the end of each quarter and cooperative sharing at both New Trier and the public library. It was also noted that New Trier’s library works collaboratively with other township libraries and with area high school libraries as well.

Mr. Harris stated that the Booster Club was having their end of the year meeting tomorrow evening, June 7. It will be a celebration among all the members and out-going officers.

Ms. Ducommun noted what a great gift from the community the Graduation party is for the students. The hundreds of parent volunteers did a wonderful job. She noted that the commencement ceremony was lovely except for the moment when the parents booed a staff member for appropriating the balloons. The students are taught to act respectfully when part of an audience and she wanted to apologize to the staff for the negative reaction from the parents and guests.

Ms. Goldstein reported information pertaining to the ECGC Parent Committee’s last meeting for the year. She referred to Dr. Dohrer’s presentation on outreach to all the sender school principals on social and emotional learning. She noted the importance of this transition strategy throughout the K-12 years.

Mr. Fischer noted that the New Trier Education Foundation would be meeting next Tuesday night to discuss next year's fundraising efforts. They are planning to hold the annual Golf Outing as well as the Alumni Recognition Dinner. Foundation members are most pleased to have found a specific project to use as a focal point for fundraising, which is the new innovative classroom project.

X. Board Members' Calendar of Events

- Calendar of Events

Dr. Yonke detailed the highlights of the last days of the school year. She noted that final exams were this week; the last day of student attendance is Thursday. Summer School begins on Monday, June 13. There will be a Special Meeting of the Board on Monday, June 27 to discuss the Strategic Planning Assessment and the next Regular Board meeting is on Monday, July 18.

- Board Members' Request for Staff Research

There were no requests for research.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Dolinko moved that the Board adjourn to Closed Session for the purpose of discussing the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity; and for purposes 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. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Mr. O'Donoghue, Ms. Ducommun, Mr. Dolinko, Mr. Fischer, Ms. Goldstein, Mr. Harris,
Mr. Myefski

NAY: None

The motion carried and the meeting adjourned to Closed Session at 9:01 p.m.

Reconvene to Open Session

The Board reconvened to Open Session for the purposes of adjournment. Al Dolinko moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting; Peter Fischer seconded the motion. Following a voice vote, all approved that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting ended at 9:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

John Myefski, President