

**NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
March 17, 2014
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, and Room C234 on Monday, March 17, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.

Members Present

Mr. Alan R. Dolinko, 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

Members Absent

Mr. F. Malcolm Harris, Vice President

Also Present

Ms. Niki Dizon, Director of Communications; Mr. George Sanders, Director of Human Resources; Ms. Ellen Ambuehl, Director of Special Education; Mrs. Linda Knier, Director of Academic Services; Mr. Matt Ottaviano, Assistant Principal, Winnetka Campus; Mr. Peter Tragos, Assistant Principal, Northfield Campus; Ms. Katherine Schindler, Assistant Principal for Student Services, Winnetka Campus; Ms. Athena Arvanitis, Director of Student Life; Mr. Christopher Wildman, Director of Business Services; Mr. Steve Linke, Plant Operations Manager for Winnetka Campus; Mr. Dave Conway, Plant Operations Manager for Northfield Campus; Ms. Judy Macnab, Library Department Chair; Mr. Eric Saszik, Mathematics Department, President, NTEA; Ms. Jenny Wexler, Mathematics Department; Mr. Jason Boumstein, Applied Arts Department; Mr. James Conroy, Post High School Department Chair; Mr. Todd Maxman, Social Studies Department; Ms. Aileen Geary, Social Studies Department; Mr. Gerry Munley, Science Department Chair; Mr. Michael Lee, Science Department; Mr. Nathan Silvers, Applied Arts Department; Mr. Chip Finck, Applied Arts Department; Ms. Julie Barr, Mathematics Department; Mr. Martin Funk, Mathematics Department; Mr. David Powell, Wight & Co.; Mr. Wes Bauman, Mrs. Susan Noyes, Ms. Wendy Serrino, and other members of the faculty, press and community.

Student & Staff Board Recognition Program – 7:00 p.m. – Room C234

BUSINESS MEETING

I. Call to Order – 7:30 p.m.

II. Closed Session – No Closed Session

III. Open Session – 7:30 p.m. – C234

Mr. Dolinko called to order the meeting of March 17, 2014 of the New Trier High School Board of Education at 7:30 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. Roll call attendance was taken and all Board members were present except Mr. Harris. Mr. Dolinko noted that the Board had completed a Recognition Program of staff and student achievement during the winter quarter. He announced that if anyone wished to address the Board during the Citizen’s Comments part of the agenda, he or she would need 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 February Regular meeting and the Special Meeting of March 3, 2014. Mr. Fischer moved and Ms. Goldstein seconded the motion to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on February 18, 2014, open and closed session and the Special Meeting of March 3, 2014, open session. Mr. Dolinko asked if there were any comments or corrections to the minutes. None being noted, a roll call vote was taken and the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

V. Communications

Mr. Dolinko invited members of the Community to address the Board. Mr. Thomas Parkinson shared his thoughts on the technology curriculum and suggested courses.

VI. Special Orders of Business

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

Mr. Paul Waechtler, Principal of the Northfield Campus, reported on events at the freshman campus, which included the start-up work for next year's scheduling, and Science Olympiad celebrations with our partnered Volta Middle School in Chicago. Mr. Waechtler thanked Don Wurth, Tom Anderson, Patty Carlson, Tracy Smith and Tim Estberg for sponsoring this service partnership with our freshman science students. He also praised the work of our performing arts students in the Choir Opera production of the *Pirates of Penzance*. He encouraged attendance at the Frosh/Soph play, *The Dining Room*, this weekend starting Wednesday, March 19 at the McGee Theatre.

Ms. Denise Hibbard, Principal of the Winnetka Campus, shared information on events at the Winnetka Campus, which included the start of Senior Project last week with 150 senior students planning internships in and outside of the United States, and the opening of spring sports programs with 1,272 students participating. On March 14, New Trier hosted a Special Olympics basketball game against Lake Forest. Ms. Hibbard thanked Kay Pothast, our Special Olympics Coordinator for providing games and events for these special kids. Winter Carnival took place on February 28. This is a senior class service project for the benefit of Habitat for Humanity. This year's Carnival raised \$25,000 for Habitat. Ms. Hibbard also commented on the numerous support emails from parents thanking she and Paul Waechtler for the information about the Yik Yak social media app recently used by some students. She thanked Chris Johnson and Niki Dizon for their assistance in providing information to our students and parents. Ms. Hibbard introduced Mr. Michael Lee of the Science Department as the new Science Department Chair, replacing Mr. Gerry Munley, who is the new Assistant Principal at the Winnetka Campus.

Mr. Tim Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services reported for the Permanent Evaluation Committee which has been busy with presentations for scale movement to Master Teacher and Leader Teacher status. He noted the importance of this process as teachers strive for continuous professional growth and improvement. Working to become a Master Teacher helps shape teachers' career as they consider ways to develop and demonstrate their mastery. Mr. Hayes also announced that the Parent Committee of ECGC will be presenting a shortened version of the film "Race to Nowhere" and a panel discussion of the film and how we are helping students lead a healthy, balanced life.

Ms. Cheryl Witham, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations, reported that there was one FOIA request since the last Regular meeting of the Board and it is currently being worked on. The request was to search all emails for the word "Dillard". Dr. Yonke noted that the same request went out to a long list of other school districts as well.

B. Community Engagement & Facilities Steering Committee Update

Dr. Yonke briefly updated the status of the committees that are active with the potential Winnetka Campus facilities project. Representatives of Wight & Co. met with Administrators and Winnetka Physical Plant Services Manager Steve Linke to discuss calendars for community engagement and design work. Ms. Witham is working on their contract and is seeking an independent cost estimate for the work. Dr. Yonke noted that the District is also consulting with District counsel during this process and our attorneys have

recommended that we secure the services of a construction manager early in the process. Therefore, RFPs have been sent out seeking construction management services with the hope of presenting a recommendation to the Board at the April Regular meeting. At structure planning meeting, Wight & Co. suggested the addition of a Design Advisory Committee which would include representatives from all the departments as well as students. This Committee will meet once a month to give advice and feedback on the conceptual designs as well as to keep our staff, students and parents informed about the project. Dr. Yonke reported on the upcoming meetings of the Citizen's Task Force and with the neighbors immediately around the school. Mr. Robitaille spoke as a member of the Facilities Steering Committee noting that while an independent cost estimate will take place, he cautions that the estimate is on Wight's submitted proposal, which all have agreed will not likely be the end project. Therefore, that estimate may not be as relevant due to the evolving design plan. He also noted the time and work performed to date by Wight has been in good faith and without a contract. He urged a signed agreement as soon as possible. Discussion followed on a master timetable, which included more input from District consultant Paul Hanley as early as tomorrow and additional calendar updates to be presented at the Citizens' Task Force meeting tomorrow evening. Community Engagement events will be added in April and May as well as a community survey and phone poll in May and June. Ms. Goldstein reiterated that the calendar is becoming more specific with each new meeting and event. She thanked the staff and community members for their participation and encouraged all to continue to provide feedback. Dr. Yonke added that the Citizen's Task Force is expanding by another fifteen community members for a new total of thirty-nine. Board discussion followed on the role of the construction manager, the definition, parameters and role of the Facilities Steering Committee as a Board Committee or Superintendent's Committee, and adding design professionals from the community to the Facilities Steering Committee as at-large members. Mr. Dolinko noted a general consensus that the Facilities Steering Committee should be augmented by one or two design professionals.

Agenda Item VI.D. – Technology & Computer Science Curriculum Update was presented at this time.

C. PARCC Testing Update

Mr. Paul Sally began the discussion by summarizing the changes to the State Standardized testing, noting his concerns about the amount of time needed for the testing and the loss of student instructional time. He also expressed concerns about the validity of the exams which are being field tested now with those results being reported in June. Dr. Yonke agreed with Mr. Sally's apprehensions with the greatest concern being the loss of instructional time. She noted the goal for a more meaningful test was good; however the rush to implementation of the testing before the new state Common Core State Standards have been aligned with curriculum and instruction seems premature. Discussion followed on the excessive time required for the new tests, the schedule conflicts with AP testing and final exams, the lack of relevance to high school students, and outreach to parents and our legislators to express fundamental concerns.

D. Technology & Computer Science Curriculum Update

Mr. Paul Sally thanked the community members who spoke recently regarding the Technology and Computer Science Curriculum and provided an introduction on the Technology and Computer Science presentation. Applied Arts Department Chair Jason Boumstein thanked the Board for the opportunity to show the current curriculum as well as initiatives on the horizon. Fellow presenters included Julie Barr, Greg Bushell and Martin Funk of the Math Department and Chip Finck and Nathan Silvers of the Applied Arts Department. Currently, New Trier offers two one-year Computer Science courses: Computer Science and AP Computer Science in the Math Department. Other opportunities for coursework in the area of technology include units in Project Lead the Way in Applied Arts, Web Design, Independent Studies, and Extracurricular work. Ms. Barr reviewed the Computer Science courses she teaches and shared examples of student work as Mr. Funk did the same with the AP Computer Science courses. Mr. Boumstein cited the need for engineering courses at New Trier and how Project Lead the Way has met this need with course offerings of Introduction to Engineering Design, Principles of Engineering, Biotechnical Engineering, Digital Electronics, and Civil Engineering. He noted Engineering Design and Development is their future course proposal. He shared New Trier alumni and university officials' comments on PLTW courses at New Trier and their support of the program. Mr. Funk reviewed their goals to increase opportunities for students in computer science, technology, and engineering as well as to establish a new course pathway in computer science. Growth grant proposals for the summer of 2014 for courses at both campuses look to future possibilities in Tech Arts, Computer Engineering, and AP Principles of Computer Science. Mr. Boumstein summarized the Tech Arts plans to include a research and development course, and he discussed how new facilities would support the engineering experiences. The department plans to propose a 4 level PLTW course and to create opportunities for collaboration and teamwork between related disciplines to create a

school wide STEM Community. Mr. Sally thanked the presenters and noted that the departments are working together in a collaborative effort and that this group includes the Business Department as well with its Web Design classes. Board discussion followed, with Mr. Sally and the presenters responding to questions and comments. Discussion centered on the need to integrate disciplines and bridge the intersection of creative arts and technology, making technology more accessible to more students and providing more exposure to the creative thinking side of engineering.

VII. Administrative Items

A. Financial Reports for February 2014

Ms. Cheryl Witham reviewed the financial reports and statements for the month of February, noting that the District has received some of the spring payments from property taxes. Approximately \$15 million has been received with \$7 million going for payroll and \$1.1 million in other expenditures. The ending balance for February's Financial Statement therefore increased from \$81 million to \$88 million. Ms. Witham also reviewed the District Investment Reports highlighting the different instruments of investments. Ms. Witham responded to Board members' questions.

B. Finance Committee – 5-Year Projection Model

Ms. Cheryl Witham provided background information and an overview of the District's Financial Projection model which is in a transition year of moving from in-house data assumptions and projections to the PMA Financial Planning model. PMA already provides investment information and services for the District. The additional services began in the spring of 2013. PMA presents in-depth planning information to more than 100 Illinois school districts which also allows the benefit of comparison to other districts in the state. Ms. Witham reviewed the major components of the financial projections which include estimates of property tax revenues that are impacted by the Equalized Assessed Value of property in the District; and expenditures of which 78.2% is comprised of salary compensation and benefits. Enrollment projections also come into play with staffing needs on the expenditure side. In summary, Ms. Witham noted the Finance Committee members believe all the assumptions in the model are reasonable and realistic, with a bias toward conservative estimates for new property with the EAV and enrollment. Areas of possible risk are 1) the General State Aid, 2) Pension Reform, 3) Health Care Reform and 4) Interest Income. Mr. Robitaille and Mr. Dolinko, as members of the Finance Committee weighed in with their thoughts on the Projection Model, noting that there are years with projected deficits; however, the Committee felt it was within 1% and close enough to be able to balance with appropriate concurrent adjustments. Board discussion followed with Ms. Witham responding to members' questions on health care costs and hiring costs. Mr. Dolinko noted that the document is dynamic and will very likely change over time. He also appreciated the comprehensive nature of the new model and the information it provides.

C. Summer ADA Construction Bids

Ms. Cheryl Witham introduced the Summer 2014 ADA Project Bid Recommendations for Board approval. She noted that Nicholas & Associates provided the bid package showing all the actual bid results. Mr. Myefski questioned the results of Bid Package 7 – Aluminum & Glazing and Bid Package 8 – Elevator. Mr. Nick Papanicholas of Nicholas & Associates responded with specifics to each bid package. Board discussion followed on rebidding the Aluminum & Glazing bid as one bid came in late. The elevator bid was accepted as the District has worked with Anderson in the past and Nicholas was confident in the quality and timeliness of their work. It was the consensus of the Board to approve the ADA construction bids with the exception of Bid Package 7. The Aluminum & Glazing package will be sent out again for bids with a not-to-exceed subcontract amount for the work. Mr. Myefski moved that the Board approves \$3,453,184 for the Summer 2014 ADA work including the 15 bid packages in the amount of \$3,046,184; the contingency amount of \$362,000; and \$45,000 to be used for other Owner's costs. Mr. Fischer 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. Dolinko

NAY: None

The motion passed.

VIII. Consent Agenda

- Bill List for the Period February 1-28, 2014
- Personnel Report
- Board Calendar 2014-2015

- Resolution abating the Working Cash Fund of the District
- IHSA Renewal 2014-2015
- Financial Adviser Services
- Board Policy Revisions – 2nd Readings

Mr. Dolinko asked if any Board member wished to remove items of the Consent Agenda for separate discussion. Mr. Robitaille requested Board Policy 5-200 for separate discussion and Mr. O'Donoghue requested the Resolution abating the Working Cash Fund of the District for open discussion. Mr. Dolinko asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items remaining. Mr. Fischer moved that the Board approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Bill List for the Period of February 1-28, 2014; the Personnel Report; the Board Calendar for 2014-2015; the renewal of the IHSA membership for 2014-2015; a contract for Financial Advisor Services with William Blair & Co., L.L.C.; and revisions to Board Policies 4-10, 4-15, 4-60 and 6-280. Ms. Goldstein seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

In discussion of the Resolution Abating the Working Cash Fund, Mr. O'Donoghue inquired about the difference between the \$4.2 million and the \$3.4 million. Ms. Witham responded that the \$4.2 million is the total cost of the project and the other is just the trades' portion of the contract. In further discussion it was pointed out that any funds not expended from the bond issue amount of \$4.2 million will stay in the Capital Project Fund or will be used for contingencies. Ms. Goldstein moved to approve the Resolution abating the Working Cash Fund of the District in the amount of \$4,200,000 and authorizing the School Treasurer to permanently transfer the abatement amount to the Operations and Maintenance Fund with a further transfer to the Capital Projects Fund. Mr. Fischer seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

Mr. Robitaille applauded the efforts of the Administration regarding the Board Policy 5-200 on the Terms and Conditions of Employment and Outside Employment and its effort in addressing conflicts of interest in employment. He would however ask for continued work to create more transparency in this area. Mr. Fischer, who serves on the Policy Committee, responded with further details about the Committee's discussion. Dr. Yonke also the proposed changes had been discussed with the NTEA, and that there is strong support for the proposed changes. The administration did not feel the need to require reporting by teachers as to their involvement in outside programs. Discussion with the Association resulted in general agreement to monitor implementation of this policy revision and then make decisions about additional requirements. Further conversation ensued noting the concerns of parents, and implementation of the revised policy. Board consensus was reached that this is a good first step. Mr. O'Donoghue moved to approve the revisions to the Board Policy 5-200 as presented. Mr. Fischer seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

IX. Board Member Reports

Mr. O'Donoghue reported for the *New Trier Fine Arts Association* meeting he attended. He noted their interest in the facilities project and he welcomed them to all the various committee meetings.

Mr. Robitaille offered more information about discussion at the *Finance Committee* meeting. He highlighted the favorable rate of 1.74% the District received at the Bond Sale and that there was great demand for our offer.

Mr. Robitaille also reported on the Committee's discussion of potentially using District Reserves for Capital Projects. Various scenarios were outlined with a focus on the possible impact to the desired six months of reserves on hand. He noted the comfort level lays somewhere between \$12.5 and \$15 million; however, the Committee will continue to study this before making a recommendation to the full Board.

Ms. Goldstein reported for the *New Trier Parents' Association* on current events and happenings which included planned changes for the Parent Tailgate Party; the Sophomore Parent Party rescheduled from April to May; a successful college admissions program with admission officers sharing tips on money saving community colleges; the Senior Parent Program scheduled for April 24 on tips for surviving college presented by a New Trier graduate; 2014 Graduate lawn signs being available for \$5; and the Fine Arts Association proposed donation of \$10,000 for renovation of the Cornog Auditorium lobby. Ms. Goldstein also reported for the *NSSSED* transition services have many new opportunities for classes and training at the Marriott Lincolnshire, Mitsubishi, and Wagner Farm.

Mr. Fischer attended the *All School Forum* which had a good discussion on the new student Profile and its various methods of distribution. He also attended the *New Trier Education Foundation* meeting at which Dr. Yonke presented the proposed changes to the West Side of the Winnetka Campus. The Foundation also discussed their strategic plans for the future.

Mr. Dolinko noted that the *Booster Club* will meet tomorrow night, Tuesday, March 18, which he will report on in April.

X. Board Members' Calendar of Events

- Calendar of Events

Dr. Yonke noted the Frosh/Soph Spring play "The Dining Room" is next week; third quarter ends March 28; Spring Break begins March 29 and classes resume on April 7; Good Friday is on April 18 with no school or work; the next Board of Education Regular meeting is April 21; and Prairie State Testing is on April 23 and 24.

Board conversation followed on the possibility of a Special Meeting before the Regular April meeting. Ms. Witham noted it is taking longer to craft the contract with Wight & Co. as they are waiting for initial planning meetings to be scheduled.

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

Mr. Myefski posed the question as to why staff requests is placed at the end of the Board meetings. He also indicated a desire to have two sections for Public Comment, in light of the process brought forth for the facilities project. Discussion followed on when the public can comment and how Board members suggest agenda items and make requests for staff research. Mr. O'Donoghue requested research into the impact of State and Federal funding. The Board was in agreement to add that to the list for Staff Research.

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 10:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

Alan R. Dolinko, President