

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

**March 19, 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, March 19, 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  
Mr. Paul Waechter, Principal – Northfield Campus

**Also Present**

Ms. Niki Dizon, Director of Communications; Mr. Matt Ottaviano, Assistant Principal for Administrative Services; Ms. Michele Slav, Director of Business Services; Mr. George Sanders, Director of Human Resources; Ms. Laurel Burman, Director of Special Education; Mrs. Linda Knier, Director of Academic Services; Ms. Athena Arvanitis, Director of Student Life; Ms. Denise Hibbard, Assistant Principal, Northfield Campus; Mr. Terry Phillips, Mathematics Department; Ms. Judy MacNab, Library Department; Mr. Alex Zilka, Social Studies Department; Ms. Julie Novak, Social Studies Department; Ms. Kay Pothast, Kinetic Wellness Department; Ms. Elizabeth Blodgett, Business Services Department, NTESPA Representative; Ms. Mary Ann Apple, Technology Department, NTESPA Representative Department; Mr. Josh Wenger, ARAMARK Manager; Ms. Maryjo McLoughlin, ARAMARK Manager; Mr. Wes Bauman, Mr. and Mrs. Greg Robitaille 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. Mr. Myefski 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.

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 – 6:33 p.m.**

**II. Closed Session – Room A201A**

The Closed Session meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

## **BUSINESS MEETING**

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

Mr. John Myefski reconvened the meeting, calling the open session meeting of the Board of Education to order in Room C234 at 7:30 p.m. All Board members were present. 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 February meeting. Mr. Dolinko moved and Mr. Fischer seconded the motion to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of February 21, 2012, 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. No one came forward to speak. Mr. Myefski also noted that no letters have been received since the last regular meeting of the Board.

### **VI. Special Orders of Business**

#### **A. Report from Campus Principals, Assistant Superintendents & Associate Superintendent**

Mr. Paul Waechtler, Principal of the Northfield Campus reported on the activities taking place on the freshman campus which included study hall release for qualifying students; the beginning of spring sport practices outside; the Frosh-Soph play production of *My Life in the Silents*; the approaching end of third quarter. Mr. Waechtler highlighted the students' work on the Anti-Bullying week, which had been planned as a follow-up to the Names Program earlier this year. He noted the daily activities and the assembly which the students planned and implemented. Work continues on the master scheduling with Matt Ottaviano, Katherine Schindler and Paul Sally. The freshmen Science Olympiad team qualified for State competition again this year. Mr. Don Wurth, a freshman science teacher, worked with the science teacher at Dulles School, our service project partner school. He noted that their eighth grade students competing for their first time were medal winners in their competition. The number of incoming freshmen for next year is just over 1,000.

Dr. Timothy Dohrer, Principal of the Winnetka Campus followed with more Science Olympiad news, noting that the varsity Science Olympiad Team won 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the regional competition and is going on to the state competition on April 14. He said the assistance and interaction between New Trier students and the Dulles School students was a wonderful and positive thing. Dr. Dohrer also reported on the senior Winter Carnival fundraiser for their Habitat for Humanity class service project. It was a very successful evening bringing in \$27,000 for Habitat in three hours. Additional feedback response for the night was very positive, as he noted the creativity of the students and their rapport with the younger children. *Beauty and the Beast*, the student musical theatre production, was also a great success. On March 15 the senior class picture was taken in the Gates Gym during the adviser period, marking the start of the many graduation events for the seniors. Wednesday, March 21 is the Spring Choral Concert in the Cornog Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Finally, the entire New Trier Symphony Orchestra, the Wind Ensemble and the Concert Choir will be travelling on Friday, March 23 to Pittwater High School in Mona Vale, Australia. There, they will perform with the Pittwater students at various venues ending with a combined concert at the Sydney Opera House. This relationship with Pittwater High School has been a wonderful cultural exchange for students of both schools. Considerable fundraising has taken place to defray the cost of the trip.

Mr. Timothy Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services spoke of the adviser selection process taking place now which is filling the vacancies in the advisor system. The Advisor Program is a hallmark of the school with many staff members willing and eager to fill the few vacancies. The Haiti Service Project will start for this year after spring break. Work on rebuilding the school in Petit Goave is progressing with the first floor completed and second floor construction beginning. Mr. Hayes also highlighted the Ethical Conduct & Global Citizenship (ECGC) student group which piloted an ethical dilemma program in a few volunteer adviser rooms. They are looking to expand the program to reach more adviser rooms. Lastly, Mr. Hayes praised the Anti-Bullying and Harassment Assembly presented by the freshman students for their great work and effort.

Mr. Paul Sally, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, spoke first about the Technology Planning Committee (TCP), which is looking at iPad proposals and will develop a presentation for the Board at the April regular meeting. EBooks are also being investigated. Mr. Sally thanked the Department Chairs and Coordinators as well as Matt Ottaviano and Denise Hibbard for all their hard work on sectioning and staffing. He also noted that the Departments are hiring new staff for the positions vacated by retirements.

Dr. Yonke noted there were a number of committees with tasks nearing completion which will present reports to the Board in April and May. The various issues include student fees, Board Policy 8-80, capital projects and the teacher evaluation plan. Dr. Yonke also thanked the New Trier Education Foundation for hosting the Alumni Achievement Award event on March 15. The dinner was wonderful and the speeches were inspiring. She highlighted the school-day events in which the Alumni honorees spoke to students and were on hand for the dedication of the Hall of Honor at the Winnetka Campus. She noted in particular that James Collins Warren, class of 1942 and a Tuskegee Airman donated to the school his Congressional Medal of Honor. Dr. Yonke envisions a special display to house this exceptional gift. Nine of this year's ten alumni honorees attended the benefit dinner.

Mr. Don Goers, Associate Superintendent, reported on three Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests since the last regular Board meeting. The first was for information on contracts and pay rates related to occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech and language pathology services. The next requested information on grades and test scores of sender school students and the last called for certified payrolls from specialty flooring work completed last summer. All of these requests were responded to and have been closed out.

## **B. Steering Committee Report**

The Facilities Steering Committee commissioned a task force to investigate all the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) issues for accessibility and non-compliance areas at both campuses. The report came at the request of the Board following input from the Community Survey, the Strategic Planning Assessment, the 1-3 Model Assessment and the Land-Building-Field Use Report. Dr. Yonke presented the report of the Task Force enumerating the ADA issues and priorities of each campus. The ADA Task Force met four times which included extensive tours of each campus. Carefully addressing the campuses in zones, the task force looked at the East Side, Central and West Side of Winnetka and also Northfield. Dr. Yonke detailed some of the areas, with the greatest number of issues occurring in the Winnetka West Side area. She also noted the challenges at the Northfield campus, particularly in the Cornog Auditorium. Board members then discussed many of the options presenting, including elevators at each campus, accessibility in the Winnetka gyms, and the feasibility and costs of the designated projects. Mr. Myefski voiced the need for the committee to craft a sub-plan presenting options and their possible impact. He noted that the first stage in planning and programming could be done internally before seeking outside assistance for detailed costs. Mr. Dolinko would like to address those areas of the school which have more certainty of remaining for years to come, such as the Gaffney Auditorium. Subsequently, the focus would then look to areas where work and changes were less likely to be dealt with in the near or mid-term future. Further discussion noted the current music building is insufficient in meeting the department's needs and the possible replacement of the Garaventa Lifts to enhance accessibility throughout the east campus. General consensus showed there was Board interest in further exploration of options, costs and the impact that the improvements would bring.

### **C. Booster Club Donation Recognition**

Dr. Yonke reviewed the current Board Policy 8-80 which states in general there is to be no permanent recognition of donors, yet includes language on donor recognition if the planned recognition is pre-approved by the Board. At the February Board of Education meeting, the Booster Club gained approval for recognition of individual donors to their capital campaign to raise \$1 million in funds for the Synthetic Turf Project. Today, the Booster Club is seeking approval of a separate package for corporate and business donors. Dr. Yonke noted the details of the proposed contribution packages, highlighting the major difference being the largest donation would include placing the donor name on a plaque at a new masonry structure at the entry to the stadium. All additional recognition of the donors will be included in programs, sports calendars, sports guides, scrolling scoreboard recognition, and temporary signage at the Gates Gym and other Booster Club sponsored events for one year. A conceptual site plan for the brick walkway of the Stadium Plaza was included. Dr. Yonke invited Board discussion on the proposal. Mr. Dolinko, member of the Board Policy Committee, noted the committee was comfortable with the plaque proposal so long as it contained the option or potential of names being removed and placed somewhere else. Mr. Myefski was concerned with any painted logo on the entry concrete due to questions of durability and suggested the stone wall or benches also had fund raising potential. Mr. Harris, Board liaison representative for the Booster Club, stated the club acknowledges this and has plans for such, in a phased sequence. Mr. Myefski noted he did not have a problem with permanent plaques considering the size of the donation. Ms. Ducommun inquired of the difference between individual and corporate donors. Mr. Harris responded that while individual donations were at \$100 and \$500 levels, limitations on donation sizes were not an issue. Large individual donations would also be accepted, with appropriate acknowledgement included. Dr. Yonke suggested the addition of phrasing to regulate the type and look of the acknowledgement for the donor to maintain an appropriate uniform appearance. Ms. Ducommun expressed a desire to enlarge the bleacher and seating capacity of the stadium, noting and understanding that it is not part of the current conversation. Dr. Dohrer testified to the large crowds of students attending the games, necessitating the closing of the bleachers once or twice per year. Additional future projects for the Boosters could include permanent restrooms as well as new bleachers. Mr. O'Donoghue inquired about payment for the subsurface structure of the synthetic field. Dr. Yonke responded that the Booster Club donation will cover the costs for that and further explained the implementation of constructing the walkway. She noted that the conceptual drawing is only a draft and not part of the presentation for approval. Board consensus was reached that the Booster Club donation would cover the costs of placing new bricks in the walkway but that yearly maintenance would fall to the District. Mr. Dolinko moved that the Board approve the proposed methods of donation recognition as presented by the Booster Club tonight with the limitations and regulations to be agreed between the Booster Club and the Administration. Mr. Harris 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.

## **VII. Administrative Items**

### **A. Financial Reports for February 2012**

Mr. Goers presented the Financial Reports for February 2012 which included the Cash Flow Statements and Investment Reports. He noted that the Quarterly Report will be presented at the next regular meeting and more detailed information can be expected at that time. Mr. Dolinko observed that the Cash Flow statements showed the timing of tax receipts is reflected in the higher reserve levels over last year. Mr. Goers concurred.

### **B. Synthetic Turf Field Subsurface Bid**

Mr. John Neiweem, Director of Physical Plant Services, presented a summary report on the synthetic turf field subsurface bid project and a recommendation to award a contract to install the synthetic turf. Six contractors attended the mandatory pre-bid meeting and five submitted bids for consideration. Nicholas &

Associates, Inc. was the low bidder (\$1,991,000) by \$240,000. While Nicholas & Associates has not done work with the District, the company's references were very positive for work performed at Evanston, Stagg, Andrew, Sandburg and DeKalb High Schools. They will work as a general contractor for our project. The project budget presented at the December 2011 Board meeting was \$3,291,000. The cost of the synthetic turf is \$1,160,591 and the sub-surface work is \$1,991,000 which totals \$3,151,591. The entire turf project will be under the original budget by \$139,172. Board discussion followed on storm traps, soil content, maintenance and improved storm water management. The expected start date for the project is May 21 and the project will be implemented in phases. Mr. Dolinko moved and Ms. Goldstein seconded the motion that the Board of Education award a contract to Nicholas and Associates, Inc. for \$1,991,000 for completion of the synthetic turf field sub-surface work at the Northfield Campus as detailed in the drawings, specifications and project manual for the subject work. 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.

### **C. Refunding Bonds Resolutions**

Mr. Don Goers, Associate Superintendent, noted that at the February Board meeting the Administration presented the proposal to refinance the District's 2005 Series A Bonds. The current very low interest rates provide an opportunity for the District to realize savings of nearly \$320,000. In order to complete the refinance process with the direct placement, two resolutions need to be approved by the Board of Education. The Resolutions provide for the issue of not to exceed \$4,650,000 General Obligation Refunding School Bonds and a Resolution authorizing and directing the execution of an Escrow Agreement in connection with the issue of the General Obligation Refunding School Bonds. Included in the first Resolution is authorization for the Associate Superintendent and the Board President to approve the final sale following the Board Meeting once the analysis is complete and assuming the terms are still favorable. The closing would take place in September.

Mr. Goers also presented and reviewed additional information received today on projected debt payment schedules for February and March, interest rate comparison AAA Bond Indexes for February and March, and sensitivity analyses for February and March 2012. Mr. Goers responded to questions and comments from Board members. Discussion followed on the news of the recent upturn in rates and the continued savings, albeit slightly reduced. Mr. Dolinko moved that the Board approve the Resolution providing for the issue of not to exceed \$4,650,000 General Obligation Refunding School Bonds, Series 2012, for the District; and to approve the Resolution authorizing and directing the execution of an Escrow Agreement in connection with the issue of General obligation Refunding School Bonds, Series 2012, for the District. Mr. Fischer seconded the motions. 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.

## **VIII. Consent Agenda**

- Bill List for the Period February 1-29, 2012
- Personnel Report (Scale IV Movement & Tenure Recommendations)
- Board Calendar 2012-2013
- Closed Session Records
- IHSA Renewal 2012-2013

Mr. Myefski noted the items within the consent agenda and asked if any Board member wished to remove any item for separate discussion. Mr. O'Donoghue requested the IHSA Renewal be pulled out of the motion for further discussion. Mr. Dolinko moved that the Board approve the Consent Agenda items which include the Bill List for February 1-29, 2012 as presented; the Personnel Report with Addendum as presented; the Calendar of Board meeting dates, Board Calendar 2012-2013; and to open the Closed Session Minutes of April 26, 2011 with redactions. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. 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. Myefski opened the discussion of the IHSA Renewal for 2012-2013. Mr. O'Donoghue asked for an explanation of the Association. Dr. Yonke responded that it is the governing body for all high school interscholastic sports competitions in the state of Illinois. They set the regulations and contests for all high school sporting events. There are no dues and our membership is our acknowledgement to abide by the IHSA regulations. Mr. O'Donoghue moved and Mr. Dolinko seconded the motion to approve membership in the IHSA for 2012-2013. 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

#### **IX. Board Member Reports**

Mr. Fischer reported that there were several meetings for the New Trier Education Foundation Alumni Achievement Awards Event, which was held March 15, 2012 at the Hilton/Orrington Hotel in Evanston. The evening was a success financially and was meaningful for those attending and for the students who heard the alumni speak. All School Forum meetings had discussions about endings and the stress that can accompany them. The Donations and Naming Committee has begun their work and will present a report to the Board soon.

Ms. Goldstein noted that the ECGC Steering Committee did not meet in March; however, numerous parent programs and activities will be taking place throughout April. The New Trier Parents Association is planning the graduation party. Parents Association programs and films are also scheduled for April. At NSSSED, a public hearing was held concerning LICA, which is the Coop for the Hearing Impaired which has been dissolved and is being combined into another coop. The NSSSED Board also approved a one year contract with Septran, with only a 1% increase.

Mr. Harris noted that the solicitation letters for the Booster Club Turf fundraiser have been mailed out. After this evening they will now move forward with the corporate solicitation plans. Mr. Harris highlighted the many activities promoted by the club and lauded the efforts of their working membership.

Ms. Ducommun reported for the Fine Arts Association, noting they met last week and are very busy with various receptions supporting the Fine Arts. May 14 is their college counseling night with regards to the arts programs. The Association is also considering a logo change and has begun the design process for it.

Mr. O'Donoghue noted the Facilities Committee would meet Wednesday. He also reported for the Technology Committee that the iPad proposals were now being reviewed by the Administration.

Mr. Dolinko stated that the Finance Committee would meet just after Spring Break to consider a number of issues. He will report on that meeting in April.

#### **X. Board Members' Calendar of Events**

- Calendar of Events

Dr. Yonke reported that the Third Quarter ends this Friday. Spring Break is next week. April and May will be very busy as is typical for the time of year. Good Friday is April 6. The Prairie State Testing will occur on Tuesday, April 24 and Wednesday, April 25. These will also be the dates of the Senior and Sophomore Institute Days.

- Board Members' Request for Staff Research

There were no requests for staff research.

Mr. Dolinko noted he read that the school received an A+ award for "Transparency". Dr. Yonke concurred saying she received notice of this and would add it to the weekly communication letter. She noted we had made great strides in the ratings since the last reporting. Sunshine Review is a 501 c-3 non-profit agency that collaborates with individuals and organizations across the country to promote state and local transparency.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

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John Myefski, President