

**NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
November 18, 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 Monday, November 18, 2013 at 6:30 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
Mr. Timothy Hayes, Assistant Superintendent
for Student Services
Mr. Paul Sally, Assistant Superintendent
for Curriculum & Instruction
Ms. Denise Hibbard, 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. Matt Ottaviano, Assistant Principal, Winnetka Campus; Mrs. Linda Knier, Director of Academic Services; Mr. Peter Tragos, Assistant Principal, Northfield Campus; Ms. Katherine Schindler, Assistant Principal, Winnetka Campus; Mr. Christopher Johnson, Director of Technology; Ms. Athena Arvanitis, Director of Student Life; Mr. Christopher Wildman, Director of Business Services; Mr. Dave Conway, Plant Operations Manager for Northfield Campus; Mr. Steve Linke, Plant Operations Manager for Winnetka Campus; Ms. Judy Macnab, Library Department Chair; Mr. Terry Phillips, Mathematics Department; Ms. Meg Beeler, Social Studies Department; Mr. Sean Clemenz, Special Education Department; Ms. Kari Viano, Special Education Department; Ms. Jaclyn Smith, New Trier Transition Program; Ms. Elizabeth Hennessy, William Blair & Co., LLC; students and families of the Special Education Department Transition Program; and members of the faculty, press and community.

BUSINESS MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Dolinko called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:32 p.m. Roll call was taken. All members were present. Mr. Dolinko noted that there was no Closed Session this evening and that the Board would proceed to the Business Meeting for November 18, 2013.

II. Closed Session – No Closed Session

BUSINESS MEETING

III. Open Session – 7:30 p.m. – C234

Mr. Dolinko welcomed those in attendance. He announced that if anyone wished to address the Board during the Citizen’s Comments 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 October Regular meeting. Mr. Fischer moved and Ms. Goldstein seconded the motion to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on October 21, 2013, open session and closed session. Mr. Dolinko asked if there were any further comments or corrections to the minutes. None being presented, a roll call vote was taken and the members voted as follows:

AYE: Ms. Goldstein, Mr. Myefski, Mr. Robitaille, Mr. Fischer, Mr. Dolinko

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Mr. Harris, Mr. O'Donoghue

The motion passed.

V. Communications

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

VI. Special Orders of Business

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

Mr. Paul Waechtler, Principal of the Northfield Campus, reviewed the activities and events at the freshman campus which included noting that the freshman class received their first quarter grades; Parent Teacher Conferences are scheduled for later this week on Wednesday and Thursday; Veterans' Day events were scheduled to honor all Vets and their service with a flag raising ceremony, a community art project and staff veterans acknowledged on screens throughout the school; the Names Program is scheduled for December 3 and 4 after the Thanksgiving Break; winter sports have started and lunchtime basketball is gaining in popularity as the weather turns cold; incoming freshman class for 2014-15 will be tested on December 7 and 14 with the high school entrance exams.

Ms. Denise Hibbard, Principal of the Winnetka Campus, summarized the athletic accomplishments of students at the east campus as well as the performances of the Symphony and Chamber Orchestras and the Concert Choir Concerts. Choir Opera will perform tomorrow, November 19. The Winnetka Campus was host again to the Literary Fest in October with over 300 students participating and 16 guest writers speaking. On November 12, New Trier's Special Olympics team hosted practice with 49 athletes and 52 peer helpers. Chicago Sky's Elena Delle Donne attended as guest coach working with Trevian Coach Kay Pothast assisting student Olympians on their shooting skills and plays. Ms. Hibbard concluded with a letter from a cross country parent who commended and thanked the New Trier staff and coaches for the positive experience her family had, even though her son placed last in competition, yet with his best time ever. She noted the standard of excellence is set and nurtured for every student at all levels of achievement.

Mr. Tim Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, shared information on two speakers who will present this week on Social and Emotional Learning. Daniel Goleman, who is known as the "Father of Emotional Intelligence" will speak tomorrow, November 19 in the Cornog Auditorium. His topic and book is *Focus – the Hidden Driver of Success*. Also, Linda Lantieri, author of *Building Emotional Intelligence: Techniques for Cultivating Inner Strength in Children* will speak on Wednesday, November 20. Mr. Hayes included in his report an update on the planning for the all township Institute Day in February. He noted that interest is very high with over 120 workshop proposals for presentations that day.

Mr. Paul Sally, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, reported that New Trier hosted another Mobile Learning Open House for teachers and administrators from schools in North and South Dakota. He expressed thanks and appreciation to the staff and faculty that offered their time and classes in sharing our Mobile Learning Initiative. Mr. Sally also stated that the second Early Dismissal Day occurred last week which allowed the Learning Cohorts time for professional development. He again expressed his appreciation for this time of collaboration and research.

Ms. Cheryl Witham, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, reported that there was one FOIA request since the last regular Board meeting. It was on salary information and has been completed. Ms. Witham stated that there were no other outstanding requests for information.

B. Transition Program

Ms. Ellie Ambuehl, Director of Special Education, introduced Kari Viano and Sean Clemenz who head the Transition Program in the Special Education Department. This program is designed for students, aged 18-21 years old, with moderate to severe disabilities who require additional instruction to achieve post-high school goals. It is an extension of the ELS (Education and Life Skills) program which provides students with community based, functional real world curricula focused on enhancing independence and vocational skills in order to prepare students for post high school opportunities. Ms. Viano and Mr. Clemenz shared information on the evolution of the program as well as the classroom needs and program curriculum. Transition Program student Jackie Smith addressed the Board, introducing herself and sharing her

experiences with the program and in the community. The presentation also included information on their job training sites, highlights of the curriculum, goals for the future, and an Open House invitation on December 6, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. in Room 266 at the Winnetka Campus. Mr. Clemenz thanked the Board for the opportunity to present the Transition Program and invited questions from Board members. Members queried about job opportunities as well as program needs that may be addressed by Board Committees such as the Foundation or the Facilities Steering Committee. Ms. Ambuehl also responded to questions regarding funding sources and measurements of success.

C. School Report Card

Dr. Yonke reported on the changes to the Illinois School Report Card which is now called the Illinois Interactive Report Card. This new format from the Illinois State Board of Education provides the public more extensive information than previously reported and the state is planning to expand the amount of information in subsequent years. Dr. Yonke presented the new report card online and highlighted key features showing demographics, academic achievement, cost per pupil, school climate and much more. The intention of the Illinois State Board of Education is to make school information more accessible to the public. Board discussion followed with Dr. Yonke responding to members' questions.

D. Profile of Class of 2013

Mr. Paul Sally, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction presented the fourth annual Profile Report. He and Mr. Tim Hayes prepare the report each year, examining the recently graduated class of students and taking a comprehensive look at their achievements through test scores, course taking patterns, college matriculation, support services, extracurricular participation, and service. The anticipated benefits of the report is the ability to dispel myths and preconceptions parents and the community might have and to examine the experiences of the senior class as a whole. Mr. Sally highlighted the growth in learning that our students exhibit and that New Trier students' growth is at a much higher rate than their peers across the nation. He noted the strength of our program at all levels of the curriculum, as acknowledged by the colleges of choice of students at every level. The report also shows the numerous opportunities for students with regard to support services, extracurricular activities and service. Mr. Sally looks forward to future reports that will include information on college experiences and success of our student graduates. Mr. Hayes agreed and invited questions or comments by the Board members. Board discussion followed on parent misconceptions of courses needed for college, AP classes and the importance of this report with its need to be made readily available to a wide audience.

VII. Administrative Items

A. Financial Reports for October 2013

Ms. Cheryl Witham presented a summary of the Financial Reports for October. She noted the cash on hand was \$104 million, whereas at this time last year it was \$99.8 million. Revenues are at \$895,000 and expenditures for October are \$8.4 million, making use of the early tax receipts. The Investment Portfolio is averaging .538% interest rate with most being invested in short term certificates of deposit. The top three institutions for investment are PMA with 43%; North Shore Community Bank with 40% and RBC with 8%. There were no questions by Board members for further discussion.

B. Discussion of Funding Options for Summer 2014 ADA Construction Project

Ms. Cheryl Witham introduced Ms. Elizabeth Hennessy of William Blair & Co., to assist in the discussion of Funding Options for the ADA Construction Projects for the Summer of 2014 using non-referendum bonds for the \$4.2 million projects. Ms. Hennessy reviewed the District's outstanding debt obligations which included outstanding referendum debt and non-referendum debt as well as non-referendum debt paid from Operating Funds. She noted the District has a small amount of outstanding debt (\$16 million) and the statutory net debt limit for the District is \$332,871,562. This does not include Alternate Revenue Bonds, which are not subject to the debt limit. She reviewed that approximately \$2.8 million is paid on the debt from the tax levy. Ms. Hennessy explained the types of non-referendum limited bonds in consideration for the projects which included Working Cash Fund Bonds, Life Safety Bonds and Funding Bonds. She examined each, pointing out the benefits and disadvantages of use by the District. She recommended using Working Cash Fund Bonds and explained the requirements for their use. Ms. Hennessy also reviewed the Debt Service Capacity for the District starting in 2013 and going forward. The two options presented for discussion were 1.) Accelerated Repayment – which would provide the lowest interest cost option, but with no future bonding capability until 2018 or 2.) 2015 Channel Option – which entailed a slightly higher interest cost, but which provides a channel for debt service in 2015 to accommodate future borrowing.

Mr. Dolinko spoke on behalf of the Board's Finance Committee stating that the Committee preferred the

second option allowing the District some flexibility in planning for a the near future, noting the uncertainty of the aging facilities. Ms. Hennessy explained the financing schedule with working bonds, that subsequent to the public notice, if 10% of resident voters were to petition the District in the allotted time, the decision may be brought before the public for a referendum vote. This is not the case with Life Safety Bonds. Mr. Dolinko noted that there are future Life Safety projects identified and Option 2 would allow the District more flexibility in funding. Board discussion followed with further explanation of the options and their implications on funding and projects. Issues discussed included the proposed financing schedule, the list of Life Health Safety projects, the use of reserves, and prudence in planning for future projects.

C. Bid Approval for Construction Management – ADA Project

Ms. Cheryl Witham reviewed the Bid Approval process for the construction management of the ADA projects which include upgrades in the Gates Gym, the Gaffney Auditorium, the Cornog Auditorium and the North Building. The process began with the request for proposals, of which four companies responded. Nicholas and Associates were the low bid at \$242,700.00. References were checked and based on price and quality of work, Nicholas and Associates were recommended for the work. Board members commented and asked questions about the bidding process. Mr. Fischer moved and Mr. Myefski seconded the motion that the Board approve and award a contract to Nicholas and Associates for \$242,700 for Construction Management Services for the Summer 2014 ADA Projects. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

D. Discussion of Request for Qualifications for Design Team

Dr. Yonke prefaced the discussion of Request for Qualifications for Design Team with a review of the background work of the Board’s Facilities Steering Committee and Community Engagement Committee. The ADA work is approved and planned for the summer of 2014 and the Community Engagement Committee, which has contracted the services of a public engagement firm, is seeking input from the community about a possible capital project to address the extraordinary needs of the Winnetka Campus. Dr. Yonke noted the information from both the Community Survey and the failed referendum has helped to frame new parameters for a renovation project. The new focus will be only on the west side of the campus and address the issues of concern by the community. No architect has been pre-selected, the economy has had 4-5 years to begin recovery, the project concentrates on student spaces, the project will remain in the same current footprint of the buildings and will honor the historical look of the Village and school. The Facilities Steering Committee is proposing an integrated process for moving forward that would include community engagement efforts with and the development of a design proposal that will reflect a project that the community will support. Mr. Myefski spoke for the Facilities Steering Committee regarding the Design Team Selection document. It presents and encompasses the projects and their challenges to seek out the best design firm to address the various facility issues. The process is similar to the architect search done for improvements at Navy Pier. A stipend of \$25,000 will be awarded to the top three firms, which will produce designs for the Board and Steering Committee to choose from. The benefit to the District is in receiving a wide variety of design ideas for renovation and new construction on part of the Winnetka Campus. Mr. Robitaille, who is also on the Facilities Steering Committee, noted that all this activity should be kept in context. He pointed out that while the Board is moving forward for design teams, there is also a Citizens Task Force Committee that has met and the Facilities Steering Committee is continuing the task of reviewing the facility needs assessment. The two tracks will work in parallel to the point where the District will have a viable design plan to present to the public. Board discussion followed, which included conversation on advertising, market competition, project phasing and facility needs of the Winnetka Campus west side.

VIII. Consent Agenda

- Bill List for the Period October 1-31, 2013
- Personnel Report
- New Course Proposals
- Board Policy Revisions – Second Reading

Mr. Dolinko asked if any Board member wished to remove items of the Consent Agenda for separate discussion. Mr. O'Donoghue requested to remove Board Policy Revisions for open discussion. Mr. Dolinko asked for a motion to approve the other items of the Consent Agenda. Mr. Myefski moved that the Board approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Bill List for the Period of October 1-31, 2013, the Personnel Report and the New Course Proposals as presented. Ms. Goldstein seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. O'Donoghue asked for further explanation of the Board Policies that are up for revision or adoption. Dr. Yonke reviewed each of the four policies – 5-260 Student Teachers; 6-240 Field Trips and Tours; 7-25 Harassment, Sexual Harassment, Bullying, Teen Dating Violence, and Hazing Prohibited; and 8-20 Community Use of School Facilities. Mr. O'Donoghue's questions were addressed. Mr. Fischer moved and Mr. Myefski seconded the motion to approve the Board Policy Revisions as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Board Member Reports

Mr. Fischer reported for the *All School Forum* meeting at which level four classes were discussed. He relayed a query by a dance student asking why there were no 4 level Dance classes as there are for Music and Art. Compelling arguments were made by students and faculty on the issue of equity and Mr. Fischer recommended further study by the Administration on the level system. Dr. Yonke noted the importance of looking at all the levels and then making decisions.

Ms. Goldstein reported that the *NSSD* has not met since the last Board meeting. The *Parents Association* report included notice that they are reviewing the Homecoming Tailgate Tent Party, with its goal to reach out to parents. Also, pies are to be distributed to all staff on November 26. An *ECGC* Parent Meeting was held on November 5 at which Ms. Hibbard took part in a round table discussion on the book *Choke* by Sian Beilock, who will be the keynote speaker at the February Institute Day. Ms. Goldstein also noted Ms. Hibbard's positive comments from the alumni reunions and from author Kay Redfield Jameson.

Mr. O'Donoghue reported for the *Traffic & Parking Committee* which met at the Winnetka Campus. Topics of discussion included putting off the traffic study in light of the possibility of a new connecting road between Essex and Woodland; signage and lighting at the corner of Woodland and Winnetka Avenue; and adding a signal or stop light at the corner of Winnetka Avenue and Sheridan Road. Mr. Dolinko noted that these discussions were very early regarding Winnetka and Sheridan and further conversation was obviously needed with the Village traffic managers.

Mr. Myefski attended the *Technology Committee* which discussed e-books and e-readers. He noted there is no consistency in the area of e-books; however he felt our students are well placed with this future wave of mobile learning.

Mr. Dolinko announced for the *Booster Club* to hold the date February 7 for the Second City Benefit Night. Other Booster Club activities of note are that intramural sports participation is good and the new paddle program is maxed out with high interest.

X. Board Members' Calendar of Events

- Calendar of Events

Dr. Yonke noted that Parent Teacher Conferences are to be held this week on Wednesday and Thursday, November 20 and 21. The Institute Day is on Friday with the State Swim Meet on Friday and Saturday. Thanksgiving Break is next week, Wednesday through Friday, November 27, 28 and 29. The last meeting for the baseball netting project is Tuesday, December 3 at the Winnetka Village Hall. The Finance Committee

meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 4. Dr. Yonke also highlighted that the Winter Music Festival will be on Sunday, December 15 at 3:00 p.m. in the Gates Gym at the Winnetka Campus. The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education will be on Monday, December 16. Mr. Dolinko requested a message to be sent out to parents to be mindful of the limited parking during Parent Conference times.

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

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. O'Donoghue moved that the Board adjourn the open meeting. Mr. Myefski seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote being taken, all members indicated they were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 10:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

Alan R. Dolinko, President