

**NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
January 17, 2012
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 Tuesday, January 17, 2012 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; Ms. Athena Arvanitis, Director of Student Life; Ms. Denise Hibbard, Assistant Principal, Northfield Campus; Ms. Mary Ann Apple, NTESPA Representative; Ms. Pam Asplund, Technology Department; Mr. Jim Burnside, Science Department; Mr. Marty Laffey, Mathematics Department, NTEA President; Mr. John Huston, Chicago Tribune; 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 6:30 p.m. Roll call was taken. All members were present except Mr. O'Donoghue. 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 the minutes of meetings lawfully closed, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or the semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06. 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

The motion passed.

Adjournment to Closed Session – 6:30 p.m.

II. Closed Session – Rm. A201A

The Closed Session meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

BUSINESS MEETING

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

Mr. John Myefski reconvened the Business meeting to open session, calling the meeting of the Board of Education to order in Room C234 at 7:30 p.m. All Board members were present. (*Mr. O'Donoghue arrived for the Closed Session in Room A201A.*) Mr. Myefski welcomed those in attendance and noted that if anyone wished to speak to the Board that they should fill out a Communications Request Form found on the table at the back of the room.

IV. Minutes

Mr. Myefski noted the first agenda item was to approve the minutes of the December meeting. Mr. Dolinko moved and Mr. Harris seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of December 12, 2011, open and closed session. 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.

V. Communications

Mr. Myefski invited members of the Community to share their comments with the Board. Mrs. Nancy Fehrenbach shared her thoughts on the Girls Freshman B Soccer Team and her concerns regarding the elective course offerings. Mr. Myefski noted he had received an email letter just before the meeting from Mrs. Kira Brecht concerning athletic fees at New Trier. Mr. Myefski replied to her letter and will share it with fellow Board members. He also noted a letter about tutors and insurance covering tutors in the school. This person wished their name to be withheld. Mr. Myefski stated that he will respond to this and any inquiry sent to the Board.

VI. Special Orders of Business

A. Report from Campus Principals and Assistant Superintendents

Mr. Paul Waechtler, Principal of the Northfield Campus, reviewed the activities occurring at the freshman campus, which include first semester exams later this week, and he thanked the Parents Association for providing breakfast for the students on the first day of exams. Mr. Waechtler highlighted an article recently published in the Quintessential New Trier magazine about the new science curriculum, which includes ecology and environmental geoscience, taking advantage of the surrounding forest preserves for lessons and learning. In the last four days, students showed their support for fellow students with events spinning off the Names Program. Students were encouraged to mark Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day with multi-media activities and days of service. Mr. Waechtler also noted the four Academic Life programs that provide incoming freshman families with information on the school and classes. He commented that next year's class is projected to be slightly smaller than our current freshman class.

Dr. Tim Dohrer, Principal of the Winnetka Campus, reported on the events and happenings at the east campus, which include the Evanston-New Trier Basketball game the first week after Winter Break. New Trier hosted the game in the Gates Gym. The second game in this annual series will be play at Welsh-Ryan Arena at Northwestern University on February 10, 2012. Dr. Dohrer commented on his first semester visits to all the sophomore adviser rooms, meeting and greeting all members of the sophomore class. He will be visiting in similar fashion all senior adviser rooms during the second semester. The Winnetka Leadership team met with officials of the Village of Winnetka to share information on emergency procedures and protocol. The course selection process begins January 30 through February 6. Post High School Counseling is presenting a program for sophomores and their parents on January 25 and 26. These two dates provide an opportunity for students and parents to meet the counselors who are assigned to their sophomore adviser room. Friday, January 20 will hold a swim meet between Evanston and New Trier along with a celebration of 100 years of swim meets for the two schools. Lastly, Dr. Dohrer noted the addition of new study carrels in the library to address the lack of quiet study places for students.

Mr. Tim Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services stated that the parent group of ECGC met to plan the event on February 8 called "Educating the Whole Student" in the Gaffney Auditorium at 7:00 p.m. The evening's presentation will include Roger Weissberg, pioneer of social and emotional learning; Ryan Mollett, Glencoe Principal; Catherine Wang, Glencoe Director of Curriculum; and Mr. Hayes. The entire group will appear in a panel discussion on integrating academic, social and emotional learning. Mr. Hayes also expressed his admiration and gratitude to the staff working with students and families over the stressful times over the holidays and preparing for exams. He thanked them for their compassionate work.

Mr. Paul Sally, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, noted that the freshman parent program on January 4, "Understanding New Trier" went very well. Attendance was good and included eighth graders and their parents. Mr. Sally also shared the news of the distribution of the new Program of Studies and the students' interest as they scanned the course selections. He noted in response to Mrs. Fehrenbach's earlier comments on one semester elective courses, that there are 16 listed in the Program; however, he indicated that further research would be done on this issue.

Mr. Don Goers, Associate Superintendent, reported that three Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests were received since the last Regular Board of Education meeting. All three were from a former employee regarding documents from an email account. All requests have been answered and closed out.

B. Gifts, Naming, Advertising and Tribute Policy Discussion

Dr. Yonke introduced this agenda item, noting that conversation and dialogue about the Board's Policy 8-80 has occurred at Board meetings concerning the Booster Club donation as well as at Board Finance and Policy Committee meetings. Most recently, the Policy Committee has asked for a Board discussion of this topic to provide direction on any future revisions to the policy. She reviewed the background and history of the latest revisions to the policy in 2008 and 2010. The initial revisions were requested by Board members who desired clearer direction about criteria and the process for naming at New Trier as well as procedures for memorial tributes. Most notably these revisions sought to emphasize the avoidance of any possible conflict of interest created by a donation.

The Naming Policy was changed to reflect the Board's wish to establish criteria for Naming which occurs as a reflection of meritorious service to the District. The Policy on Advertising illustrated the Board's desire to keep advertising out of the public school. In 2010, the Policy was revised on the issue of permanent plaques and other types of recognition of donors. The policy changed to create opportunities for recognition of donors if approved by the Board in advance. Dr. Yonke recapped the issues as currently seen impacted by Policy 8-80, which are: 1) Should a large donation (corporate or individual) provide a naming opportunity? 2) Should facilities only be named in recognition of the meritorious service of an employee? 3) Should the Advertising Policy be changed in order to seek new sources of revenue? Dr. Yonke also posed pro and con arguments on these questions and opened the discussion to the Board for their discussion.

Both Mr. Fischer and Mr. Dolinko, members of the Policy Committee, indicated that the committee felt it best to hear from the Board before crafting any revisions to the existing policy. Ms. Goldstein acknowledged the concern regarding any conflict of interests in donations; however, she felt there may be lost opportunities for additional revenue for the District with the narrowly limiting policies. Mr. Harris stated he was not in favor of changing the Advertising Policy. He would welcome a new look at the Naming and Donation policies specifically in light of the Booster Club initiative. Mr. O'Donoghue indicated context should be an important part of an Advertising Policy noting certain areas where advertising would be appropriate. He felt the Board should be more open to donations as a beneficial resource for operating funds. Ms. Ducommun agreed with Mr. O'Donoghue that there might be appropriate areas for advertising as she noted currently takes place with Lagniappe and Battle of the Bands programs. Ms. Ducommun was on the Board at the time of the 2008 policy changes and noted that at that time there was great clarity about these areas. Today's conditions, she noted, pose a very different economic picture. Costs for building improvements like the accessibility issues are significant, and finding a large donation to underwrite these expenses would be welcome. She is recommending that all parts of the policy should be considered. Mr. Dolinko concurred with Ms. Ducommun that economic conditions have changed since the policies were written and revised. He noted it would be prudent to consider alternative revenue opportunities. His advice is to convene another separate committee to study the matter in depth and in a way that would look at the issue of advertising and naming rights at the local, state and national level. Mr. Dolinko stated this is a financially based discussion on the two separate questions of advertising/corporate sponsorships and naming rights. He noted that from initial limited research, there is clearly a trend toward sponsorship and naming rights in public schools. He shared some of the findings that sponsorships were generally not large donations (\$1,000 - \$5,000) and regarding naming rights in the local area, Vernon Hills High School received \$100,000 for their football stadium in exchange for ten-year naming rights with the Rustoleum Company. Mr. Dolinko encouraged the creation of a committee to carefully study and research the issues and then to construct a proposal for revising the policy to present to the Board. Mr. Fischer expressed his opinion that the arguments against advertising and naming can be addressed with reasonable discretion and treated on a case-by-case level. Ms. Ducommun urged that action on this issue should be done quickly, before any proposals come forward. Mr. Myefski shared his thoughts on the changes since 2008 and was eager to get a policy in place that would not preclude recognition of a large donation. He felt New Trier could lead on this topic with opportunities for the District. Mr. Myefski agreed with the proposal for further study and noted an agreement by consensus of Board members to commission a separate committee to research the issues of advertising and naming for Board policy consideration.

C. NSSED Fee Structure

Ms. Laurel Burman, Director of Special Education reported on the proposed fee structure revisions for member schools belonging to NSSED (North Suburban Special Education District). Board member Lori Goldstein served as New Trier's representative on this important NSSED committee. Last year NSSED focused on non-member tuition rates. This year, the committee is looking at the delivery service model, IDEA funds and membership fees. The committee has concluded their study and recommendations will be voted on at the February 8 NSSED Governing Board meeting and implemented in fiscal year 2013. Ms. Burman outlined the following key changes:

- Charge uniform membership rates for all member districts.
- Increase percentage of IDEA flow through funds to member districts from approximately 60% to 70%. Use the IDEA funds that NSSED retains to offset membership costs in lieu of offsetting program tuition costs.
- Offer a user-based delivery service model (a change from the current membership fee model). Charge tuition that is more reflective of the realistic program costs.
- Reallocate and align infrastructure overhead costs for programs and services, so that they realistically reflect costs.

The result of the changes for New Trier is an estimated reduction in our membership fees and an increase in our tuition to North Shore Academy. Ms. Burman supports the proposed changes and encourages continued monitoring and evaluation of service costs to determine if additional services can be brought in District, resulting in additional savings. Board discussion followed with Ms. Burman responding to members' comments and questions.

D. Technology Update

Mr. Chris Johnson, Director of Technology, reported on the major technology projects of the current 2011-12 school year, which included the two new Innovative Classrooms installed with the support from the New Trier Educational Foundation. The second half of the Foundation's donation will be put toward enhancements to the EPI Center's presentation and teaching space at the Winnetka Campus. Mr. Johnson highlighted other projects, which included the annual computer replacement, desktop virtualization and

mobile device research. He explained in detail a proposal developed by the Technology Planning Committee that would allow teachers to write a formal proposal to use iPads with their students next year. Mr. Goers and Mr. Johnson also referred to the replacement of the current storage area network, which is near capacity at this time. Board discussion followed with Mr. Johnson responding to Board members' questions. Discussion included file storage, current iPad use by students; online textbooks; implementation of an iPad program; conflicting operating systems; the cost of iPads and personal responsibility; personal ownership and pilot program cost and details. Mr. Johnson will present additional details about these projects when the capital projects are presented to the Board in the spring.

VII. Administrative Items

A. Financial Reports for December 2011 / Budget Status Report

Mr. Goers reviewed the Financial Reports for December 2011 which included the Financial Statement, the Investment report, the Cash Flow Statements, the Quarterly Revenue and Expense Reports as well as the New Trier Extension Report. He highlighted revenues and expenditures, comparing them to last year's figures. Mr. Goers responded to questions from Board members. Mr. Goers also noted the narrative Budget Status Report written by Michele Slav. There were no further questions from the Board.

B. Budget Assumptions and Parameters

Mr. Goers presented the 2012-2013 Budget Assumptions/Parameters and Calendar for Board review. This is the next step in the budgetary process, which began with the approval of the 2011 Tax Levy at the December 12, 2011, meeting. The 2012-13 Budget Calendar is similar to previous calendars in which the Tentative Budget is put on display in June and the Public Hearing and approval of the Final Budget takes place in July. Mr. Goers noted that there are revisions being made at this time which will affect the District's long-range projections, such as the change in interest rates on investments and the increased tax revenue from new property. Further revisions will be made when the CPI is released later in the month. Mr. Goers reviewed the enrollment data from the Kasarda demographic study, which projects enrollment for FY 2013 at 4,196, 36 students fewer than the current enrollment of 4,232. Enrollment for FY2014 is anticipated to increase again to 4,215. The staffing projected for 2012-13 is 385.0 FTEs excluding strategic planning fifths. The administration is recommending that staffing be held constant with the 2009-10 levels, despite the increase in students. The current student/faculty ratio for this year, 2011-12, is 11.0. The projected ratio for 2012-13 is 10.9 and 10.95 for 2013-14. Thereafter the projections stay at 10.9. Mr. Goers noted other changes regarding the support staff, physical plant services, the administration and special education while commenting on the change in the number of retirements. Salary increases are in place per existing contracts, although negotiations are starting with the support staff association since their contract ends June 2012. Mr. Goers reviewed other key areas and variables with expenditures which included dues and fees, the Debt Service Fund, insurance, and retirement benefits. Work will continue on improving efficiencies and cost containment efforts. He suggested looking closer at the parameters to consider setting aside excess funds for capital improvements on future facility projects. Discussion followed on lost interest on investments and cost containment efforts as Mr. Goers responded to Board members' questions.

C. Board Policy Revisions – First Reading

Dr. Yonke reported on the work of the Board's Policy Committee in reviewing numerous policies in Sections 6 and 7. She noted that it is the first reading of the revisions and the Board will not take action on them at this meeting. The policies have been reviewed by the members of the Policy Committee: Peter Fischer, Al Dolinko, Linda Yonke and Don Goers. Three policies have substantive changes, eight have minor changes and one is being recommended for elimination because of changes in state law. The following policies have been reviewed: Policy 6-20 School Year Calendar; Policy 6-90 Social and Emotional Development; Policy 6-160 Limited English Proficient Students; 6-280 Grading and Promotion; Policy 6-300 Graduation Requirements; Policy 6-320 Credit for Proficiency; Policy 6-340 Student Testing and Assessment Programs; Policy 7-20 Gender Equity; Policy 7-25 Harassment and Bullying; Policy 7-135 Driving and Parking; Policy 7-140 Search and Seizure; and Policy 7-150 Agency and Police Interrogation. Copies of the proposed changes were provided to the Board with the suggested edits and amendments in red. Board discussion followed as Dr. Yonke responded to Board members' questions on gender equity, search and seizure, school jurisdiction, and calendar days.

D. Resolution on Purchasing Cooperative Membership

Mr. Goers reviewed the Board-approved project to install synthetic turf on the stadium and the adjacent playfields at the Northfield Campus in the summer of 2012. He also noted the extensive research conducted by Mr. Randy Oberembt and the Synthetic Turf Committee. The committee determined that the synthetic turf product which best meets the needs of the District is produced by Field Turf. Mr. Goers outlined the options before the District in bidding the synthetic turf portion of the project (not including the sub-surface work which will be bid in a normal bidding process). The two options for bidding the synthetic turf are first, to use the customary bidding process, or second, to purchase these goods from another governmental agency. The second option saves the District time, expense and the uncertainty of a typical bidding process. The Cooperative Purchasing Network (TCPN) is a department of the State of Texas Region 4 Education Service Center. The TCPN has already bid the preferred synthetic turf products and received the lowest bid from Atlas Track (Field Turf). The District joined the membership of TCPN in December 2011. The District has used this process for purchasing activity buses and driver education vehicles that were bid through the State of Illinois. Under this Agreement, TCPN will be assigning its agreement rights with Atlas/Field Turf to New Trier. This will then allow New Trier to enter into a separate agreement with Atlas for the purchase of the Field Turf product. Mr. Goers responded to Board members' comments and questions. Mr. Dolinko moved that the Board approve the Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement

between New Trier High School and the State of Texas Region 4 ESC and to authorize the Associate Superintendent to execute all related documents, subject to final review by legal counsel. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. 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.

VIII. Consent Agenda

- Bill List for the Period December 1-31, 2011
- Personnel Report
- Closed Session Records

Mr. Myefski reviewed the items within the consent agenda and asked if any items should be removed for discussion. None of the items was specified for discussion. Mr. O'Donoghue moved and Mr. Dolinko seconded the motion that the Board approve the Consent Agenda items, which include approval of the Bill List for the period of December 1-31, 2011 as presented; approval of the Personnel Report as presented; the opening of the Closed Session Minutes for September 20, 2010 and November 15, 2010; and the destruction of the closed session meeting tapes of January 2010 through June 2010. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

IX. Board Member Reports

Mr. Fischer attended All School Forum in which the Poetry Club presented a poetry slam as a preview to the scheduled poetry slam movie "Louder than a Bomb." The movie presentation was cancelled due to the snowstorm on January 12. Discussion also included student choices and stresses.

Ms. Goldstein also noted that the Parents' Association presentation "Louder than a Bomb" (which sold out 1500 tickets) would be rescheduled for April, poetry month. The Parents' Association wants to thank all the parents for their donations to the New Trier Parents' Association, which fund their many school activities. The Ethical Conduct and Global Citizenship (ECGC) Steering Committee and Parent Committee are still considering new names for the initiative. Ms. Goldstein noted two book discussions on April 10, which will feature Dr. Linda Yonke on the book "Practical Wisdom" by Barry Schwartz. The Parent committee led the All School Forum in December on resiliency and she noted that social and emotional learning are now a factor in hiring and observing in the classrooms.

Mr. Harris attended the Booster Club meeting at which he had the opportunity to thank the Club on behalf of the School Board for their significant donation toward the synthetic turf project. The project begins soon with "Tackle the Turf" designated as their fundraising theme. Mr. Harris also noted concession revenues of \$3,500 at the annual Evanston-New Trier Basketball games and commended the efforts of this working organization.

Ms. Ducommun reported for the Fine Arts Association that their fundraising has brought in \$28,000 to date. She also challenged the Association to envision a major goal to work toward to fill some of the pressing needs of the Performing Arts programs.

Mr. O'Donoghue recounted the four-hour tour of the Winnetka campus, which was part of the ADA Task Force meeting earlier in the month. The meeting and tour generated a long list of accessibility problems in the Winnetka Campus facilities.

Mr. Dolinko reminded everyone about the Freshman Parent Party to be held on January 27 at the Kenilworth Club and that there is still time to respond.

Ms. Goldstein also noted that the Parents' Association will have its annual meeting and District Dialogue on January 24. Dr. Yonke, Athletic Director Randy Oberembt, and Performing Arts Coordinator Anne James-Noonan will be available for questions and discussion. The Parents' Association business meeting is from 9:00 a.m.–9:30 a.m. and the District Dialogue is scheduled from 9:30 a.m.–11:00 a.m.

X. Board Members' Calendar of Events

- Calendar of Events

Dr. Yonke noted that the remaining two Academic Life evenings are scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday of this week. First Semester Exams will be Wednesday through Friday of this week. Friday, January 20, is a centennial celebration of 100 years of swimming competition between New Trier High School and Evanston High School and will include a swim meet for the two schools. The New Trier Jazz Festival is on Saturday, February 4.

Mr. Myefski noted there was another citizen communication. He received a letter asking for handrails to be installed in the swim area.

- Board Members' Request for Staff Research
There were no new requests for staff research.

Mr. Harris complemented Ms. Niki Dizon, Director of Communications, on the positive feedback he has received on the Board's Annual Report and thanked her for her good work. Dr. Yonke was equally appreciative of the input Mr. Harris and Ms. Ducommun provided through the Communications Committee.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 10:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

John Myefski, President