

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

**July 16, 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 Monday, July 16, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.

**Members Present**

Mr. Alan R. Dolinko, President  
Mr. F. Malcolm Harris, Vice President  
Ms. Carol F. Ducommun  
Mr. Peter Fischer  
Ms. Lori Goldstein  
Mr. John Myefski  
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. George Sanders, Director of Human Resources; Ms. Ellen Ambuehl, Director of Special Education; Mr. Christopher Johnson, Director of Technology; Mr. Matt Ottaviano, Assistant Principal, Winnetka Campus; Ms. Katherine Schindler, Assistant Principal for Student Services, Winnetka Campus; Mrs. Linda Knier, Director of Academic Services; Ms. Denise Hibbard, Assistant Principal, Northfield Campus; Mr. Terry Phillips, Mathematics Department, NTEA President; Mr. Erik Saszik, Mathematics Department, NTEA President Elect; Ms. Elizabeth Blodgett, Business Services, NTEA President; Ms. Debbie Dennison, Business Services, NTEA Member-at-Large and members of the Community.

**I. CALL TO ORDER – 6:30 p.m.**

Mr. Dolinko called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to Order at 6:31 p.m. Roll call was taken. All members were present. Mr. Dolinko asked for a motion to move to Closed Session. Ms. Goldstein 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 meeting minutes; and lastly to discuss the minutes of meetings lawfully closed, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or 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: Mr. Fischer, Ms. Goldstein, Mr. Harris, Mr. Myefski Mr. O'Donoghue, Ms. Ducommun, Mr. Dolinko,

NAY: None

The motion passed.

**Adjournment to Closed Session – 6:32 p.m.**

**II. Closed Session – Room A201A**

The Closed Session meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

**III. Reconvene to Open Session — C234**

Mr. Alan Dolinko reconvened the meeting, calling to order the open session meeting of the Board of Education in Room C234 at 7:33 p.m. Mr. Dolinko welcomed those in attendances, stating that the Board had been in Closed Session earlier in the evening. Roll call was taken and all Board members were present. Mr. Dolinko also noted that if anyone wished to speak to the Board, they should fill out a Communications Request Form found on the table at the back of the room.

**IV. Minutes**

Mr. Dolinko requested a motion to approve the minutes of the May meetings. Mr. Fischer moved and Mr. O'Donoghue seconded the motion to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of June 4, 2012, open and closed sessions. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

**V. Communications**

Mr. Dolinko invited members of the Community to share their comments with the Board. No one came forward to speak.

**VI. Special Orders of Business**

Before the Special Reports began, Dr. Yonke noted the attendance of two newly hired administrators, Mr. Christopher Wildman and Ms. Ellen Ambuehl. Dr. Yonke asked George Sanders, Director of Human Resources to introduce them to the Board. Mr. Sanders presented Mr. Wildman and Ms. Ambuehl, providing brief background information. Both administrators thanked the Board and expressed their eagerness to begin their new positions.

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

Mr. Paul Waechtler, Principal of the Northfield Campus, reported on the many activities focusing on the start of school at the Northfield campus. He thanked Assistant Principal Denise Hibbard for all her help assigning students to adviser rooms, selecting senior helpers, and assisting new students with their class selections. He also highlighted the near completion of the new synthetic turf field in the Northfield Stadium. The project is proceeding on schedule.

Dr. Timothy Dohrer, Principal of the Winnetka Campus, noted that Summer School has kept the Winnetka Campus very busy. Summer School ends next week. Some facility renovations are underway in the Gates Gymnasium and in the small cafeteria which will become the "Student Commons" when completed. Elsewhere around the school summer cleaning is occurring in the hallways, classrooms, and lockers in anticipation of the start of the school year. The fall semester mailings are going out, and the Book Sale is set to open in the Student Cafeteria on August 1.

Mr. Timothy Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, noted he too has been involved in meetings preparing for the new year, and that it is a very busy time because of all the planning.

Mr. Paul Sally, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, also noted the common planning meetings, and the productive nature of those collaborative meetings. Dr. Yonke explained that many of the meetings addressed requirements of the Teacher and Principal Evaluation Plans at both the District and State levels.

Mr. Don Goers reported on two Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests received since the last regular Board of Education Meeting on June 4. The first was a request for the District Policy on the social & emotional development of students pursuant to the Illinois Children Mental Health Act of 2003, and the second requested a copy of contracts or memoranda of understanding with institutions of higher education related to student teaching. Both requests have been responded to and are closed out.

**B. Test Score Analysis**

Dr. Linda Yonke introduced the report, noting that this is the third year of analysis and the results continue to show incredible achievement on the part of New Trier students. The results are a tribute to the hard work of students and their teachers. Mr. Paul Sally reviewed the ACT Analysis for the Class of 2012, noting highlights and key findings. The distribution of scores shows that 83% of the class scored in the top 26% of the country. One section of the report examines the average number of ACT tests taken by each student, which has increased to 2.8; this section also looks at the timing of test-taking and the impact of taking the test multiple times. Other sections of analysis examine ACT scores of students who took no AP English or AP Math courses; Mr. Sally also discussed the college readiness benchmarks and gender differences in scores. Mr. Sally invited questions and comments from the Board. Discussion included conversation on the impact of taking the ACT multiple times as well as the use of test-prep classes and tutors. Mr. Dolinko inquired about the profile of students in the lowest two deciles and asked how the school can best provide support for those students. Mr. Sally noted that some reading and writing supports have been implemented through the Reading and Writing Center and through other programs with good results.

**VII. Administrative Items**

**A. June Financial Reports & Budget Status Report**

Mr. Don Goers presented the June Financial Reports which are the final monthly reports for 2011-2012. These reports included complete cash flow statements for three years and the June 2012 Financial Statement as well as the final annual report with the list of investments. Mr. Goers reviewed the Budget Status Reports on Quarterly Revenues and Expenses and the New Trier Extension Report. He noted the reports showed positive news on both the revenues and expenditures for 2012. Mr. Goers responded to Board members comments and questions. Mr. Dolinko commended Mr. Goers for his amazingly accurate budget projections and the conscientious stewardship he has provided for the District's financial reporting. Mr. Dolinko thanked him on behalf of the District's taxpayers for his sound financial management. Other Board members also voiced their appreciation and gratitude for his exceptional performance.

**B. Tentative Budget Approval**

Mr. Don Goers noted that the Preliminary Budget was presented in May and was slightly modified for presentation of the Tentative Budget. After the Board’s approval of the Tentative Budget, it will be placed on display for thirty days. A Public Hearing on the 2012-13Final Budget will be held at the August 20, 2012 meeting, after which the Board will be asked to approve Final Budget. Significant improvements in the bottom line have been realized since the Preliminary Budget in May. Revenues were shown with slight increase due to a higher-than-expected increase in new property, and expenditures showed a net decrease of \$1.3 million. Mr. Goers reviewed the details of the Operating Fund revenues and expenditures and noted items to watch for in future budgeting. Mr. Dolinko opened the discussion to Board members’ questions and comments. Queries and discussion focused on property tax rates, long range projections of revenues and expenditures, and pension reform. Many Board members were pleased with the budget and noted it to be fiscally sound. Mr. Myefski moved that the Board approve the 2012 -13 Tentative Budget and that a Public Hearing date be set for August 20, 2012. It is further recommended that the 2012 -13Tentative Budget be placed on public display from July 17 through the Public Hearing. Mr. Harris seconded the motion.

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

**C. Policy 7-305 – Second Reading**

Dr. Yonke stated that this policy was created in response to the new state law that all schools shall develop and implement a program to manage concussions and head injuries suffered by student athletes. Board discussion last month at the first reading of this policy prompted two changes from the original draft. Dr. Yonke noted that the two changes reflect Board member comments from last month’s discussion, seeking to clarify that concussions could occur during an athletic event or at any time, and that “The school reserves the right to withdraw any student from participation in athletic activities when there is a concern about the student’s health or safety.” Board members agreed that the changes addressed their concerns. Mr. Myefski moved that the Board approve Board Policy 7-305 on Student Athlete Concussion and Head Injuries. Ms. Goldstein seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

**D. Bids on Brick Plaza**

Dr. Yonke introduced this agenda item noting that the project is for improvements to the entryway of the Northfield Stadium, with a proposed installation of a brick plaza and landscaping. Mr. Goers reviewed the parameters of the project which included the preparation of the athletic stadium plaza area, installation of the engraved bricks, installation of a donor wall and associated landscaping. Fifteen companies picked up bid documents and specification and six firms submitted bids. The low bidder was Nicholas & Associates at \$105,000.00, coming in significantly below the project budget of \$163,255. The project budget included a contingency of \$10,000. Mr. Goers noted they have been very pleased with Nicholas, who is also working on subsurface part of the Turf Field Project. The project will be completed before the first home football game on August 31. Payment will be made from the Capital Projects Fund to be paid back by the Booster Club donations. Mr. Fischer moved and Mr. Myefski seconded the motion that the Board award a contract to Nicholas & Associates for \$105,000.00 as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

Mr. Goers also provided an update on the Turf Field Project. He noted it was proceeding very well and that the dry weather has been beneficial for the project timeline. The synthetic turf has arrived for both fields and the stadium turf should be installed by next week. He was pleased to report that there have been no big surprises and no soil issues. The target date for completion is August 15. There will be an “NT” logo on the center of the stadium field.

**E. Resolution on Employment of Employee**

Mr. Fischer moved that the Board approve the "Order Dismissing for Cause Employee #36 as a Tenured Teacher. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

**VIII. Consent Agenda**

- Bill List for the Period June 1-30, 2012
- Personnel Report
- Closed Session Minutes
- North Cook Young Adult Academy Intergovernmental Agreement 2012-2013
- ED-RED Membership

Mr. Dolinko asked if any Board member wished to remove any item for separate discussion. Ms. Goldstein asked for a description of the North Cook Young Adult Academy and asked whether it had anything to do with Special Education. Dr. Yonke responded that it is an alternative school offered to students who might otherwise be expelled. No other items were selected for open discussion. Mr. Fischer moved that the Board approve the Consent Agenda items which include the Bill List for June 1-30, 2012 as presented; the Personnel Report as presented; the need to keep the minutes of the following closed session meetings closed for confidentiality purposes: 10/19/09, 3/15/10, 4/19/10, 1/18/11, 2/21/11, 3/16/11, 5/16/11, 6/6/11, 6/27/11, 7/18/11, 8/22/11, 9/19/11, 11/21/11, 12/12/11, 1/17/12, 2/21/12, 3/19/12, 4/16/12, 5/21/12, 6/4/12 and to destroy the Closed Session Meeting tapes of July 2010 through December 2010; and the approval of the North Cook Young Adult Academy Intergovernmental Agreement for 2012-2013; and the ED-RED Membership. Ms. Goldstein seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

**IX. Board Member Reports**

Ms. Goldstein reported that the NSSED board met in June. They gave scholarships to student volunteers, New Trier students Kristin Olson and Scott Schwartz and NSSED graduate Adam Teisler. They also passed their 2013 Budget which includes a reduction of fees to all member districts, with 10% of IDEA monies to be distributed back to the districts while non-member district fees will increase.

Mr. Fischer noted that the New Trier Education Foundation announced their new directors and will institute a new procedure whereby older members may be appointed as honorary members and continue to come to meetings and share their knowledge and experience. This will also allow the Foundation to bring in new members to help with fundraising and other activities. The Foundation's Golf outing will take place on September 10, 2012.

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

- Calendar of Events

Dr. Yonke noted that Summer School ends in two weeks on Friday, July 27. The Book Sale is on Wednesday, August 1 through Friday, August 10. Fall Sports begin on Wednesday, August 8. The next regular Board of Education meeting is on August 20, which is also the first Institute Day for this year. The first day of student attendance is Wednesday, August 22. She also noted that the new Teacher Evaluation Plan will be discussed at the Institute Day, and she encouraged Board members to look at the thank you notes for scholarships from senior students.

- Board Members' Request for Staff Research and Future Agenda Items  
There were no requests for staff research or agenda items.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT to Closed Session**

Ms. Ducommun moved that the Board adjourn the open meeting. Mr. Fischer seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote being taken, all members indicated they were in favor of adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

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Alan R. Dolinko, President