

**NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203
SPECIAL WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
February 10, 2014
New Trier Township High School
7 Happ Road, Room C234
Northfield, IL 60093**

A **Special Workshop 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, and Room C234 on Monday, February 10, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present

Mr. Alan R. Dolinko, President
Mr. F. Malcolm Harris, Vice President
Mr. Peter Fischer
Ms. Lori Goldstein
Mr. John Myefski
Mr. Patrick O’Donoghue
Mr. Greg Robitaille

Administrators Present

Dr. Linda L. Yonke, Superintendent
Ms. Cheryl Witham, Assistant Superintendent
for Finance & Operations

Also Present

Mr. Paul Sally, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction; Mr. Timothy Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services; Ms. Denise Hibbard, Principal – Winnetka Campus; Mr. Paul Waechter, Principal – Northfield Campus; Mr. Matt Ottaviano, Assistant Principal – Winnetka Campus; Mr. Peter Tragos, Assistant Principal – Northfield Campus; Mr. Christopher Johnson, Director of Technology; Ms. Nicole Dizon, Director of Communications; Ms. Athena Arvanitis, Director of Student Life; Mrs. Linda Knier, Director of Academic Services; Ms. Ellen Ambuehl, Director of Special Education; Mr. George Sanders, Director of Human Resources; Mr. Christopher Wildman, Director of Business Services; Mr. Jason Boumstein, Applied Arts Department Chair; Mr. Gerry Munley, Science Department Chair; Mr. Steve Linke, Plant Operations Manager for Winnetka Campus; Mr. Dave Conway, Plant Operations Manager for Northfield Campus; Ms. Mary Lappan, Mathematics Department; Mr. Wes Molyneaux, Science Department; Ms. Jenny Wexler, Mathematics Department; Mr. Marc Garneau, Library Department; Mr. Angel Villaluz, Technology Department; Mr. Ron Taylor, Technology Department; Ms. Linda Straube, Library Department; Ms. Judy Macnab, Library Department Chair; Mr. Tim Estberg, Music Department Coordinator; Mr. Terry Phillips, Mathematics Department; Ms. Elizabeth Blodgett, NTESPA Representative; Ms. Hilerre Kirsch, Speech & Theatre; Mr. David Ladd, Music Department Chair; Ms. Nina Lynn, Speech & Theatre Department Chair; Ms. Pam Strom, Library Department Coordinator; Mr. Wes Bauman, Ms. Marcia Oley, Mr. Chuck Hirsch, Ms. Sharon Kristjanson, members of CannonDesign, HBRA Architects, and The Third Teacher; members of Moore Ruble Yudell and Legat Architects; members of Wight & Company; and members of the press and community.

I. Call to Order – 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Dolinko called the Special Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll call was taken. All members were present. He outlined the agenda for the evening noting there will be public comment after the presentations for anyone interested in speaking on the meeting’s topic. Dr. Linda Yonke welcomed everyone and provided background on the Winnetka facility needs and the proposed project for the Winnetka Campus. She reviewed the work of the current committees, the Facilities Steering Committee and the Community Engagement Committee. She also explained the process being followed to select a design team for the possible Winnetka Campus project including issuance of a Request for Qualifications, a Request for Proposal containing project parameters, and next steps after the evening’s presentations.

II. Architect Firms – Presentations

Mr. Charles T. Smith of Cannon Design, HBRA Architects and the Third Teacher began their Design Presentations by conveying his sincere appreciation for the opportunity to work with the District while integrating a respect and understanding of New Trier’s culture. He introduced fellow members of his team. Mr. Aric Lasher reviewed details of the architectural renderings and design goals. Mr. Trung Le conducted a virtual walk through presentation of the design emphasizing the circulation, visual continuity, and engagement of teachers as designers in flexible learning studios. Mr. Stuart Brodsky discussed the implementation of the significant facilities project, taking note of safety, academic continuity, and timing. Mr. Smith encouraged a

reimagining look at New Trier while being sensitive to the school and the community. He invited questions and comments from Board members. Conversation included issues of ADA accessibility, classrooms, parking, and academic programming during construction, and Black Box and Gaffney theatre locations.

Mr. Dolinko announced a ten to fifteen minute break at 7:03 p.m. while the design teams dismantled their materials and set up for the next presentation.

Ms. Robin Randall of Legat Architects introduced the Moore Ruble Yudell and Legat Architects Design Team, which included Mr. James Mary O'Connor, Mr. David Herd and Mr. Patrick Brosnan. Mr. O'Connor shared their vision of renewed spaces of the Winnetka campus' west side, which included open light corridors and stairwells, a new north entrance and adaptable classrooms. Mr. Herd addressed building construction issues of sustainability, materials, and roof design. Mr. Brosnan reviewed a construction schedule noting the importance of keeping all curricular programs on campus. Community engagement is key as he outlined their process of evaluating the project and costs along the way. A video was presented of their design options. Board members asked about the design functionality, the roof material, student circulation, and common space flexibility. Ms. Randall thanked the Board and reiterated that they are not choosing a definite scheme yet, but a team to work with.

Mr. Dolinko announced another ten to fifteen minute break at 8:02 p.m. while the design teams dismantled their materials and set up for the next presentation. He also encouraged anyone who may be interested to speak or share their comments and thoughts to retrieve a Communication Request form or a Feedback Form from the back of the room and bring it to the front table.

Mr. Mark Wight, Chairman and CEO of Wight & Company introduced the Wight Design Team of Mr. Kevin Havens, Mr. Brad Paulsen, Mr. Peter Brown and Mr. David Powell. Mr. Wight noted their firms' focus on education nationally as well as in Chicago. The Wight proposal highlighted the themes of Connected, Forward and Community. Their design included an open air and light concourse on a north south axis which would connect all levels to a new entrance on the north side and at the same time providing circulation from the front to the back of the school. Their goal is designing spaces to meet the curricular needs of the 21st century. The new North face and student plaza invites the Community to events and activities within. Their video tour also showed design details of the potential project. Implementation would include input from all stakeholders including staff, administration, neighbors, community, parents, and students. They proposed a five-stage phasing process for implementation of the project, with completion by August 2017. Questions were asked and comments were made by the Board members. Topics of interest included the open concourse, parking, library lighting, the mechanical plant, and the service court.

Mr. Dolinko called for a 5 minute break to dismantle the last presentation.

III. Public Comment

Mr. Dolinko invited members of the audience to share their thoughts on the project and or presentations. Ms. Sharon Kristjanson commented on the design elements as they relate to the neighbors on Sunset and Woodland Avenues.

IV. Board Discussion

Board discussion followed as all members expressed their appreciation of the work and hours put forth in the presentations. Many were intrigued by the solutions put forward; however, the desire for community input was very important as was feedback from faculty and staff. The Facilities Steering Committee plans to meet on Wednesday, February 12, to discuss the presentations and Board and community comments. The Board would consider taking action on a Facilities Steering Committee recommendation at either the next Regular Board meeting on February 18 or possibly another Special Board meeting.

V. Adjourn

Mr. O'Donoghue moved to adjourn the Special Meeting at 9:52 p.m. Mr. Myefski seconded the motion. All voted in favor (voice vote).

The meeting adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

Alan R. Dolinko, President