

**NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
May 16, 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, May 16, 2011 at 6:30 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. George Sanders, Director of Human Resources; Ms. Michele Slav, Director of Business Services; Ms. Debbie Johnson, Social Studies Department Chair; Mr. Steve Viktora, Mathematics Department Chair; Mr. Pete Collins, Kinetic Wellness Department Coordinator; Mr. Eric Berliant, English Department; Mr. Robert Berlin, Mathematics Department; Mr. Bob Bollweg, Business Education Department; Mr. Kevin Bond, English Department; Ms. Judith Gressel, Library Department; Mr. John Gridley, Science Department; Ms. Hannah Hsieh, Science Department; Ms. Kate Kalnes, Kinetic Wellness Department; Ms. Danah Ouimette, Kinetic Wellness Department; Mr. Christopher Rutt, Kinetic Wellness Department; Mr. Gary Schubert, Modern & Classical Languages Department; Ms. Trish Sheridan, English Department; Ms. Gretchen Stauder, Post High School Counseling Department; Mr. Brian Van Mersbergen, Kinetic Wellness Department; Mr. Harry Secaras, Chairman of the New Trier Education Foundation Board; Ms. Marianne Breen, New Trier Education Foundation; Mr. Richard Corrus, Co-President NTESPA; Mr. Jim Burnside, President, New Trier Education Association, Science Department; Mr. Tom Flanigan, Science Department; Ms. Kay Pothast, Kinetic Wellness Department; Ms. Mary Beth Barrett, Science Department; Ms. Teri Cross, New Trier Fine Arts Association President; Ms. Onnie Scheyer; Mr. Wes Bauman, and members of the Community.

I. CALL TO ORDER – 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Myefski called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to Order at 6:32 p.m. Roll call was taken. All members were present except Mr. O'Donoghue. 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; 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; to discuss a student disciplinary case; 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. Dolinko, Mr. Myefski

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed.

Adjournment to Closed Session – 6:34 p.m.

II. Closed Session – Rm. A201A

The Closed Session meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

III. BUSINESS MEETING – Rm. C234 – 7:30 p.m.

Mr. John Myefski reconvened in open session and called the Regular Business Meeting of the Board of Education to order in Room C234 at 7:35 p.m. All Board members were present.

IV. Minutes

Mr. Myefski welcomed those in attendance and noted the first agenda item to approve the minutes of April 26, 2011 and May 9, 2011. Mr. Dolinko moved and Mr. Harris seconded the motion to approve the minutes of April 26, 2011, open and closed session. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed.

Mr. Dolinko moved and Ms. Goldstein seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2011 Special Meeting, open session. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Mr. Dolinko

The motion passed.

V. Communications

Mr. Myefski invited members of the Community to share their comments with the Board. Mr. Richard Corrus, Co-President of the New Trier Education Support Professional Association thanked the Board for their acknowledgement of Administrative Assistants Day with a free breakfast for support staff. Ms. Teri Cross, President of the New Trier Fine Arts Association shared with the Board a letter addressing their concerns for the lack of handicapped accessibility at both campuses. (letter enclosed).

VI. Special Orders of Business

A. **New Trier Education Foundation Gift**

Mr. Harry Secaras, President of the New Trier Education Foundation presented Mr. Myefski with a \$50,000 check for the implementation and construction of an innovative technology classroom at the Winnetka Campus. This is the first of the two-part gift. The second \$50,000 check will be distributed next year for another innovative classroom.

B. **Foreign Exchange Students**

Mr. Tim Hayes introduced five of this year's foreign exchange students who are at the end of their year of studies and cultural exchange. Julian Staebler (Germany), Linda Voedisch (Germany), Maren Liven (Norway), Hideki Tsuji (Japan) and Laetitia Mercier Des Rochettes (France) shared their experiences and favorite moments at New Trier. Mr. Myefski thanked the students for coming and particularly the host families for welcoming them into their homes and supporting this program.

C. **Report from Campus Principals and Assistant Superintendents**

Mr. Paul Waechtler, Assistant Principal at the Northfield Campus, recounted the highlights of activities at the freshman campus. He began with the "After the Academics" night, which introduces new students and their parents to the myriad of extracurricular opportunities upon starting at New Trier. The event showcases over 75 clubs, performing arts and athletics. A spring mixer occurred on Friday, May 6 for current freshman. Mr. Waechtler also noted a number of service projects, three of which were to benefit Haiti. These included a walk and pancake breakfast on May 19, Spring Fest and donation boxes for our volunteers on the PPS staff. The school has also collaborated with Dulles School, a Chicago Public School in which school supplies and after school tutoring has been provided. He reported these programs have been well received by both CPS students and our own students.

Dr. Tim Dohrer, Principal of the Winnetka Campus, summarized the various activities and events taking place at the east campus, which include Spring Fest, AP exams in the first two weeks of May and Prom at the Donald Stevens Convention Center in Rosemont. He extended praise and thanks to Todd Maxman and Gail Gamrath, Junior Adviser Chairs for their fine job with prom and all their efforts that made it a success. Dr. Dohrer also previewed the coming events of the AP Art Festival in the Bauman Student Center, the Spring Plays Festival and Senior Projects. He noted that May 27 was the last day for seniors as well as Trevia Day. The last week for seniors also includes Senior Awards, the Commencement Concert and Commencement on Sunday, June 5 at 5 p.m. at the Welsh Ryan Arena on Northwestern University's Campus.

Mr. Tim Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, reported on the end of the year celebration of the Ethical Conduct and Global Citizenship (ECGC) Strategic Plan Initiative. He noted the progress the initiative has made over the past year within its member groups of students, staff and parents and the wonderful opportunity the year-end event offered them to socialize. He said they were very excited and looking forward to continuing ECGC work next year.

Mr. Goers reported on the completion of the open FOIA request from the last Regular Board of Education meeting. There were no new requests received this month.

D. New Trier Teacher – Leaders

Mr. Paul Sally, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, presented a report on the numerous opportunities taken by our teachers to participate in leadership positions outside of New Trier at the local, state and national levels. These opportunities enable our teachers to contribute to local school and governmental agencies as well as state and national professional organizations. They are able to collaborate, hear new ideas and practices relevant to their fields, and bring these experiences back to New Trier to enrich our faculty and student dialogue beyond our own walls. Mr. Sally provided pages of listings of our staff involvement from every department. Mr. Steve Viktora, Department Chair of the Mathematics Department and Mr. Pete Collins, Department Coordinator for the Kinetic Wellness Department, shared their experiences with organizations in their fields of interest. Both gentlemen commented on the benefits for both the departments and the students that these opportunities afforded, particularly pointing out the value of being part of national conversations on curriculum and national standards. Mr. Sally reiterated the importance of these opportunities in light of education discussions in national and state politics. Ms. Goldstein inquired of the number of occasions that teachers are able to share information and experiences. Mr. Sally and Mr. Hayes responded, noting these opportunities arise in daily interactions as well as department meetings and in shared time with teachers at the local level. Dr. Yonke noted that teacher leadership is part of the culture of New Trier and that it is a strength and contribution to the staff, the school, and the profession as a whole.

E. Classroom Design Report

Mr. Chris Johnson presented an overview with background on the work of the Classroom Research and Design Committee formed in the spring of 2010. The committee systematically researched how classroom technology, furniture, and space affect the teaching and learning environment. The committee worked to implement and create new spaces, putting the research into practice. Mr. Johnson reported that both student and teacher survey data showed positive feedback on the changes implemented. Mr. Myefski, who was part of the CRDC, commented on the experimental aspect of the changes to see how these components can help teaching and learning. He noted the opportunities now available with this research to help solve other space problems in existing classrooms. Board discussion followed, including comments on the impact of daylight and windows in educational spaces, connections to the Community Survey, and academic improvement related to facility improvement. The importance of collaborative learning can be seen in higher education as well as business and that this cannot be demonstrated solely through test scores. Mr. Myefski noted there was an opening on this committee and invited participation by another Board member.

F. Campus Accessibility Report

Mr. John Neiweem, Director of Physical Plant Services presented information about accessibility issues at both campuses with primary focus on the challenges at the Winnetka Campus. Through his PowerPoint presentation, he reviewed ADA background; site upgrades since 1991; building upgrades since 1991; present accessibility challenges; and next steps. Mr. Neiweem noted that the ADA is not a building code, but a Federal anti-discrimination Act. Title II of the Act addresses Public Accommodation by State and Local Governments. The focus of Title II is on making the programs accessible. In response to the legislation, New Trier created a compliance task force that included a self-evaluation plan and a transition plan. Mr. Neiweem summarized the various site and building upgrades implemented since 1991, which included handicap parking; curb cut-outs; ramps; automatic doors; chair lifts; restroom upgrades; and furniture accommodations. Likewise, Mr. Neiweem took note of remaining areas with continued accessibility issues such as the Technical Arts Building second floor; the Music Building basement, third and fourth floors; the McGee Theater Stage; the Gaffney Auditorium; the Gates Building second floor Pesco Gym; and the Gates Gymnasium. The next step recommended by the Administration is to create an ADA Task Force to comprehensively research options that will further enhance accessibility within the District's facilities. This task force should include all stakeholders including students, Community members, Board members, Administrators, Teachers and other individuals with ADA expertise. The task force will prepare a report to the Board about the issues, challenges, and options for addressing accessibility in the District facilities. Much Board discussion followed about solutions that create other problems; engineering details that have significant cost; public accommodations that will also benefit employees; the challenge for the community to solve and take ownership of; the inclusion of the disabled to be part of the new task force; moving accessibility higher on the list of budgetary priorities; and the need to look at these issues in a comprehensive way as they relate to long term plans for the facilities. Mr. Dolinko stated that follow-through on this new task force has to be done. Mr. Fischer added that it should happen in a determined finite period of study. Mr. Myefski requested that Dr. Yonke structure a committee task force for these accessibility issues similar to that recommended by Mr. Neiweem, which will also include a Board member representative.

VII. Administrative Items

A. Financial Reports for April 2011

Mr. Goers reported on the April 2011 Financial Reports, which included updated cash flow statements. He noted that nearly all of the balance of tax funds have been received, showing the current statements at anticipated levels similar to last year. Mr. Goers invited comments or questions from the Board. There were no additional questions.

B. Board Liaison Assignments

Mr. Myefski reminded the Board of the list of Liaison Assignments for 2011-2012 that was sent to Board members last week. Dr. Yonke noted each Board member had about three or four assignments, and if there were no other changes, it would be posted. Mr. Dolinko sought support from the Board to add non-voting community members to the Board's Finance Committee. Dr. Yonke responded it was her impression that

the Committee would meet once, work out the details of this change in committee, and then bring it to the Board. It was agreed that the Finance Committee would meet within the next few weeks and bring it back before the Board at the June 6 Regular Meeting. Mr. Myefski noted that the Board has indicated support for the concept and looked forward to the changes in committee membership. Ms. Ducommun added that the Community Engagement Committee would be included in these changes.

C. New Textbook Adoptions

Mr. Paul Sally reviewed the 13 requests for new textbooks for the 2011-12 school year. He noted the considerations taken into account when recommending textbooks include being mindful of the overall costs to families and the need to move curriculum forward. Eleven of these new books will be available through the rental program, which is providing books to over 30% of our students. Mr. Sally highlighted the new Physics book, which is an e-textbook that the Science Department is piloting for next year. Discussion followed on the benefits and challenges of online textbooks. Mr. Sally responded to comments and questions and noted the pilot will be watched carefully and a status report will be provided to the Board by March of next year. After further discussion on book rentals, Mr. Dolinko moved and Mr. Fischer seconded the motion that the Board approve the Textbook Adoptions 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

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed.

D. Residency Appeal

Dr. Yonke noted that this agenda item has been postponed to the June meeting by agreement from both the Administration and the family making the appeal. The residency appeal is cancelled for this meeting.

VIII. Consent Agenda

- Bill List for the Period April-30, 2011
- Personnel Report & Addendum
- Appointment of District Treasurer
- Budget Calendar Extension
- Lease-Finance: Copiers

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. Harris seconded the motion that the Board approve the Bill List for the period of April 1-30, 2011; approve the Personnel Report with Addendum for April 2011; approve the appointment of Mr. Don Goers as District Treasurer; approve the 2011-2012 Budget Calendar Extension as presented; and approve the Lease-Finance- Copier recommendation as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None.

The motion passed.

IX. Board Member Reports

Ms. Ducommun congratulated and thanked out-going co-chairs of the Parents' Association, Onnie Scheyer and Holly Krevitz, for their numerous accomplishments of the past year. Through their leadership, the Association has a new mission statement, modified by-laws and financial guidelines that will greatly aide future Parents' Associations. In addition, the Association assisted eighth grade transitions by visiting with the sender school PTAs, and sponsored staff breakfasts, After the Academics, and Trevia Day, to name only a few of the many tasks the Association takes on.

Mr. Harris, reporting for the Booster Club and noting the turnover in their club officers, explained that the \$500,000 incentive for the installation of artificial turf is temporarily off the table as their new board considers this and other requests for assistance in the Athletic Department. This offer to fund the artificial turf was contingent upon the District adding another \$700,000 for the project. This will be reconsidered in September 2011. They did however, approve approximately \$80,000 in various projects ranging from camcorders and scoreboards to rubdown tables and floating goals. They remain hopeful for the artificial turf. Mr. Myefski noted that the dock for the Crew team was dedicated.

Mr. Myefski reported for the Fine Arts Committee. He noted they are still eager to focus on significant projects for fundraising efforts. Mr. Tim Hayes reported that the Fine Arts leadership team has a short list of big-ticket items such as air conditioning and ADA accessibility issues. He noted they were meeting again this week to further discuss these opportunities.

Ms. Goldstein noted that the NSSED approved their Budget and the LICA budget. They are dissolving LICA as of June 2012 and will be bringing those services in-house. They are also currently in contract negotiations with their staff. Ms. Goldstein also attended the meeting of the Ethical Conduct and Global Citizenship Steering Committee. She reviewed the activities of the three component groups of students, staff and parents. Many projects are planned that include student surveys, professional learning cohorts, conferences and parent outreach programs to the District sender schools.

X. Board Members' Calendar of Events

- Calendar of Events

Dr. Yonke detailed the highlights of the Recognition Dinner that was on May 13. The evening honors those retiring as well as the tenured teachers and those who have reached 10 and 25 years of service. The evening is presented by the Board through the hard work of Niki Dizon, Renee Mosley and Tom Garrity. Graduation will be at 5 p.m. on June 5. The next Regular meeting of the Board of Education will be on June 6. There will also be a Special meeting on June 27 to hear about the Strategic Plan Assessment.

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

Mr. Myefski requested research into the various uses of room C234 and how technology, furniture and space are used by other groups using this venue. He noted the information could be helpful, before the cameras that were approved at the last Board meeting are installed in set locations.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Dolinko moved that the Board adjourn the Regular meeting. Mr. O'Donoghue seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, all members were in favor.

The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

John Myefski, President