

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

April 20, 2015

**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, in Room C234 on Monday, April 20, 2015 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, Associate Superintendent
for Curriculum & Instruction
Ms. Denise Dubravec, Principal – Winnetka Campus
Mr. Paul Waechtler, Principal – Northfield Campus

Also Present

Ms. Niki Dizon, Director of Communications; Mr. George Sanders, Director of Human Resources; Mrs. Linda Knier, Director of Academic Services; Mr. Gerry Munley, Assistant Principal, Winnetka Campus; Ms. Athena Arvanitis, Director of Student Life; Mr. Scott Williams, Assistant Principal, Winnetka Campus; Mr. Peter Tragos, Assistant Principal, Northfield Campus; Mr. Todd Maxman, President, New Trier Township Education Association, Social Studies Department; Mr. Eric Saszik, Mathematics Department; Mr. Spiro Bolos, Social Studies Department; Mr. Christopher Johnson, Chief Information Officer; Ms. Robyn Ward, Science Department Coordinator; Ms. Elizabeth Blodgett, New Trier Educational Support Professionals Association; Mr. Marc Garneau, Library Department; Mr. Jim Conroy, Post High School Counseling Department Chair; Ms. Stephanie Farruggia, Special Education Department Chair; Mr. Christopher Pearson, Senior Boys Adviser Chair; Mr. Nic Meyer, Music Department; Mr. William Loris, Science Department; Ms. Nina Lynn, Speech & Theatre Department Chair; Mr. Alex Zilka, Social Studies Department; Ms. Sarah Jerutis, Social Studies Department; Mr. Timothy Kajfez, Social Studies Department; Mr. Ted Kouleentes, Sophomore Boys Adviser Chair; Mr. Mark Howard, Freshman Boys Adviser Chair; Mr. Colby Vargas, Social Studies Department, IGSS Program; Mr. Jeff Markham, English Department, IGSS Program; Mr. Mac Guy, English Department, IGSS Program; Ms. Susie Thorngren, Post High School Counseling Department; Mr. Robert Martinelli, Pepper Construction; Mr. Craig Danegger, Pepper Construction; Ms. Pat Sumrow, Winnetka Campus Project Facilitator; Ms. Wendi Williams, New Trier Fine Arts Association President; Mr. Steve Shearing, Pioneer Press; Ms. Cathy Albrecht, Mr. Wes Baumann, Mrs. Katie Seigenthaler, Mr. Andy McCausland, members of the press and 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 6:32 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 Ms. Goldstein 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. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

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

- II. **Closed Session – 6:30 p.m.** — A201A
The Closed Session meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

BUSINESS MEETING

- III. **Open Session – 7:30 p.m.** – C234

Mr. Dolinko re-called to Order the meeting of April 20, 2015 of the New Trier High School Board of Education at 7:35 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. Roll call was taken and all Board members were present. Mr. Dolinko noted that the Board had returned from a Closed Session meeting. He announced that if anyone wished to address the Board during the Citizens' 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 March Regular meeting. Mr. Fischer moved and Mr. Robitaille seconded the motion to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on March 16, 2015, open 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: Mr. Myefski, Mr. O'Donoghue, Mr. Robitaille, Mr. Fischer, Ms. Goldstein, Mr. Harris, Mr. Dolinko

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

- V. **Communications**

Mr. Dolinko invited members of the Community to address the Board. Ms. Katie Seigenthaler, Mr. Andy McCausland and Ms. Wendi Williams addressed the Board to submit and seek approval for a new capital campaign to raise funds for the Black Box Theatre at the Winnetka Campus. Mr. Wes Baumann shared his thoughts on the Winnetka Campus Project costs.

- VI. **Special Orders of Business**

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

Mr. Paul Waechtler, Principal of the Northfield Campus, shared information on events taking place at the freshman campus, including work on their Service Learning Project. This three-year partnership in its final year is focusing on building a health clinic for the village of Barind, India. The first two years of the project addressed building a school and providing clean water. The emphasis of the Service Learning was to build a model of sustainability. Proceeds from Spring Fest in May will benefit this year's efforts for a health clinic. Wellness Week began with a record number of attendees for the Trevian Trot. Daily themes on good health, nutrition, and exercise provided encouragement for all. Theatre students performed skits for freshman KW classes through their "Identity Project." This successful project helps freshmen navigate their role as New Trier students. "After the Academics" will be held on Monday, May 11 in the gym, offering scores of opportunities for the students to become involved in extracurricular activities in sports, clubs, and performing arts. The current enrollment for the incoming freshman class is 994.

Ms. Denise Dubravec, Principal of the Winnetka Campus, reported on the numerous team competitions including the Science Olympiad Team placing 2nd in state on Saturday, April 18. The team now moves on to nationals at the University of Nebraska on May 16. The Chess team tied for fourteenth in national competition in Columbus, Ohio. One of our freshman team members placed 2nd in the overall individual competition. DECA students competed in Decatur, Illinois at the Career Development Conference. New Trier students won first and second place awards. Senior Project students embarked on their fourth quarter projects with some traveling as far as India and Jamaica. Teri Rodgers was named a Best Coach of the Year by Illinois Basketball Coaches Association. Our partner school Volta Science Olympics Team placed second in the city competition at Lane Tech High School. Mike O'Donovan and fifteen students and staff shaved their heads for St. Baldrick's an event that raised \$15,730 for children battling cancer. Spring Sports has 1,254 participants. Ms. Dubravec thanked the KW staff for their wonderful work with the Wellness Week and the Trevian Trot. Looking ahead, Sophomore Institute Day is May 14. Prom is this weekend at the Hyatt Regency in Chicago. In the Performing Arts, upcoming events include the Spring

Orchestra concert, spring plays, High Five Choir concert, and Dance ensembles all of whom will perform in the coming weeks.

Mr. Tim Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, reported that on April 14 ECGC parents and students met for a program on vulnerability. Small group discussion centered around three anonymous stories generating ideas for support and communication. Also, FAN will present Gregory Kramer to speak on mindfulness and meditation on Thursday, April 23.

Mr. Paul Sally, Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, shared an update on the work that was discussed at the 21st Century Benchmarking Consortium Conference. Exit surveys will be given to senior students and surveys will be administered again one year later after their first year of college. These surveys will seek to identify best practices to help students with their academic and social skill development.

Ms. Cheryl Witham, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, reported there were no FOIA requests since the last Regular meeting of the Board of Education.

Mr. Dolinko took the liberty to highlight that this meeting is the last Regular Board meeting for member Peter Fischer. He thanked Mr. Fischer for his four years of service and noted that a formal farewell will occur at the May 5 Special Meeting. He congratulated Ms. Goldstein and Mr. O'Donoghue who were successfully re-elected to the Board and new member-elect, Cathy Albrecht. The seating of the new Board will take place at the Special Meeting on May 5, 2015.

B. IGSS Department Presentation

Mr. Paul Sally introduced the Integrated Global Studies School (IGSS) presentation by welcoming three of the IGSS faculty, Mr. Colby Vargas from the Social Studies Department and Mr. Jeff Markham and Mr. Mac Guy from the English Department. The IGSS program is now in its sixth year, currently serving 76 students with 43 returning juniors for next year. This alternative school-within-a-school was created to provide an interdisciplinary curriculum giving students a sense of community with hands on experiential learning. Hallmark themes of independence and individuality are stressed throughout student's time in the program, which also fosters a growing sense of community, trust, and openness in teaching and learning. Student work was highlighted through such research projects as sustainable organic gardens and global activism. Testimonials from IGSS alums praised the program for making learning exciting and helping them find their passion in learning. Mr. Vargas and Mr. Markham reflected on the program's challenges, past and present, and were eager to plan future classes in the new Winnetka Campus addition. Board discussion followed with Mr. Vargas and Mr. Markham responding to Board members' questions.

Agenda Item X. - Board Members Requests for Staff Research Items was taken up at this time.

C. Facilities Steering Committee Update

Dr. Yonke presented an update from the Facilities Steering Committee which met on Monday, April 13. She reviewed items discussed at the meeting which included the Tech Arts move to the modular spaces; Bid packet #5 that is being presented to the Board for approval for items covering demolition, earth retention, earthwork, site utilities, asphalt paving, pavers, site concrete, fencing and plumbing. The report also contained an update on cost adjustments to the Design Development budget and discussion on the progress of the project. The Tech Arts Building moved into the North Annex (modular units) over the Spring Break. Dr. Yonke provided a short video of the transition to the new space. Dr. Yonke invited questions and comments from the Board. Mr. Myefksi asked for more clarity on the bid formats citing confusion about items that are over or under the budget. Mr. Rob Martinelli and Mr. Craig Dannerger of Pepper Construction responded to specific questions. The bid package is divided into two parts, with one showing the bids for the referendum project work and the other listing the bids for the District's project along Essex Road. Mr. Myefski requested that a budget update be shared with the Board each time bids are presented in order to keep Board members fully informed and to keep the budget on track. Discussion continued on cost savings, future bid packets, and aggregate foundation systems. Mr. O'Donoghue registered his opinion for a concrete foundation for the storm water detention system.

D. Adviser Program Overview

Mr. Tim Hayes introduced Assistant Principals Peter Tragos and Scott Williams to present an overview report on the Adviser Program at New Trier. This initial introductory report will be followed up with a more in-depth study of the program next year. Mr. Hayes noted it is one of the oldest programs at New Trier with its beginnings in the 1920s. Mr. Tragos and Mr. Williams opened their report with a testimonial

video called “Home Away from Home.” Students and Advisers shared their thoughts and impressions of the Adviser System and their personal experiences in the program. Both students and Advisers indicated that the time spent together each day helped develop a sense of community and support for every student as they navigate their classes and social lives. Mr. Tragos noted that the strength of the program begins with hiring the best teachers, who then become a pool of excellent advisers and student advocates. The Adviser Development Program continually works throughout the school year with the advisers to improve their understanding of adolescents. Mr. Williams shared that the Adviser Program is the heart and soul of New Trier., setting New Trier apart from other high schools and making a large school feel small. Board discussion followed with members’ comments and observations.

VII. Administrative Items

A. Public Hearing – Reduction in Force

Mr. Dolinko reviewed the Public Hearing process for those in attendance. Mr. Dolinko opened the Public Hearing for the Reduction In Force at 9:53 p.m. Mr. Sally explained that due to a change in the Illinois School Code, when districts reduce their teachers by five or more or when the percent of teachers honorably dismissed reaches a certain percentage, a Public Hearing needs to take place. This year, due to declining enrollment, six teachers will be Honorably Dismissed. Mr. Sally is hopeful that one teacher will be recalled before the start of next year. Mr. Dolinko asked the audience if anyone wanted to speak on the topic. No one came forward. Mr. Dolinko opened the floor for Board questions and discussion. No Board discussion followed. Mr. Dolinko asked for a motion to close the Public Hearing. Mr. Fischer moved and Mr. Myefski seconded the motion to adjourn the Public Hearing on the Reduction in Force. A roll call vote was taken, and 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.

B. Financial Reports for March 2015

Ms. Witham reviewed the Treasurer’s Report for March 2015 which included the current and last two years of Cash Flow Statements, March’s Financial Statement, the Cash & Investments Report, the March Investment Report, the Historical Cash Balances, the Quarterly Revenue & Expenditures Report, and the New Trier Extension Report. She noted the District’s ending balance for March 31 was \$107.9M with \$97.9M invested for the Winnetka Building Project for a total of \$205.8M. Ms. Witham highlighted various fund transfers to both the capital projects and the Winnetka Building Project that will match project deadlines. The regular portfolio has 83% invested in Certificates of Deposit, 1% in Municipalities and 16.1% in Government Securities. The top three investment institutions are PMA with 54% of investments, RBC with 11% and First Bank & Trust with 10%. She reviewed the estimated investment earnings of the referendum proceeds where 45.7% is invested in CDs, 41% in Government Securities and 7% in Municipalities. Ms. Witham compared the March Quarterly Reports from 2014 to 2015 and highlighted any differences. She noted the 2015 report is trending close to normal. She summarized the revenues and expenditures in all funds and invited questions from Board members. Mr. Robitaille questioned the figures stated for the Special Education budget as it looked to be \$1M less than last year. Ms. Witham said that it is less and the budget is at expected levels. She also noted the overall budget is tracking normally and we have not used the contingency fund. Ms. Witham stated the budget surplus is \$500,000 and the contingency fund is \$500,000 which will mean a \$1M surplus for this budget if it continues as projected.

C. Five-Year Financial Projections

Ms. Witham summarized the key elements of the Five-Year Financial Projections with a PowerPoint presentation. She reviewed the components of the District’s Revenues of which 90.7% is from estimated property taxes, 2.4% from State revenues, .9% from Federal revenues and the balance from interest income and student fees. The majority of Operating Fund Expenditures are related to compensation and benefits at 79.7%. Enrollment trends affect the expenditures as projected in the latest Kasarda Report showing a slight decline. Staffing is based on enrollment. Other expenditures include tuition costs and IMRF (Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund). Operating Fund balances are estimated to be \$77.8M at the end of FY 2015. A surplus of \$451,000 is projected for FY 2016; however deficits are forecast for the years following. The provision of contingency is included in the projections which, along with careful cost containment efforts, can reduce the annual deficit spending over the next five years. The Finance Committee believes these

assumptions to be reasonable and realistic while using slightly conservative estimates. Areas of concern remain outside of District control and include General State Aid, Pension Reform, Health Care Reform, and Interest Income. Board discussion followed. Mr. Robitaille, Chair of the Finance Committee, felt the greatest risk was from the downward trending CPI and the upcoming teacher and staff contract renewals. Mr. Dolinko, also a member of the Finance Committee, noted these were conservative figures and the near forecasts will be manageable. Five years out is too far in the future to be really reliable. He noted these projected deficits were still within 1% of the overall budget. Mr. Dolinko also commended and thanked the two citizen members of the Finance Committee, Gail Thomason and Bruce Lyon, for their valued role on the Committee.

D. Textbook Adoptions

Mr. Paul Sally presented the proposed new textbook adoptions for the 2015-2016 School Year, noting that the required vote for approval will occur at next month's Regular Board meeting on May 18. The new books and eBooks are on display in Room A201A in Northfield. He highlighted that these proposals reflect the departments' continued work to provide the best materials for our students while watching costs for families. He also commented on the impact of full implementation of the one-to-one iPad initiative. Mr. Sally remarked that Board approval is sought for two pilot texts for next year. Both texts cost less than the previously used textbooks used in those classes. Mr. Sally responded to Board members' comments and questions.

E. Policy Revisions & Additions – First Reading

Dr. Yonke presented four policies discussed at the recent Policy Committee meeting on April 10. These included Policy 7-25 Bullying/Harassment; 7-60 Residency; 7-65 Homeless Students; and 4-80 Accounting and Audits. The policy changes and one new addition were unanimously recommended by the Committee for the First Reading tonight. The Second Reading and approval will be sought at the next Regular Board of Education meeting on May 18. Dr. Yonke invited questions and comments from Board members. Discussion followed on the Harassment policy and whether staff are prepared and trained to deal with the new mandates in state law. Questions were raised on the definition of a homeless student in Policy 7-65, and the term nominal in Policy 4-80. It was agreed to add the official definition of "Homeless" to Policy 7-65, and Mr. O'Donoghue would submit alternative language for consideration for Policy 4-80.

VIII. Consent Agenda

- Bill List for the Period March 1-31, 2015
- Personnel Report
- Demolition/Excavation/Site Work Bids
- Capital Expenditures over \$50,000
- Intergovernmental Agreement - Winnetka

Mr. Dolinko asked if any Board member wished to remove items of the Consent Agenda for separate discussion. Mr. Myefksi requested the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Village of Winnetka be pulled for separate discussion. Mr. Dolinko requested a motion on the remaining agenda items. Mr. Fischer moved and Ms. Goldstein seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda items which included the Bill List for the Period of March 1-31, 2015 as presented; the Personnel Report, including the resolutions for the Honorable Dismissal of Teachers; the Honorable Dismissal of Education Support Staff and the Dismissal of Non-Tenured Teachers; the approval of the Prime Trade Agreements for the Winnetka Campus West Side Addition Project to those contractors listed, highlighted in green in the Bid Results Report and the Prime Trade Agreements for the Essex Road & Boiler Lot Improvement Projects to those contractors listed, highlighted in green in the Bid Results report; and the approval of the capital projects over \$50,000 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. Myefksi, Mr. Dolinko

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion followed on the Intergovernmental Agreement with Winnetka regarding the utility services for electric and water. Board members Mr. Myefski and Mr. O'Donoghue expressed concern on cost and rights of access. Ms. Witham summarized the careful negotiations with the Village of Winnetka. Mr. Fischer moved that the Board approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Village of Winnetka for Water and Electrical utility installation and give authority to the Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations to execute the

agreement with final attorney review. 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. Robitaille, Mr. Dolinko

NAY: Mr. Myefski, Mr. O'Donoghue

The motion passed.

IX. Board Member Reports

Mr. Fischer reported for the *All School Forum* which hosted conversations with students, parents, and teachers on the new calendars and scheduling for next year. Concerns were discussed on whether the changes will create more or less stress, specifically for first semester ending before the Winter Break.

Ms. Goldstein noted the *Community Engagement Committee* will present a Ground Breaking ceremony on June 1. She attended the Bond Referendum seminar that Niki Dizon and Denise Dubravec presented. The *New Trier Parents Association* provided an appreciation brunch for advisers, teachers, and Post High School counselors. Work continues on their online directory. The *New Trier Fine Arts Association* held elections for their officers. They thanked the Hayes and McCausland families and Wendy Williams for their efforts on fundraising for the Black Box Theatre. May 1 is the deadline for summer scholarship applications. The *ECGC* Committee's last meeting will be May 12. The *NSSED* created special classrooms for their autistic students. April is Autism Awareness Month. They approved the second draft of their budget which allows for an increase in tuition of 1.5%

Mr. Dolinko summarized the *Booster Club* activities, noting they have their new board in place, they are attending to year-end funding requests and they are moving closer to full payment on the "Tackle the Turf" project. The Club anticipates closing the campaign in one year.

X. Board Members' Requests for Research & Calendar of Events

- Calendar of Events

Dr. Yonke reviewed the activities over the next four weeks which include the Foundation meeting on Wednesday, April 22; the FAN presentation on Thursday, April 23; Prom on Saturday, April 25; two Special Board of Education meetings on Monday, April 27, and Tuesday, May 5; AP testing during the first two weeks of May. The next Board of Education Regular Meeting is Monday, May 18; the last day of school for seniors is May 22; and the Ground Breaking ceremony at the Winnetka Campus is on June 1.

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

Mr. Dolinko noted that for the benefit of the participants of the "Raise the Stage" proposal from the Public Comments presented earlier in the meeting, the Board would discuss next steps for such a proposal within the Requests for Staff Research, after the IGSS Presentation Agenda Item. Discussion followed and the Board agreed by consensus to send the proposal to a Board Naming Committee and a Board Donation Committee as per Board Policy. Dr. Yonke requested one or two member volunteers to serve on the Committees and report recommendations back to the full Board. There were no other items proposed for staff research or future agenda items.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. O'Donoghue 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 11:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

Alan R. Dolinko, President