

**NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
February 19, 2013
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, February 19, 2013 at 7:30 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

Administrators Present

Dr. Linda L. Yonke, Superintendent
Mr. Donald Goers, Associate Superintendent
Mr. Timothy Hayes, Assistant Superintendent
for Student Services
Mr. Paul Sally, Assistant Superintendent for
Curriculum & Instruction
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; Mrs. Linda Knier, Director of Academic Services; Ms. Denise Hibbard, Assistant Principal, Northfield Campus; Mr. Christopher Wildman, Director of Business Services; Ms. Elizabeth Blodgett, Co-President NTESPA; Mr. Terry Phillips, Mathematics Department, NTEA President; Mr. Dale Grooms, Athletic Department; Mr. David Ladd, Music Department Chair; Ms. Anca Apetean, Music Department; Ms. Judy Macnab, Library Department Chair; Dina Menegas and Patrick O'Connor, New Trier Performing Arts students, members of the press and members of the community.

BUSINESS MEETING

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. Mr. Fischer moved and Mr. Harris seconded the motion that the Board adjourn 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 the 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 student discipline cases. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment to Closed Session – 6:33 p.m.

II. Closed Session – 6:30pm — A201A

The Closed Session meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

BUSINESS MEETING

III. Re-Convene to Open Session – 7:30 p.m. – C234

Mr. Dolinko reconvened the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. Roll call was taken and all members were present. He announced that if anyone wished to address the Board during the Communications part of the agenda, he or she needed to fill out a yellow Communications Request Form found on the table at the back of the room and pass it up to the Board table.

IV. Minutes

Mr. Dolinko requested a motion to approve the minutes of the January Regular meeting. Ms. Lori Goldstein moved and Mr. Myefski seconded the motion to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on January 22, 2013, open and closed sessions. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

V. Communications

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

Mr. Dolinko honored Dr. Yonke's request to remove the **Personnel Report** from the **Consent Agenda** and present it at this time of the meeting. Dr. Yonke was pleased to announce a recommendation to approve the appointment of Ms. Cheryl Witham as Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations. She will be replacing Mr. Goers who is retiring in June 2013. Ms. Witham has currently held the same position at Oak Park River Forest High School since 2002. Mr. Fischer moved that the Board approve the Personnel Report with Addenda 1, 2 and 3. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Special Orders of Business

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

Mr. Paul Waechtler, Principal of the Northfield Campus highlighted events and activities taking place at the freshman campus, which included two dance performances with the Northfield Dance Ensemble and the Kinesis Dance Ensemble; the Turnabout Dance which is the first formal dance that freshman can attend; and the All School Seminar Day on February 12. Two featured events for that day were the Service Learning Project for India that took place in the Cornog Auditorium and an art project in which students expressed the school motto in large mural format. Two of these murals are on display in the B Building lounge area. Incoming freshmen for the 2013-14 school year are registering for their classes online. Freshman registration for next year appears to be similar to this year at approximately 1050 students.

Dr. Timothy Dohrer, Principal of the Winnetka Campus, shared the highlights of the east campus activities and events which included the 30th Annual Jazz Festival with the Count Basie Orchestra; the February 4 Anniversary of the founding of the school; the New Trier vs. Evanston High School Basketball game at ETHS with a playoff game this evening against Evanston at Loyola Academy; the successful All School Seminar Day, NT ETC; and the Girls' Gymnastics team placing 4th in the State Meet at Palatine High School. Dr. Dohrer also announced that Winter Carnival will take place on March 1 with proceeds going to the Senior Class Habitat for Humanity Project. The Spring Musical, "*Sweeney Todd*," is playing on

March 7, 8, 9 and 10 with the Freshman/Sophomore play, "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare: Abridged," to be presented on March 13, 14, 15 and 16.

Mr. Timothy Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, announced two speaker programs scheduled for the coming weeks. Dr. Kay Redfield Jamison will speak on February 26 during the day to teachers and again in the evening to parents and the community. She is the author of *An Unquiet Mind*, a book about mood disorders. The second Educator Program is on March 6 titled "Stick and Stones: Defeating the Culture of Bullying with Character and Empathy." Emily Bazelon, author of the book with the same title will present at the Cornog Auditorium at 4:00 p.m. and at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Paul Sally, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, reported on the past month of Staff meetings which focused on professional development with many good discussions on various topics. Mr. Sally also noted that Friday, February 22, will be the last Institute Day for this school year. The time is allotted for Departments to meet and discuss a variety of issues including innovation and core curriculum.

Mr. Don Goers, Associate Superintendent, reported there were no FOIA requests received since the last Regular Board meeting in January.

B. Student Musical Presentation

Mr. David Ladd, Music Department Chair, introduced New Trier students Dina Menegas and Patrick O'Connor who star in this year's spring musical "*Sweeney Todd*". The students performed "By the Sea" for the Board members and audience. The musical will be performed at the Gaffney Auditorium on the Winnetka Campus on March 7, 8 and 9 at 7:30 p.m. and on March 10 at 2:00 p.m.

C. Scholarship Allocation Report

Mr. Don Goers provided a report on the Scholarship Trust Fund which is managed by Mr. Bernard Myszkowski. The Fund has continued its recovery from the disastrous 2008 year with a positive return of 14%. Over the last five years the average return on investments in the Scholarship Trust Fund has been 4.2%. Mr. Goers also noted that Mr. Myszkowski is suggesting a possible reallocation in the equity holdings to reinvest in the Vanguard Extended Market Index Signal Fund and the Vanguard Emerging Market Stock Index Fund. The Scholarship Allocation for the senior class of 2013 is \$105,371, a \$10,000 increase over last year's allocation. This distribution is determined by taking 6% of the average total assets for the past four years. Mr. Goers invited questions or comments from Board members. Mr. Dolinko noted that this allocation is the highest amount ever and all the more significant in light of the economic challenges. Mr. Fischer moved and Mr. Myefski seconded the motion that the Board approve a maximum allocation of \$105,371 for scholarships for the 2013 graduation class and a reallocation of the G & I Fund, subject to final review with our adviser, Mr. Bernard Myszkowski. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

D. Sports Medicine Report

Mr. Dale Grooms, Head Athletic Trainer, presented an overview report on the Sports Medicine Program at New Trier. The four athletic trainers in the department are Ms. Kristin Romani, Ms. Danah Ouimette, Mr. Alan Vitelli and Mr. Grooms, who started at New Trier in 2000 and quickly set about to address goals he had for the program. The goals include the following: to increase in-house rehabilitation of athletes; to enhance communication with students, coaches and families; to develop a Student Aid Program; to invite doctor visits to the program; to advance best standards; and to make New Trier a center of knowledge in the area of athletic training. Mr. Grooms praised the two physicians, Dr. Rich Sherman and Dr. Carrie Jaworski, who volunteer their time to be available to students. He also discussed the safety protocols for

concussion, which have been in place for years, and the new “return to play” protocols that have been adopted. Mr. Grooms responded to Board member and Administrator questions on issues of injury prevention and screenings, proactive collaboration between Health Services and the Athletic Trainers, summer operations, and a request for a long term look at the impact of the new turf field on injuries. Mr. Dolinko expressed, on behalf of the Board and all parents, great appreciation to Mr. Grooms and his department for their dedication and commitment to the health and welfare of all our students.

E. Mobile Learning Initiative Update

Mr. Paul Sally and Mr. Christopher Johnson provided an update and a PowerPoint presentation for the Board’s review and discussion of the Mobile Learning Initiative. Mr. Sally noted the positive evaluations received thus far in the second year of the iPad Pilot program which this year involves 25 teachers, 20 courses, and 650 students. The memo proposes a further expansion of the program next year which would increase to 60 teachers, 40 courses, and approximately 2,300 students. In consideration of the technology trends among township elementary districts and area high schools and the progress of the pilot program, the proposal and recommendation for the Board is for full implementation for the 2014-15 school year, with all students receiving an iPad when they enter high school. Mr. Sally reviewed key factors involved in this transition including budgeting and payment options for families and the District. Family iPad purchase options include purchasing the device for \$620 (includes apps, keyboard, and case) or lease to purchase at a sliding scale for students by class or Bring Your Own Device (BYOD). He also provided District subsidy options to facilitate the transition, highlighting that the high estimate for the subsidy stays within the current technology budget. Mr. Dolinko opened the floor to discussion as Board members weighed in on the report and the Mobile Learning Initiative. Board members were supportive of the program with discussion centering on pricing, payment plans, and subsidies; the multi-tasking aspect of technology; the timing of implementation and its cost; and how this shift will impact other costs in the technology budget. Dr. Yonke summarized the consensus of thought that the Board desires to go forward with the Mobile Learning Initiative for next year and to implement the full program in two years, and to provide a subsidy for families. At the same time, the Board wants more information on the technology budget and the financial impact for families over four years. Board members requested further research into the useful life expectancy of an iPad.

VII. Administrative Items

A. Financial Reports for January 2013

Mr. Don Goers presented the Financial Reports for January which are brief. They include the Cash Flow Statements, the Financial Report and the Investment Report. More detail will be provided as the year moves forward on the Budget Status Report.

B. Transportation Services Contract Extension

Mr. Don Goers reviewed the history of the District’s contract with Alltown Bus Service, noting that services provided by Alltown in the first two years of the current contract have been excellent. This year we encountered a few issues which have been addressed for improved service. This winter, Mr. Goers began negotiating with Alltown for a two year extension to the contract. An agreement was reached which results in annual increases to the District of 1.4% per year. In the second year of the two-year extension the District’s cost per bus run is only \$.66 higher than the rate paid in 2006-07. Because of the excellent service to the District, the favorable rates, and the transition year for the new Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Goers recommends that the Board approve a two-year extension to the contract with Alltown. Mr. Dolinko removed himself from conversation and voting as he noted having served on the Wilmette District 39 Board of Education with the President of Alltown, Mr. Greg Polan. Mr. Goers responded to Board members’ comments and questions. Mr. Myefski moved and Ms. Goldstein seconded the motion that the Board approve the First Amendment to the Transportation Contract as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Mr. Dolinko

The motion passed.

VIII. Consent Agenda

- Bill List for the Period January 1-31, 2013
- Investment Portfolio Review
- Personnel Report and Addenda
- Student Fees
- Fox Meadow Cost Sharing Agreement

Mr. Dolinko noted that the Personnel Report and Addenda were approved earlier in the meeting and asked if any Board member wished to remove any other items of the Consent Agenda for separate discussion. Mr. Myefski requested that Student Fees be pulled for separate discussion.

Mr. Fisher moved that the Board approve the Consent Agenda items which included the Bill List for January 1-31, 2013, the Investment Portfolio Review, and the Fox Meadow Cost Sharing Agreement. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. 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. Myefski
Mr. Dolinko

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Myefski requested further discussion on the Student Fees structure. He acknowledged that Board consensus was to remain revenue-neutral; he proposed making the General Fee \$80 instead of \$110, and the Extracurricular Fee \$110 instead of \$80. Much Board discussion followed with members expressing their preferences to either leave the proposal as is, to combine all items to one registration fee of \$190, or to calculate the true costs per student. Mr. Fischer moved that the Board approve the Student Fees proposal as presented. Ms. Goldstein seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Mr. Fischer, Ms. Goldstein, Mr. Harris, Ms. Ducommun, Mr. Dolinko

NAY: Mr. O'Donoghue, Mr. Myefski

The motion passed.

IX. Board Member Reports

Mr. Fischer reminded all of the *New Trier Education Foundation* Alumni Achievement Awards on March 14 at the Hilton Orrington Hotel in Evanston. News from the Foundation is that the financial goal for the benefit is nearly achieved. The *School Safety Committee* met for the first time, engaging in discussions about the Security Audit and a range of topics relating to school safety.

Mr. Goldstein noted that *NSSED* did not meet. The *New Trier Fine Arts Association* approved enrichment funding requests for a master class in Kabuki and a field trip to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra rehearsal with YoYo Ma. Discussions surrounded what their donations pay for versus the school's activities fee. They increased their summer scholarships to 16. The Association provided dinner for 100 musicians at the Jazz Fest. The Jazz 1 Group will go to New York over Spring Break and the Swing Choir is going to Dallas. The *ECGC Steering Committee* will meet in early March. The *ECGC Parent Committee* had a follow up workshop on Robert Brooks, focusing on "Our Children's Strength." March 5 will be the next ECGC Parent Committee meeting in C234 at 9:00 a.m.

Ms. Ducommun reported for the *Parents' Association* that they met their annual goal of raising \$20,000 in February. They are planning to clarify their policy on the graduation party attendance pertaining to those

students who are not participating in the graduation ceremony. They are working on a Master Calendar for the Association and the graduation party work is well underway. Ms. Ducommun highlighted the upcoming programs for the Association which include events on February 26 with Dr. Kay Redfield Jamison, March 6 with Emily Bazelon, and March 13 on Young Innovators.

Mr. Harris noted that the *Booster Club* will provide hospitality for the Boys' State Swim Meet.

Mr. O'Donoghue had nothing more to add for the *Technology Committee* since the Mobile Learning Initiative was discussed earlier in the evening.

Mr. Myefski spoke of the planning conducted by the *Facilities Steering Committee* that will be presented at a Special Workshop Meeting of the Board of Education on February 25. He encouraged the public to come to this Open Meeting.

X. Board Members' Calendar of Events

- Calendar of Events

Dr. Yonke reiterated that the IHSA State Swim Meet hosted by New Trier is a complex two-day event with hundreds of staff members and volunteers assisting the Athletic Department.

The Special Board of Education meeting on February 25 will be in Room C234 to discuss ADA accessibility problems on both campuses and to hear proposed solutions by Perkins + Will.

The next Regular Board of Education meeting will be March 18. Dr. Yonke also reminded members that because this is a Board Election year, an additional Special Meeting is needed after the canvass of votes and before May 7. May 1 at 7:30 p.m. has been scheduled for this organizational meeting.

- Board Members' Request for Staff Research and Future Agenda Items

There were no new requests for staff research or agenda items.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Dolinko requested a motion to adjourn. Ms. Goldstein moved that the Board adjourn the open meeting. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote being taken, all members indicated they were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

Alan R. Dolinko, President