

**NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
November 16, 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, November 16, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

Members Present

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

Administrators Present

Dr. Linda L. Yonke, Superintendent
Mr. Paul Sally, Associate Superintendent
for Curriculum & Instruction
Ms. Cheryl Witham, Assistant Superintendent
for Finance & Operations
Mr. Timothy Hayes, Assistant Superintendent
for Student Services
Ms. Denise Dubravec, Principal – Winnetka Campus
Mr. Paul Waechtler, Principal – Northfield Campus

Members Absent

Ms. Cathy Albrecht

Also Present

Ms. Niki Dizon, Director of Communications; Mr. Gerry Munley, Assistant Principal, Winnetka Campus; Ms. Ellen Ambuehl, Director of Special Education; Mr. Peter Tragos, Assistant Principal, Northfield Campus; Mr. Myron Spiwak, Director of Business Services; Ms. Athena Arvanitis, Director of Student Services; Mr. George Sanders, Director of Human Resources; Mr. Christopher Johnson, Chief Information Officer; Ms. Elizabeth Blodgett, New Trier Educational Support Professionals Association; Mr. Dave Conway, Northfield Campus Facility Manager; Mr. Steve Linke, Winnetka Campus Facility Manager; Mr. Terry Phillips, Mathematics Department; Mr. Colby Vargas, Social Studies Department; Mr. Steve Drajpuch, Social Studies Department; Mr. Kerry Hall, Social Studies Department; Ms. Aileen Geary, Social Studies Department; Mr. Michael O’Connor, Post High School Counseling Department; Mrs. Jennifer Karakosta, Applied Arts Department Coordinator; Mr. Scott Williams, Assistant Principal for Student Services; Mr. Steve Cashman, Cashman Stahler Group; Mr. Craig Danegger, Pepper Construction; Mr. David Powell, Wight & Co.; Mr. Mike Hill, Technology Department; Mr. Eric Johnson, Technology Department; Kathy Dodd, Corrine Guarraia, Wes Baumann, and members of the press and community.

BUSINESS MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER – 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Harris called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 6:31 p.m. Roll call was taken. All members were present except Ms. Albrecht. Mr. Dolinko moved and Mr. O’Donoghue seconded the motion that the Board adjourn to closed session for the purpose of discussing 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 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 for the purpose of discussing student disciplinary cases. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

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 7:36 p.m.

BUSINESS MEETING

III. Open Session – 7:30 p.m. – C234

Mr. Harris re-called to Order the meeting of November 16, 2015 of the New Trier High School Board of Education at 7:41 p.m. Roll call was taken again and all Board members were present except Ms. Albrecht. Mr. Harris noted that the Board had returned from a Closed Session meeting. He welcomed those in attendance. Mr. Harris invited anyone who wished to address the Board during the Citizens' Comments part of the agenda 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. Harris asked if there were any comments or corrections to the minutes. Mr. Robitaille noted a typo on page three with the word essay. Mr. O'Donoghue moved and Mr. Dolinko seconded the motion to approve the amended minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on October 19, 2015, open session and closed session. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

V. Communications

Mr. Harris invited Corinne Guarraia and Kathy Dodd to address the Board. Mrs. Guarraia and Mrs. Dodd shared their passion and support for the development of improved ELS/Transition classroom space at the Winnetka Campus.

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 and activities taking place at the freshman campus that included Parent Teacher Conferences on October 28 and 29, and the Tri-Ship Food Drive that continues through this week. New Trier is one of the major donors to the Greater Chicago Food Depository. The Identity Project took place Monday and Tuesday of last week. These two days of seminars replaced the Names Program and focused on understanding self and peers in the context of cultural expectations and building authentic relationships and strong community. He thanked Sarah Gompers, Sue Vaughn, and Catherine Cristofani for all their hard work in implementing the new program. Wednesday, November 11, the Northfield Campus hosted a Veteran's Day Flag Raising Ceremony at 8 a.m. Three uniformed servicemen raised the flag while students performed on the bugle and sang along with almost the entire freshman class in attendance. The KW classes also participated in a "Murph Challenge" which is a cross-fit workout in honor of Lt. Michael Murphy who died in action in 2005. The KW students also created a website and raised \$3000 for the Wounded Warrior Project. Testing for the Class of 2020 is going on, as well as planning for the Academic Life nights in January. Thanksgiving Break is next week.

Ms. Denise Dubravec, Principal of the Winnetka Campus reviewed events on the East Campus which also included Parent Teacher Conferences. She thanked Gerry Munley, Peter Tragos, and Sarah Khan for organizing the conferences and facilitating the scheduling. Ms. Dubravec shared athletic news, noting that Swimming and Diving will compete at the State Meet on November 20 and 21; the Field Hockey team placed first in the State Championship for the second year; Cross Country Girls placed fourth and Cross Country Boys placed tenth at the state meet in Peoria. Winter sports have just begun. Scale IV Reviews have started and the PEC Scale Movement meetings for faculty review to Scale IV and V will begin in January.

Ms. Dubravec highlighted the SILC Program (Senior Instructional Leadership Corps) in which senior students act as assistants in the classrooms. Social Studies teacher Jenny Niemi was awarded "Star in the Classroom" sponsored by 3M and Econ Illinois. The Veteran's Day Flag Raising Ceremony was also a kick-off event for the Rotary Club in conjunction with the Winnetka Rotary to collect supplies to benefit honorably discharged Veterans. Lit Fest took place on November 13 with 16 guest speakers holding sessions on writing. Ms. Dubravec noted that it was the last week of the Chevrolet Challenge Contest for

the automotive classes. Celebrity judges Paul Menard of Nascar and Tommy Pike will determine the winners on Wednesday, November 18. New Trier Speech and Debate Teams competed in October at the University of Michigan. Two of our freshmen placed first out of 67 teams. Two recent productions by the Theatre Department were the *Triangle Factory Fire Project* and *She Kills Monsters*. Musical performances included the Concert Choir and the Symphony Orchestra Concert on November 12.

Mr. Tim Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services announced the success of the Beyond Diversity Program that began today and will continue tomorrow with forty-five staff members. Mr. Hayes was also pleased to share the acquisition of a keynote speaker for the Martin Luther King Seminar Day. Ms. Isabel Wilkerson, Pulitzer Prize winning author of “The Warmth of Other Suns” will speak of her book on the Great Migration. He also praised the Identity Project for its powerful impact. The last two FAN presentations for this semester are Isabel Wilkerson at ETHS tonight and Steve Silberman, author of *Neuro Tribes: The Legacy of Autism and the Future of Neurodiversity*, who will speak on Tuesday, December 1, at 7:00 p.m. in the Cornog Auditorium.

Ms. Cheryl Witham, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations noted that there were six FOIA requests received since the last Regular meeting of the Board. She noted that five have been closed out and the last is being processed.

B. School Report Card

Mr. Paul Sally, Associate Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, reviewed the School Report Card information report published by the Illinois State Board of Education. The ISBE report includes information on student and teacher demographics, test score summaries, and District financial highlights. He noted that ACT’s composite score ranks New Trier first in the state as well as ranking first in the percentage of students who met all four ACT subject area college readiness benchmarks and first in graduation rate. ISBE is taking more data from schools directly to incorporate into the reports including updating our latest information on education licenses and reporting for our teachers. Information on Post-Secondary Enrollment information combined our information from Post High School Counseling with the National Clearinghouse to determine where students are going to college whether they are persisting in pursuing a degree. Mr. Sally reviewed the PARCC testing results noting that 46% of freshmen took the English exam and 30% of freshmen took the Algebra I exam. New Trier students scored far above the state averages. Board discussion followed on the State School Report Card information and the PARCC testing with Mr. Sally responding to their questions. Dialogue focused on school financial information, participation on tests, Common Core standards, and the quality of the state information.

C. Climate Survey Results

Mr. Timothy Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, reviewed the State requirement for Illinois schools to survey learning conditions every two years. The Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA) of 2010 requires ISBE to develop and implement instruments to provide feedback to principals on the instructional environment within a school. Senate Bill 7 requires selection of a survey instrument to provide feedback from students in grades 6-12 and teachers on the instructional environment within a school. Mr. Hayes noted that in addition, there is significant research that demonstrates that a positive school climate has a substantial impact on student learning. New Trier selected the Comprehensive School Climate Inventory (CSCI) created by the National School Climate Center. New Trier administered this survey twice before and found it useful to evaluate school climate.

The CSCI takes about twenty minutes to complete seventy questions on areas concerning Safety, Teaching and Learning, Interpersonal Relationships, Institutional Environment, and questions for Staff only. The results were overwhelmingly positive. The median score from students, staff, and parents was positive on every category of the survey. Overall, Mr. Hayes stated the survey shows that our school climate is excellent. Board discussion followed with members asking about areas of weakness in the social and emotional safety perspectives by students, staff, and parents as well as the differences in responses from the students at the Winnetka Campus versus the students at the Northfield Campus. Mr. Hayes highlighted the changes in moving from the Names Program to the Identity Project and the plans to expand the project over four years.

D. Facilities Steering Committee Report

Dr. Linda Yonke reviewed the Facilities Steering Committee Report from their meeting on November 2. She noted that Craig Danneger from Pepper Construction provided an update on the construction progress

at the Winnetka Campus. He also shared information on Bid Package 8A for millwork and wood flooring. Recommendations for final bids and alternates for BP8 and BP8A will be presented to the Board for approval at the December Regular Board meeting. The Facilities Steering Committee also reviewed the five year facilities plan and highlighted areas of Health Life Safety, maintenance, and renovation over the next four summers. Planning for these areas of work was done prior to the Winnetka Project and it shows ongoing needs of maintenance and renovation that are part of normal upkeep of aging buildings. The first such project was the recent ADA work at both campuses. Financing for these projects will be done through the debt service fund, operating funds, NTTEC revenue, and Health Life Safety bonds. No increases in the tax rate will occur as a result of doing these projects and no referendum will be necessary. Dr. Yonke also reviewed the Committee recommendation on the Five-Year Plan, which would present the work for approval by the Board one year at a time, but within the context of the long range planning. Dr. Yonke invited comments, questions and discussion from Board members. Mr. Robitaille praised the one year process as a good method of planning; however, he cautioned that it may restrict the District's options for financing the projects. Mr. Dolinko noted the Five-Year plan is creating a living document that is dynamic and flexible and subject to changes in District needs when appropriate. Dr. Yonke summarized the three action items which need Board approval. They are to set a Public Hearing date at the next Regular Board meeting concerning school fire prevention and safety bond sale; the listing of the Maintenance and Renovation Projects for the summer of 2016; and the Architectural Services Contract with our architect of record. This contract includes a base agreement setting terms and conditions that apply to all projects and amendments that describe the projects for Fiscal Year 2016.

E. Summer 2016 Maintenance & Renovation Projects Approval

Dr. Yonke reviewed the amount of space on both campuses and reiterated that the aging buildings will need ongoing maintenance. Mr. Steve Linke and Dave Conway, Facility Managers for the Winnetka and Northfield Campuses, reviewed the Health Life Safety work and the maintenance work to be done at each campus. Mr. Steve Cashman of the Cashman Stahler Group provided a review of the renovation plans to be completed in the Summer of 2016 at the Winnetka Campus. Spaces targeted for renovation are restrooms, an ADA ramp on the fourth floor between the Tower Building and the North Building, ELS program space, and Transition program space expansion on the third floor of the North Building. Mr. Cashman responded to Board members' questions on the renovated space and the restrooms. Board discussion followed on costs, the benefits of a 20-year plan for other facility projects such as the gym, the field house, the North Building, and the 1934 pool. Mr. Dolinko moved that the Board approve the Maintenance and Renovation projects scheduled for the summer of 2016 as presented. Mr. Robitaille seconded the motion. Mr. Myefski asked when the funding for these projects would take place. Mr. Dolinko, a member of the Board's Finance Committee reviewed the funding options recommended by the Finance Committee with Health Life Safety Bonds and monetizing the NTTEC revenue stream. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

F. Resolution calling a Public Hearing for December 14, 2015 at the Regular Board of Education meeting concerning the intent of the District to sell \$6,000,000 School Fire Prevention and Safety Bonds for school fire prevention and safety purposes.

Ms. Witham noted the agenda item is solely to set the date of the Public Hearing for the Health Life Safety Bonds for the December 2015 Board of Education meeting. Mr. Dolinko moved and Ms. Goldstein seconded the motion that the Board approve the resolution calling a Public Hearing for December 14, 2015, concerning the intent of the District to sell \$6,000,000 School Fire Prevention and Safety Bonds for school fire prevention and safety purposes. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

VII. Administrative Items

A. Treasurer's Report for October 2015

Ms. Cheryl Witham reviewed the Financial Reports for October 2015 which included Cash Flow Statements for Fiscal Years 2013 through 2016, October's Financial Statement, the Cash & Investment Report, the October Investment Report and the Historical Cash Balances Graph. The total ending Cash Balance for October 31, 2015 is \$106.8M and \$86.4M in the Winnetka Building Project fund. Receipts were \$2.9M and expenditures were \$4.3M. The Current Investment report in our General Fund Portfolio shows 79% of total investments are in certificates of deposit earning an average rate of .91%; 20% of total investments are in municipal bonds earning an average rate of 1.213% and there are currently no investments in government securities. Total investments are earning a combined average interest rate of 1.142%. The top four investment institutions are PMA with 59% of the General Portfolio; First Bank and Trust, Winnetka with 14%; and Fifth Third Bank with 11%. Ms. Witham responded to comments and questions from Board members.

VIII. Consent Agenda

- Bill List for the Period October 1-31, 2015
- Personnel Report
- Cashman & Stahler Contract
- Ratification of Change Orders
- New Course Proposals
- Board Policies – Second Reading

Mr. Harris asked if any Board member would like to remove items from the Consent Agenda for separate discussion. Mr. Myefski requested the Cashman & Stahler Contract be pulled for separate discussion. Mr. Dolinko moved and Mr. Robitaille seconded the motion that the Board approve the Consent Agenda, which includes the Bill List for the Period of October 1-31, 2015; the Personnel Report; ratification of Budget Change Order #2 to the contracts managed by Pepper Construction Company, deducting the amount of \$144,830.00 from the West Side Project Construction Contingency line item. The Board of Education further ratifies expenditures to the Essex Road and Capital Improvements Project budget which reflect contingency use in the amount of \$13,440.00, all in the best interest of the District; and approves the New Course Proposals for implementation in 2016-2017 as presented; and approves Board Policies 6-300 and 7-140 on Second Reading as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

Mr. Myefski asked the reason for having a separate letter agreement from Cashman Stahler and why couldn't the AIA contract contain everything. Ms. Witham explained that due to separate funding sources for the Health Life Safety work and the Maintenance and Renovation work it was agreed to treat them in separate documents. Discussion followed on the scope of the work involved. Mr. Myefski recommended future agreements to be combined into the AIA Document. Ms. Goldstein moved to approve the Master-Owner Architect agreement and amendments for the Winnetka Campus Renovations (2016) and the HLS Mechanical Renovations (2016) as presented, and to authorize the Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations to execute the agreements. Mr. Dolinko seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

IX. Board Member Reports

Ms. Goldstein reported for the *New Trier Parents Association* meeting that she attended that they are considering a program for stress reduction to address anxiety and depression. The District Dialogue will take place on January 28 at which Dr. Yonke will conduct a Book Talk. Work on the Parent to Parent Handbook continues. Ellie Ambuehl is writing the section on IEPs. Pie Day will be on November 24. The Association provides pies for faculty and staff lunches before the Thanksgiving Holiday. Discussions at the *All School Forum* centered on the Identity Project. Ms. Goldstein commented how great it was to hear feedback from

students and staff on the event. She noted that the *NSSSED* meeting will be held later in the week.

Mr. Myefski noted discussions at the *Fine Arts Association* reflected their appreciation that the Board is listening to them and their concerns on various Fine Arts issues. He also reported that three Fine Arts Scholarship recipients reported back to the Association on their gratitude for the scholarship funds. Mr. Myefski highlighted the benefits to the Fine Arts program that are included in the Winnetka Campus Project.

Mr. Harris commented on his conversations with students regarding the *Parent Teacher Conferences*. The students noted their parents truly wanted to make connections with faculty. He noted this is a positive and effective method of communication with families and should continue.

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

- Calendar of Events

Dr. Yonke reviewed calendar events for the upcoming weeks which included an all staff Institute Day on Friday, November 20. It is also the day of the State Swim Meet that is held at the Winnetka Campus. The Thanksgiving Holiday is next week with no school on Thursday or Friday, November 24 and 25. Tri-Ship Tree Sales begin on Saturday, November 26. The Facility Steering Committee will meet on Monday, November 30. The Annual Winter Music Festival will be on December 6 at 3:00 p.m. in the Gates Gym at the Winnetka Campus. Semester Final Exams take place the following week on Monday, December 14 through 16. Dr. Yonke highlighted that the faculty were urged to limit the amount of work over the Thanksgiving Break and to assign no homework over the Winter Break. Discussion followed on the changes to the calendar this year and the gathering of feedback from all constituencies on the effects of the changes.

- Board Members' Request for Staff Research and Future Agenda Items
There were no 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 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

F. Malcolm Harris, President