

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

October 18, 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, October 18, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

Members Present

Ms. Wendy Serrino, President
Mr. John Myefski, Vice 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

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; Mr. Richard Corrus, Co-President NTESPA; Mr. Jim Burnside, President, New Trier Education Association, Science Department; Ms. Katherine Schindler, Assistant Principal for Student Services; Ms. Athena Arvanitis, Director of Student Life; Ms. Felissa Onixt, Art Department; Ms. Kathy Pilat, Art Department; Dr. Chris Pearson, Senior Boys Adviser Chair; Mr. Jeremy Boscaccy, Technology Department; Ms. Marie Thomas, Special Education Department; Ms. Leslie Birdwell, English Department; Ms. Adena Horwitz, English Department; Ms. Rachel Hess, English Department; Ms. Rachel Mazur, English Department; Ms. Erika Eich, Library Department; Mr. Daniel Daly, Science Department; Mr. Gerry Munley, Science Department Chair; Ms. Linda Knier, Modern & Classical Languages Chair; Ms. Sandy Schwartz, Special Education Department; Mr. P.J. Samorian, Speech and Theatre Department; Ms. Linda Oddo, Speech & Theatre Department Chair; Ms. Aileen Geary, Social Studies Department; Mr. David Hjelmgren, Social Studies Department; Mr. Spiro Bolos, Social Studies Department; Ms. Kerry Brennan, Social Studies Department; Ms. Jill Cervantes, Post High School Counseling Department; Mr. Timothy Kajfez, Social Studies Department; Ms. Liette Brisebois-Kinsella, Modern & Classical Languages Department; Ms. Rebecca Kamen, Modern & Classical Languages Department; Ms. Sara Bosa, Modern & Classical Languages Department; Mr. John Kirkpatrick, Modern & Classical Languages Department; Ms. Julia Kessel, Modern & Classical Languages Department; Mr. Gregory Sego, Mathematics Department; Ms. Dyan Marich, Mathematics Department; Mr. Jonathan Lepeska, Mathematics Department; Mr. William Loris, Science Department; Mr. Adam Held, Science Department; Ms. Shayda Crosby, Science Department; Ms. Mary Mitchell, Special Education Department; Ms. Virginia Nguyen, Social Studies Department; Ms. Kristen Okrzisek, English Department; Mr. Frank Salerno, Science Department; Ms. Melissa Duffy, Business Education Department; Ms. Kristy Fischer, Business Education Department Chair; Mr. Paul Easton, English Department; Mr. Dean Pinos, Social Studies Department Coordinator; Mr. Jason Boumstein, Practical Arts Department Chair; Mr. Mark Wukas, English Department; Ms. Amy Scheck, English Department; Ms. Jen McDonough, Practical Arts, Business Ed, Family & Consumer Sciences Coordinator; Mr. Marty Laffey, Mathematics Department; Ms. Kay Pothast, Kinetic Wellness Department; Ms. Mary Beth Barrett, Science Department; Ms. Margaret Stetsko, Mathematics Department; Dr. John Gatta, ECRA Group; Ms. Ashley Kain, Mr. Daniel Fox, Ms. Onnie Scheyer, Mr. Wes Bauman, Ms. Edith Abramson, Mr. Tim Sherman, Ms. Katie Okon, Pioneer Press and members of the Community.

I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:30 p.m.

II. Closed Session – No Closed Session

BUSINESS MEETING

III. Convene to Open Session-- 7:31 p.m.

Ms. Wendy Serrino called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order in open session at 7:31 p.m. and asked for a roll call attendance. All members were present. Ms. Serrino noted there was no closed session and requested a motion to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2010 Regular meetings, open and closed sessions.

IV. Minutes

Mr. Koch moved and Mr. Merrick seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 20, 2010 (open and closed 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 welcomed all in attendance and invited members of the Community to share their comments. Mr. Daniel Fox spoke about the dedication of Building B. Ms. Serrino referenced a letter that a resident wrote to the Illinois State Board of Education and the response from the ISBE, which noted that the final budget must include cash on hand, which New Trier has always done. The response also noted that the agency staff will confirm that the District's estimated cash balances are included. Ms. Serrino noted that if requested, the Board and Administration has no objection to including the cash balances on the tentative budget also.

Mr. Goers reported on the only Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request since the last regular meeting which was a multi school request for State Board of Education opinions on fire prevention and safety dating back to 1963. We had no records on file and responded thus and closed out the request.

VI. Special Orders of Business

A. Report from Campus Principals and Assistant Superintendents

Mr. Paul Waechtler, Assistant Principal at the Northfield Campus reviewed events and happenings at the freshman campus which included the first Freshman mixer of the year on Oct 1; the Freshman Go -To-School Night on October 8 where parents walk through their students' schedules, meeting faculty and staff; and on October 20 there will be a panel discussion with faculty, administration and Board members available to answer freshman parent questions and to assist them in navigating high school expectations. The end of the first quarter is October 29. Mr. Waechtler also announced the opening of an Art Gallery in the Student Lounge of the B-Building. Dr. Dohrer was unable to attend the meeting so Mr. Waechtler noted for the Winnetka Campus in the area of Athletics, the girls' and boys' golf team performed well this past weekend with the girls winning State and the boys coming in second.

Mr. Tim Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Activities added that Lagniappe's "Theory of Trevolution" was performed last week and the fall play "The Importance of Being Earnest" will be presented in the McGee Theatre on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of this week, with a matinee on Saturday. The Youth-for-Life Program kicks off tomorrow, featuring the Chicago Bears and the Walter Payton Foundation. Several players will speak to sophomore students during an assembly. Students with the ECGC student committee will be going to the Holocaust Museum for a conference and training. The "Names Can Really Hurt Us" training program has started this morning for senior facilitators who will work with the freshmen on the Names Program. Also, the Adviser program has started a new online safety curriculum that was created by Todd Maxman, Gail Gamrath and Sharon Weiner.

Mr. Paul Sally, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction noted that members of the Classroom Design Research Committee attended a presentation by Mr. Le Trung & Bruce Mau about the interaction between space, furniture, light and color in classroom design.

B. New Course Proposals

Mr. Sally presented an overview of the New Courses being proposed for the next school year, 2011-12. The proposed new courses and major course revisions include the following:

New Course Proposals

- Introduction to Engineering Design (*Practical Arts*)
- Principles of Engineering (*Practical Arts*)
- Latin 332 (*Modern and Classical Languages*)
- Fashion Merchandising and Marketing (*Business Education*)
- Great Books 2011: Race & Humanism in Twain's Huck Finn (*English / summer*)
- Long Form Improvisation (*Speech & Theatre / summer*)
- Introduction to Public Speaking (*Freshman only; Speech & Theatre / summer*)

Course Revisions

- Biology 2-level and Biology 3-level (*Science*)
- World History (*Social Studies*)
- Reading Enrichment and Writing Enrichment (*English/ESL / summer*)

Prerequisite

- Interior Design (*Practical Arts*)

Removal from the Program of Studies

- Engineering Graphics (*Practical Arts*)

Mr. Sally thanked the Department Chairs, Coordinators and Dr. Stacey for their assistance in bringing these course proposals to the Board. Much discussion followed as Mr. Sally responded to Board members' questions and comments. Mr. Dean Pinos, Social Studies Coordinator at the Northfield Campus also explained the revisions to the World History program. Dr. Yonke noted that these course proposals will be brought back for approval and voted on at the November Regular Board meeting.

C. Community Survey Review – ECRA Group

Dr. Yonke introduced Dr. John Gatta of the ECRA Group, the firm chosen to assist with the community survey. A second draft has been distributed to the Board for discussion, reactions and comments. Dr. Gatta noted that last month's feedback has enhanced the survey while still allowing for the original objectives to remain. Ms. Serrino remarked that the survey is for the whole community, not only the New Trier parents and it was important to make sure that the Board understands the community's knowledge of the proposed changes to the Winnetka Campus and lastly to understand how the community perceives the current state of the campus facilities and future needs.

Dr. Gatta responded to Board members' questions and comments on anonymity and methodology. Discussion covered whether the survey accomplishes the core objectives of the Board as well as providing appropriate options for questions including a choice of "other" with space to expound and the process of analysis to provide information that reflects the values and philosophy of the community. Ms. Serrino noted the next steps are to gain the consensus of the Board to go forward with the survey, to finish revising the cover letter, and to determine the timing of the survey. Dr. Gatta recommended moving quickly as the surveys should stay ahead of the holidays. Discussion followed regarding printing, mailing and return date timing. :

Dr. Gatta expected the surveys to be in homes by the end of November or the beginning of December. The Board reached consensus to move forward with minor word changes and included Mr. Dolinko's question and the addition of "other." The committee will provide a final draft to the Board before it is released. Ms. Serrino thanked members of the community who read the initial survey and provided feedback to the committee.

D. Calendar of Presentations

Dr. Yonke reviewed the series of presentations that have rotated through the various departments for the benefit of the Board and community in the last four years. For the 2010-11 school year, Dr. Yonke and the Assistant Superintendents, Mr. Paul Sally and Mr. Tim Hayes, are proposing a series of interconnected reports about curriculum/instruction and the services which support student development. The presentations will report on such topics as Student Profile, Teaching and Learning, Academic Supports, Student Support Systems, Professional Development, New Trier Teacher-Leaders, and Transitions into and out of high school. Dr. Yonke invited questions and responded to comments and suggestions from Board members. Ms. Serrino suggested that we also examine curriculum as a whole, and the ways in which improvements in the facilities would affect teaching and learning. Mr. Dolinko felt the topics were a good foundation and that together with the community survey will provide important information on our current status and future outlook. Other Board member comments included feedback on the experimental classrooms and a concern for overlap in reporting.

VII. Administrative Items

A. Extracurricular Participation Report

Mr. Tim Hayes presented the annual report on student participation in extracurricular activities, noting two formats measuring participation. This report includes detailed analysis of the number of participants in Athletics, Intramurals, Performing Arts and Student Activities. Mr. Hayes reviewed the statistics and noted trends and implications. Dr. Yonke and Mr. Hayes responded to Board members' questions and comments. There was much Board discussion that followed, including comments on areas of growth in participation, the definition of participation, and the qualitative aspects of participation. Ms. Serrino requested a summary report that would incorporate some of the discussed items and highlighting what the next steps would be in studying participation at New Trier for the next Board meeting.

B. Class Size Report

Dr. Yonke reviewed the Class Size Report which is produced by Mr. Matt Ottaviano. The overall mean class size increased from 22.1 for the 2009-10 school year to 22.4 for this year. The number of large classes (30+) increased only slightly whereas the number of small classes (>16) increased from 5.9% to 8.8%. The total student population also increased; however, through careful planning, no additional staff was added. Mr. Ottaviano, Mr. Sally and Dr. Yonke responded to Board members' comments and questions. Board discussion followed on adviser room size, the size of level 3 classes and the philosophy of class size.

C. Financial Reports for September 2010

Mr. Goers reviewed the Financial Reports for the end of the first quarter of the fiscal year. He noted that tax bills will go out after November 22 with a due date of December 22. This is later than previous years and poses a challenge since the Bond & Interest payments are due December 1, 2010. The delay was anticipated and the District's reserve levels will cover the payments. This will be a problem for many other school districts. Mr. Goers examined the Investment, Revenue, and Expenditure reports as well as the New Trier Extension and Cafeteria reports. Mr. Goers invited questions and responded to Board members' comments.

VIII. Consent Agenda

- **Bill List for the Period, September 1-30, 2010**
- **Personnel Report**
- **Board Policy Revision: Second Reading – Policy 8-80**

Ms. Serrino reviewed the items within the consent agenda. Dr. Yonke noted that the Personnel Report included

the Administration Compensation Report. Ms. Serrino 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, September 1-30, 2010 as presented; that the Board approve the Personnel Report for September 2010 and attachment of the Administration Compensation Report as presented; and that the Board approve the policy revisions for the School Board Policy 8-80 School-Community Relations Gifts, Naming, Advertising and Tribute Policy. Mr. Koch 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

Mr. Koch attended the NSSED Board meeting and reported on their 10 month budgetary process. He also noted the meeting was held in their new facilities. He praised the building and noted that its cost came in under budget.

Mr. Harris met with the Booster Club on October 5. He noted they were still waiting on a response from the School Board regarding the artificial turf proposal previously presented to the Board. Mr. Harris explained that the Board could not make a decision until later in the District's fiscal year. Randy Oberembt, the Athletic Director presented the club with approximately \$85,000 worth of requests from various departments. These will be weighed and considered for payment and completion.

Mr. Harris also reported for the New Trier Foundation, which had its Board meeting on September 28. The discussions included recognition of the very successful golf outing in September and the fact that 2010 will be the 10th Anniversary of the Foundation. Multiple events are being planned which will hopefully tie into the Hall of Honor Alumni Recognition event on March 22, 2010. The 2009-10 Annual Report for the Foundation is completed and available for review. Lastly, Mr. Harris noted that on October 30 the Foundation will hold a strategic planning meeting to take stock of their achievements as well as to focus on their future mission.

Mr. Merrick reported for the Technology Committee which is chaired by Chris Johnson and Paul Sally. The two focus area for this year are exploring e-books and extending classroom technology resources. They have just begun work on these and will report their conclusions to the Board in the spring.

Mr. Merrick also reviewed the work of the Facilities Comparison Committee, which is headed by Paul Sally and Mary Lappan. This committee is developing a process to look at the facilities of 10 schools in the Chicago area to examine the various facilities for space requirements and limitations in relation to curriculum and instruction. Site visits will be scheduled, and an additional 7 schools outside the metropolitan area will be included.

Mr. Merrick briefly reviewed the initial start up of evaluations for the ECGC (Ethical Conduct & Global Citizenship) committee. This is a subcommittee of the Strategic Planning Evaluation Committee.

Mr. Myefski reported for the Fine Arts Committee. He discussed the allocation of funds that the committee raises for the benefit of all the students. On October 25 there will be a special event called "A Passion for the Arts." It is an evening for the Visual and Performing Arts college information night for parents to ask all their questions about requirements needed for their students' collegiate planning.

Ms. Ducommun reviewed the two-fold focus of the Facilities Steering Committee. She noted that five sub-committees are currently working: the Facilities Comparison Committee; the Classroom Research & Design Committee; the Land Use/Building Use/Field Use Committee; the Strategic Planning Committee; and the Assessment of the 1-3 Model Committee. These committees will report their findings to the Board after the first of the year. Together with this information, the Board will be presented with new information from the Kasarda Report and the Community Survey. All of this information will help provide the Board with a breadth of information to plan for the future.

Mr. Dolinko reported for the Finance Committee which discussed the 2010 tax levy. The Tentative 2010 Tax Levy will be presented in November and the Final Levy in December.

X. Board Members' Calendar of Events

- Calendar of Events

Dr. Yonke pointed out that the fall play, "The Importance of Being Earnest," is scheduled for this Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at the Mc Gee Theatre at 7:30 p.m. Parent Teacher Conferences this year will be November 10 and 11.

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

Ms. Serrino adjourned the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

Wendy M. Serrino, President