

**NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
August 22, 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, August 22, 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, Principal – Northfield Campus

Also Present

Ms. Niki Dizon, Director of Communications; Mr. Christopher Johnson, Director of Technology; Mr. Matt Ottaviano, Assistant Principal for Administrative Services; Mrs. Linda Knier, Director of Academic Services; Ms. Michele Slav, Director of Business Services; Mr. George Sanders, Director of Human Resources; Ms. Laurel Burman, Director of Special Education; Mr. Randy Oberembt, Athletic Director; Ms. Athena Arvanitis, Director of Student Life; Ms. Denise Hibbard, Assistant Principal, Northfield Campus; Mr. Gerry Munley, Department Chair, Science Department; Mr. David Ladd, Department Chair, Music Department; Mr. John Cadwell, Department Chair, English Department; Ms. Jennifer McDonough, Department Coordinator, Practical Arts & Business Education Department; Ms. Jenny Wexler, Mathematics Department; Mrs. Kathy Heublein, NTESPA Co-President; Mr. Todd Bowen, Department Chair, Modern and Classical Languages Department; Ms. Lorri Starck-King, Department Coordinator, Modern and Classical Languages Department; Ms. Nina Lynn, Department Chair, Speech & Theatre Department; Mr. Mike Baeb, Social Studies Department; Ms. Kay Pothast, Kinetic Wellness Department; Ms. Mary Beth Barrett, Science Department; Mrs. Christine Bell, Director of Campus Security; Mr. Terry Phillips, Mathematics Department; Mr. Jim Burnside, Science Department; Mr. Marty Laffey, Mathematics Department; Ms. Anca Apetean, Music Department; Ms. Marissa Fullenkamp, Science Department; Ms. Gretchen Guo, Modern and Classical Languages Department; Mr. Mac Guy, English Department; Ms. Lauren Halik, Science Department; Ms. Laura Hessling, Science Department; Mr. Alex Howe, Science Department; Mr. Adam Labriola, Business Education Department; Ms. Mary Kate Olsen, Family & Consumer Science Department; Mr. Joel Morris, Modern and Classical Languages Department; Ms. Vicki Murphy, Special Education Department; Ms. Shifra Sheinfeld, Modern and Classical Languages Department; Mr. Phil Steptoe, Science Department; Ms. Naomi Suzuki, Modern and Classical Languages Department; Ms. Sarah Utley, Science Department; Mr. Aaron Vinson, Speech & Theatre Department; Ms. Ashley Wilson, Psychological Services Department; Mrs. Jude Offerle; Mrs. Vanessa Rachmaninoff, 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 6:29 p.m. Roll call was taken. All members were present. Mr. Myefski noted the first item of business was a Closed Session and asked for a motion to move to 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 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 session minutes. 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 – 6:30 p.m.

II. Closed Session – Rm. A201A

The Closed Session meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

BUSINESS MEETING

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

Mr. John Myefski reconvened the meeting to open session and called the Regular Business Meeting of the Board of Education to order in Room C234 at 7:40 p.m.. All Board members were present. Mr. Myefski welcomed those in attendance and noted that if anyone was interested in making a public comment regarding the Budget, there will be time after the presentation of that agenda item. Other comments will be heard after the approval of the minutes per usual procedure. Mr. Myefski stated there would be a change in the order of agenda items. After the Introduction of New Teachers, the meeting will move to the Public Hearing on the Budget with time for citizen comments and then continue on through the agenda, starting with the Field Use Update.

IV. Minutes

Mr. Myefski noted the first agenda item was to approve the minutes. Mr. Dolinko moved and Mr. Harris seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of July 18, 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

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, Principal of the Northfield Campus, reviewed the activities of the opening days which included the starting dates for the campus leaders, support staff, and teachers. Students begin on Wednesday, August 24. Freshman enrollment is at 1086, which is very close to the Kasarda projections. Adviser room groups have been meeting for picnics and activities to get to know each other and gain familiarity with the campus. Adviser-Parent Nights are to be held on September 12 and 14. Athletics began on August 10 with numerous practices in the various sports every day including a soccer game today. The Performing Arts Information Night for parents will be September 9. Lastly, Mr. Waechtler noted that the leadership team came together to meet and discuss their work and what is important for Northfield over the next 10 years.

Dr. Tim Dohrer, Principal of the Winnetka Campus, remarked on the hundreds of hours of work and preparation by the Physical Plant Services and Technology Departments in anticipation of the opening of school. Dr. Dohrer also commented on the beautifully refinished wood floors of the gymnasiums and the Gaffney Auditorium. All staff was back today for the Opening Institute Day and students arrived for team photos on the front lawn. Back after a ten-year hiatus is the Cheerleading Squad, eager and ready for games to begin. Dr. Dohrer also reported on the Sunday afternoon meeting on August 21 of new transfer families to New Trier. The well-attended event welcomes new families and helps them in their acclimation to the New Trier School District.

Mr. Tim Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, deferred his time for the introduction of new teachers. He noted that he was excited to get started putting their plans into action.

Mr. Paul Sally, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, prefaced the introduction of new teachers by thanking Mrs. Linda Knier, Director of Academic Services, and Ms. Aileen Heidkamp for the New Teacher Orientation they organized last week. Mr. Sally commented on the good discussions about teaching and learning at New Trier and the assistance provided in their acclimation to school culture.

Mr. Don Goers, Associate Superintendent, reported on the one FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) request received since the last Regular Board of Education meeting. It was a request from the Learning Disabilities Association seeking staff email addresses. They were directed to the school website and the request is closed.

B. Introduction of New Teachers

Mr. George Sanders, Director of Human Resource began the new teacher introductions by noting that this year there are nineteen new teachers, two new department chairs, and one new assistant principal. Four of the new hires have prior employment history with the District. Mr. Paul Waechtler introduced Ms. Denise Hibbard who joins the Northfield Administrators as the Assistant Principal of the Northfield Campus. Mr. Paul Sally introduced Mr. Todd Bowen. Mr. Bowen is the new Department Chair of the Modern and Classical Languages Department at the Winnetka Campus. Mr. Bowen and Ms. Lorri Stark-King introduced the new teachers of the MCL Department, who are Gretchen Guo, Joel Morris, Shifra Sheinfeld

and Naomi Suzuki. Ms. Jennifer McDonough introduced Adam Labriola as a new teacher in the Business Ed Department. Mr. John Cadwell, Chair of the English Department, introduced Mac Guy one of the two new teachers for the English Department. Ms. McDonough introduced Mary Kate Olsen, who joins the Family & Consumer Science Department. Mr. David Ladd, Chair of the Music Department introduced Anca Apetean who joined New Trier in 2001 as an accompanist and will now be the new piano keyboard teacher and continues as accompanist. Ms. Laurel Burman, Director of Special Education introduced Ashley Wilson who will join the Psychological Services Department for Rachel Scheinfeld who is on leave. Mr. Gerry Munley, Science Department Chair introduced six new members of his department including Marissa Fullenkamp, Lauren Halik, Sarah Utley, Laura Hessling, Alex Howe and Phil Steptoe. Ms. Burman introduced Vicki Murphy who will be joining the Special Ed Department. Mr. Paul Sally introduced Mrs. Nina Lynn as the new Department Chair of the Speech & Theatre Department and Mrs. Lynn welcomed Aaron Vinson as the newest member of the Speech & Theatre Department.

Mr. Tim Hayes noted a change in position for Ms. Anne James-Noonan, who was the Performing Arts Coordinator for the Winnetka Campus. She will now be the Performing Arts Coordinator for the entire District.

Agenda Item VII.B. Public Hearing: 2011-2012 Budget was presented at this time.

C. Field Use Update

Dr. Linda Yonke introduced Randy Oberembt, Athletic Director, who reviewed with a PowerPoint presentation the locations of the Districts fields and their uses. The District has fields at Fox Meadows, Duke Childs Field, the Northfield Campus, and the Winnetka Campus; the fields are used for curricular, interscholastic, intramural, summer school, summer fun, interscholastic camp, intergovernmental-Park District, community, and rental. Mr. Oberembt noted the list of seasonal uses for each of these fields and the potential uses. He also reported on the significantly increased usage of Stevenson High School's field after their natural turf was replaced by synthetic turf. Mr. Oberembt spoke of the challenges to all the programs when our natural turf is subjected to the elements and inclement weather. Board discussion followed on the frequency of injury on synthetic surface, cost and maintenance. Dr. Yonke noted that a more detailed report will include this information at a later date when the Board will specifically address the use of synthetic turf. Mr. Myefski observed that it appears that we have maxed out on all our fields in terms of usage, to which Mr. Oberembt agreed. Mr. Myefski noted that he and Dr. Yonke met with the Village of Winnetka to address the storm water issues following the recent severe storms. The Village is inquiring into the possible use of the Duke Childs fields as a retention area for storm water. Board discussion continued on flooding issues.

D. School Reform Legislation

Dr. Linda Yonke reported on two new laws passed by the Illinois General Assembly in 2010 and 2011. These new laws address labor and employment in public education and will impact District 203. The two new laws, the Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA) and Senate Bill 7 focus on hiring, evaluation, dismissal, collective bargaining and teacher tenure with various provisions scheduled for implementation from 2011 through 2016. Dr. Yonke noted the Administration's goal is to integrate the new state laws into our culture and merit pay system while maintaining and enhancing standards of excellence in our classrooms; our commitment to teaching the whole child; the culture of academic freedom, autonomy, and innovation; support of tenured and non-tenured teachers who need to improve in the classroom; and the spirit and impact of our merit scale system. Dr. Yonke continued by explaining the changes and implementation dates as related to teacher evaluations, reduction in force, tenure and the performance rating system.

A Joint Committee, as required by the new laws, which will be comprised of members of the Administration and the New Trier Education Association to address these issues and their implementation dates. Board discussion followed on the integration of our merit scale system and the state evaluation system as well as the time involved in the implementation of the changes. Mr. Sally noted the challenges of the mandates and the need to be very comprehensive in our responses. He also noted that the Joint Committee will keep the Board members informed of their work as the transition moves along.

E. Compliance Visit Report

Dr. Yonke requested to move this item to the September Regular Board of Education Meeting agenda. She mentioned that final report from the North Cook Intermediate Service Center was assured to be here in time for this meeting; however, it has not arrive. Dr. Yonke stated she has seen a draft and that it is very positive. However, the full report will be available by the September meeting. Mr. Myefski agreed to table the report until September.

F. Storm Damage Update

Mr. Don Goers presented a summary update report on the significant storm damage which occurred over this summer. Seven inches of rain fell on July 23 which caused major roof leaks and six inches of standing water on the indoor track at the Winnetka Campus. The track was the most costly of the insurance claims which totaled \$650,000. We were fortunate to have had a double shift of staff on hand during the night of July 23 performing normal summer maintenance work who then moved quickly to storm damage control. Mr. Goers commended Mr. John Neiweem, Director of Physical Plant Services and his department for the exceptional work they provided that evening. Mr. Goers noted a second storm a week later caused a water main on Woodland Avenue to break and flood the Music Building. Damage from the storms affected many

departments including IT losses due to lightning. Board discussion followed on the cooperative efforts of departments, the labor intense work following water damage, the safety of students during the last week of summer school and the cost of insurance premiums. Mr. Myefski requested adding a storm response plan to the list of research items for future preparedness.

VII. Administrative Items

A. Budget Calendar Modification

Mr. Goers noted that the Budget has had place holders throughout the Budget planning process and that there needs to be a delay in the approval of a Final Budget until the September Board meeting and he requested such a change in the Budget Calendar. Mr. Dolinko moved and Mr. Harris seconded the motion to approve the revised 2011-2012 Budget Calendar as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

B. Public Hearing: 2011-12 Budget

Mr. Myefski pointed out that the Budget will be voted on at the September Regular Board Meeting and reminded the audience that Citizen Comments will be heard following the Public Hearing. Mr. Myefski opened the Public Hearing on the 2011-2012 Budget with a Call To Order.

Mr. Don Goers presented an overview of the 2011-2012 Tentative Budget for the District with a PowerPoint presentation. He noted that there will not be another Public Hearing for the Budget; however, if from this Public Hearing any modifications are needed they will be incorporated in the Final Budget. Mr. Goers reviewed the Operating and Non-operating funds and the Tentative Budget for FY 2011-2012, noting particularly the sources of revenues of the Operating Funds and expenses by type, comparisons of revenues and expenses to the prior year and a summary of cash transactions. Mr. Myefski called for any public comments. Mrs. Jude Offerle addressed the Board on the decrease and loss of property values and requested the Board to keep this in mind when negotiating with the teachers and finalizing the Budget. Board discussion followed noting the place holders in the Tentative Budget and the reasons for them and that the Final Budget will be approved at the next regular meeting, well ahead of the September 30 state deadline. Mr. Dolinko moved that the Board close and adjourn the Public Hearing on the 2011-2012 Budget for New Trier High School. Mr. Fischer seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

The meeting continued with Agenda Item VI. C. Field Use Update.

C. Financial Reports for July 2011

Mr. Goers reported that this is the first month of the new fiscal year and therefore does not contain much detail. The reports will be monitored, however, and adjusted once the final 2011-2012 Budget has been approved. The Board will continue to be advised throughout the process.

D. Resolution Regarding Employment/Dismissal of Employee

Mr. Fischer moved that the Board approve the Resolution regarding the suspension and dismissal of a tenured teacher discussed in Closed Session. Ms. Goldstein seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follow:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

VIII. Consent Agenda

- Bill List for the Period July1-31, 2011
- Personnel Report
- IASB Annual Membership 2011-12
- North Cook Young Adult Academy 2011-12 Intergovernmental Agreement
- Finance Committee Charter

Mr. Myefski reviewed the items within the consent agenda and asked if any items should be removed for discussion. Mr. O'Donoghue proposed removing the IASB annual membership and the Finance Committee Charter for discussion. Mr. Dolinko moved and Mr. Harris seconded the motion that the Board approve the Consent Agenda items, which include approval of the Bill List for the period of July 1-31, 2011 as presented; approval of the Personnel Report as presented; and the North Cook Young Adult Academy 2011-12 Intergovernmental Agreement. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

Mr. O'Donoghue inquired as to the role and importance of the IASB. Dr. Yonke responded, noting the numerous supports and services provided by the Illinois Association of School Boards, which includes individual training to School Board members; facilitation of Board self-assessment and team-building; materials for School Board functions and policy; information for state and national conferences; as well as advocating on behalf of school board districts on legislative issues. Ms. Ducommun noted the annual membership cost of approximately \$11,000 which is based on student enrollment. Mr. Dolinko moved and Mr. Harris seconded the motion to approve the 2011-12 Annual Membership in the Illinois Association of School Boards. 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.

Mr. O'Donoghue removed the Finance Committee Charter for discussion as he felt it was important to highlight the addition of two community members to the membership of the Finance Committee. He noted this was a significant improvement in community relations and should be highlighted in the public record. Other Board members agreed. Mr. O'Donoghue moved to approve the Board of Education Finance Committee Charter. Mr. Dolinko seconded the motion. 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

The motion passed.

IX. Board Member Reports

Ms. Goldstein reported that NSSED met in late July in a special meeting to approve their teacher contract. The new contract included a modest raise and an increase in employee contributions for benefits. A separate sub-committee of their Finance Committee will be studying their membership fee structure. Ms. Goldstein noted that she will be meeting with Special Education Director, Laurel Burman, to learn more background for her participation on this NSSED committee, of which Ms. Goldstein is a member. Ms. Goldstein also noted the steering and leadership committees of the ECGC met and are busy organizing and structuring their work for the coming year. The ECGC website is currently being updated.

Mr. Harris noted that the New Trier Education Foundation's annual fundraising golf outing will be Monday, September 12. Peter Fischer will be the Board's Liaison with the Foundation after the Golf Outing.

X. Board Members' Calendar of Events

- Calendar of Events

Dr. Yonke noted that staff had their first Opening Institute Day today with various department meetings. School will begin for students, Wednesday, August 24, and the first home football game is Friday, August 26. Dr. Yonke noted the increased press on the issue of concussions from athletic activities. State law requires schools to adopt a policy regarding this issue. Mr. Randy Oberembt, Athletic Director has prepared information and forms for parents to be aware of the potential risk of concussion. Board discussion followed. Dr. Yonke also reported for the Foundation's Golf outing on September 12, which will be held at Westmoreland Country Club.

- Board Members' Request for Staff Research

Mr. Myefski asked the Administration to look into the ability of New Trier club sports to rent meeting space at the school. A parent requested space for the New Trier Sailing Club and was denied. Their meeting will now take place at the Wilmette Public Library. Dr. Yonke said the club (while not one of the Athletic Department sports) would be able to rent space in the school like any other outside group.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

John Myefski, President