

**NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
January 18, 2016  
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, January 18, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

**Members Present**

Mr. F. Malcolm Harris, President  
Mr. Greg Robitaille, Vice President  
Ms. Cathy Albrecht  
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. Christopher Johnson, 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

**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; Ms. Stephanie Helfand, Chief Information Officer; Mr. Scott Williams, Assistant Principal for Student Services; Ms. Tiffany Myers, Social Work Department Chair; Mr. Jim Conroy, Post High School Counseling Department Chair; Ms. Elizabeth Blodgett, New Trier Educational Support Professionals Association; Mr. Steve Linke, Winnetka Campus Facility Manager; Mr. Terry Phillips, Mathematics Department; Mr. David Reinstein, Mathematics Department; Mr. Colby Vargas, Social Studies Department; Ms. Elizabeth Plank, Social Studies Department; Mr. Spiro Bolos, Social Studies Department, President New Trier Education Association; Mr. Paul Easton, English Department; Mr. Ted Koulentes, Sophomore Adviser Chair; Mr. Todd Maxman, Social Studies Department; Ms. Michael Christensen, Social Studies Department; Mr. Gary Schubert, Modern & Classical Languages Department; Mr. Mike Hill, Technology Department; Mr. Eric Johnson, Technology Department; Ms. Elizabeth Hennessy, Wm. Blair & Co.; Mr. 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 6:32 p.m. Roll call was taken. All members were present. Mr. Dolinko 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 and 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 student disciplinary cases; and for the purpose of discussing minutes of meetings lawfully closed, whether for the purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

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

**II. Closed Session – 6:30 p.m. — A201A**

**BUSINESS MEETING**

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

Mr. Harris re-called to Order the meeting of January 18, 2016 of the New Trier High School Board of Education at 7:36 p.m. Roll call was taken again and all Board members were present. 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 Communications 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. None being offered, he requested a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Dolinko moved and Mr. O’Donoghue seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on November 16, 2015, Closed Session and the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on December 14, 2015 Open and Closed Session. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

**V. Communications**

Mr. Harris invited Jasmine Hauser to address the Board. Ms. Hauser shared her thoughts on the Martin Luther King Jr. All School Seminar Day.

**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 occurring at the freshman campus that included course selection for next year on January 12 and final schedules by the end of January. He also noted that Navigating New Trier Conferences will be January 26 through 28. Activities and events welcoming the Class of 2020 include Academic Life, Understanding the Placement Process, Course Recommendations and All About Electives which is held late in January. The Northfield Dance Day and Ensemble Showcase took place on Friday, January 15 and the Kinesis Dance Show performances will be on January 21, 22 and 23. The Frosh-Soph Musical “Footloose” will be performed February 10-13.

Ms. Denise Dubravec, Principal of the Winnetka Campus, thanked everyone involved in the success of the Martin Luther King All School Seminar Day. She also congratulated Social Studies teacher Sarah Jerutis and her students who came in 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in the 2015 Stock Market Game. Ms. Dubravec regularly conducts visits to the sophomore advisor rooms to discuss their experiences and New Trier. Conversation before and after break among students and staff revealed that all groups appreciated the two-week vacation between the two semesters. Course registrations are taking place January 12 through January 26. Students are registering online. The Post High School Counseling Department is providing information to parents for sophomore planning. Ms. Dubravec highlighted events that included the Kinesis Dance Concert in the Cornog on January 21 through 23; the Athletic fundraiser with the Booster Club at the Fields Land Rover Dealership in Northfield on January 30; and the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Frank Mantooth Jazz Festival on February 6 at which New Trier will host students from over 40 schools. The evening concert headliner will be the Chris Potter Big Band who will perform with the New Trier Jazz Ensemble in the Gaffney Auditorium.

Mr. Timothy Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services noted his report will come later in the meeting.

Mr. Paul Sally, Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, stated that the ISBE has officially announced that the state science test will be the end of course Biology Test that is mandated by Race to the Top. It is a ninety-minute test that will be given in late April or May. It is an online test which will be a first for New Trier students. Mr. Sally noted more details will be provided in the coming weeks. Mr. Sally

also reported for the Technology Planning Committee which recently met. Stephanie Helfand introduced herself to the Committee and they reviewed the progress on all committee work thus far.

Ms. Witham reported that there were four FOIA requests since the last Regular Board meeting. She stated one was requesting testing information; another asked about radon testing services; one was related to collective bargaining; and the last was asking if the District had a Gifted & Talented program. All requests have been responded to and are closed out.

Dr. Yonke thanked Tim Hayes and the Equity Team and everyone who planned and implemented the Martin Luther King Seminar Day. A highlight of the day included the presentation by Isabel Wilkerson, Pulitzer Prize winning author of *The Warmth of Other Suns*. Dr. Yonke was impressed with the depth of the seminar topics and the engagement of the students. Dr. Yonke also expressed her condolences to the families and friends of the four young alumni students who died recently in Wisconsin. She noted it was a terrible tragedy for these well-loved young men and those who knew them.

#### **B. Martin Luther King Day All School Seminar Report**

Mr. Tim Hayes presented a report on the Martin Luther King All School Seminar Day. The seminar day was a year in the planning and in response to the Board request to honor and recognize Dr. King in a significant way on the unusual attendance day due to the Winnetka Facility Project construction schedules. The focus of the day was on Dr. King as he was a champion of racial equality and racial justice. The seminar planning committee for the day sought two goals: 1.) to help students' further understanding of racial identity and 2.) to explore ways to make a difference. The structure for the day allowed the students to hear a keynote speaker, Ms. Isabel Wilkerson at the Winnetka campus and Ms. Ilyasah Shabazz at the Northfield campus. Students would also be able to participate in two workshops of their choosing along with a common session that would teach a discussion protocol and provide discussion on the importance of Dr. King's contributions to our national history. Common session discussions specifically focused on Dr. King's speech at the March on Washington in 1963 and his speech at the Winnetka Village Green in 1965. Mr. Hayes shared with the Board the listing of workshop sessions. Staff session facilitators Spiro Bolos and Michael Christensen explained their workshops which explored television tokenism and red-lining housing in real estate neighborhoods. Two senior students, Emanuelle Haye and Michelle Blumen, led two workshops on privilege and identity, and they shared the content of the discussions and questions of the day. Mr. Hayes noted that the school calendar changes back to having final exams after Winter Break next year and King Day, January 16, 2017 is scheduled to be an exam day; the administration and Calendar Committee will consider an alternative for that day other than holding exams. Board members shared their comments and thoughts on the day with positive feedback, questions on logistics, and praise for the successful implementation of the day. Ms. Goldstein noted that it was a wonderful day, that it was all about diversity and it facilitated an important conversation.

#### **C. Construction Update Report**

Dr. Yonke announced the inclusion of Pepper Construction's monthly construction update report for the Board's monthly agenda. It is intended to provide an opportunity for brief discussion of the construction progress as well as photos of the building and work site. She provided a PowerPoint presentation on the construction work highlighting that the project is on track and noting upcoming milestones over the next few months. The roof and skylights will be completed in January, the building will be 100% enclosed by the end of February and April will see the interior buildout and the North Entry Curtain Wall completed. Photographs were included of the north and west elevations, the future concourse, ductwork installation, and the library egg-shaped opening for stairs connecting the cafeteria and library.

### **VII. Administrative Items**

#### **A. Treasurer's Report for December 2015**

Ms. Witham noted she found an error in the Treasurer's Report at the last minute and will provide the Board with a corrected report at a later date.

#### **B. Budget Assumptions and Parameters for FY 2017**

Ms. Witham noted the transition taking place as Chris Johnson takes on the role of Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations. Mr. Johnson reviewed the Budget Assumptions and Parameters Report for FY2017 noting that the Overview shows a projected deficit of \$177,586. He highlighted that at this point in the Budget planning it is not uncommon to show a small deficit. This will be monitored in the coming months with the goal of closing the deficit and creating a balanced budget. He reviewed the details of the Revenues and Expenditures, noting increases or reductions in both categories.

Mr. Johnson noted the Finance Committee will be considering a number of proposed parameter changes that would include updating the model to reflect the Physical Plant Services contract settlement, revising faculty retirement numbers, adding the December 31, 2015 CPI and FY 2015 Audit results, a transfer of funds for the Winnetka Campus Project of \$3M, and further reductions in state aid. Mr. Johnson invited questions and comments from the Board. Mr. Dolinko noted it is very early in the process and the District is in a good starting place for the year. Ms. Albrecht questioned further the impact of the state's decisions which may reduce District Special Education funds.

**C. Quarterly Financial Report**

Ms. Witham presented the Budget Status Report for the Second Quarter of FY2016. This report compares the revenues and expenditures of the District through December 2014 to those through December 2015. She noted that the Operating funds collected thus far are 50.12% of the total budget and we have received 50% of the expected levy so far. Ms. Witham reviewed the Operating Funds, revenues and expenditures as well as the revenues and expenditures of the Non-Operating Funds. Ms. Witham invited questions from Board members.

**D. Consideration and action on a resolution providing for the issue of not to exceed \$6,000,000 General Obligation Limited Tax School Bonds, Series 2016A, for the purpose of financing school fire prevention and safety capital projects, providing for the levy of taxes to pay said bonds, and authorizing the execution of a Bond Purchase Agreement with William Blair & Company, LLC in connection with the proposed sale of said bonds**

Ms. Witham summarized the background of the Resolution for the issuance of Health Life Safety (fire prevention) bonds. The Board approved the covered projects at the August 24, 2015, Regular meeting and she reviewed the list of projects included in the work at both campuses. The projects were approved by the Illinois State Board of Education, and the District is authorized to issue bonds to complete the work in fiscal year 2017 and 2018. The bonds will be sold in February at a competitive sale that will include the 2008B refunding bonds. It makes sense to address both these bonds at this time, as it will save on issuance costs. Ms. Liz Hennessey addressed the Board noting that the Life Safety Bonds will be paid from the Debt Service Extension Base. She highlighted that by refunding the 2008B bonds the District will be saving \$125,000 over the remaining life of the bond. Mr. Dolinko noted the Health Life Safety projects will cover work performed over the two summers of 2016 and 2017. Ms. Hennessey responded to Mr. O'Donoghue's question on the debt capacity, stating that there is still room in levy year 2016 if needed. Mr. Dolinko moved that the Board of Education approve the Resolution providing for the issue of not to exceed \$6,000,000 General Obligation Limited Tax School Bonds, Series 2016A, for the purpose of financing school fire prevention and safety capital projects, providing for the levy of taxes to pay said bonds. Mr. Robitaille seconded the motion. Mr. Robitaille inquired when the bonds will be issued. Ms. Hennessey responded it would be done in mid-February. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

**E. Consideration and action on a resolution providing for the issue of not to exceed \$1,500,000 General Obligation Refunding School Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2016B, for the purpose of refunding certain outstanding obligations of the District, providing for the levy of taxes to pay said bonds, and authorizing the execution of a Bond Purchase Agreement with William Blair & Company, LLC in connection with the proposed sale of said bonds**

Mr. Dolinko moved that the Board of Education approve the resolution providing for the issue of not to exceed \$1,500,000 General Obligation Refunding School Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2016B, for the purpose of refunding certain outstanding obligations of the District, providing for the levy of taxes to pay said bonds. Mr. Robitaille seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

### **VIII. Consent Agenda**

- Bill List for the Period December 1-31, 2015
- Personnel Report & Addenda
- Ratification of Change Orders
- Closed Session Records Review

Mr. Harris asked if any Board member would like to remove items from the Consent Agenda for separate discussion. Mr. O'Donoghue selected the Ratification of Change Orders for separate discussion. Mr. Dolinko moved that the Board approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Bill List for the Period of December 1-31, 2015, as presented; the Personnel Report and the First Addenda and the Second Addenda thereto; and that the Board agrees to open the Closed Session Records of August 3, 2015; and the Board approves the destruction of the Closed Session Meeting tapes of January 2014 through June 2014 per standard procedure. Ms. Goldstein seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

Mr. O'Donoghue inquired where the work is being done for Change Order #4. Dr. Yonke responded noting the various hallways that were inadvertently left off the original bid. Board discussion also included comments on the particular phases that the work is being done as well as that the Change Orders are covered under the base contract. Mr. O'Donoghue moved that the Board of Education of New Trier Township High School District 203 ratify Budget Change Order #4 to the contracts managed by Pepper Construction Company; and furthermore, deducts the amount of \$319,659.00 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 \$11,330.00, all in the best interest of the District. And that the Board of Education of New Trier Township High School District 203 approves that work commence on the change order to the prime trade subcontract agreement with Northern Illinois Terrazzo and Tile in the amount of \$173,577.00, all in the best interest of the District. Mr. Dolinko seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

### **IX. Board Member Reports**

Ms. Albrecht reported for the *New Trier Education Foundation* that they have hired a part-time consultant to assist in boosting Foundation revenues. The first enterprise, "Giving Tuesdays" raised about \$17,000. The annual golf outing will be on Monday, September 12, 2016. She noted that since this is the alternate year without the Alumni Achievement Awards in March, the replacement benefit will be a un-event, in which you will be invited to a "Tea Party" in your home and encouraged to donate to the Foundation.

Mr. Dolinko noted the *Booster Club* annual fundraiser, the Booster Bash will be on Saturday, January 30. The location is the same as last year at the Northfield Land Rover dealership. Tickets are available on RevTrack. A new theme for the event will be competitive games and activities. Mr. Dolinko was enthusiastic in his praise for the work of the Club in providing wide ranging opportunities for students in athletic participation and intramurals.

Ms. Goldstein reported that the *New Trier Parents Association* provided a presentation by the Speech Services Department that was very interesting as it explained teaching methods used for ELS and other significantly challenged students. January 28 is the annual District Dialogue with the Superintendent involving a discussion at 9:30 a.m. with Dr. Yonke on the book, *How to Raise an Adult*. Ms. Goldstein also noted that the NTPA will

team up with the ECGC parent group to co-sponsor an event in the coming year. *All School Forum* discussed the plans for the MLK All School Seminar day. *NSSED* held finalist interviews for the superintendent position with voting on candidates to occur next week. Deerfield District 109 has withdrawn their request to leave the co-op. Ms. Goldstein noted that Highland Park is thinking about seceding from NSSED Co-Op and weighing their options.

Dr. Yonke announced that a Personnel Report Addenda approved the appointment of a new Athletic Director for New Trier. Mr. Randy Oberembt will be retiring in June 2016 after ten years with the District. Dr. Yonke commented on the exceptional work of the hiring committee in interviewing candidates from a starting pool of 40- 45. She was happy to welcome Mr. Augustino Fontanetta from District 211 to be the New Trier Athletic Director as of July 1, 2016. Mr. Fontanetta was a New Trier teacher from 1995 through 2008 and he felt a pull to come back ‘home’ when the position opened. Mr. Robitaille, who was also on the search committee, stated Mr. Fontanetta, was the perfect blend of relationships with impressive experience and credentials.

**X. Board Members’ Requests for Research & Calendar of Events**

- Calendar of Events

Dr. Yonke reviewed calendar events noting the correct date for the New Trier vs. Evanston Basketball game is February 5. She highlighted that Saturday, January 30 is the day for our annual GAP Fair, a service for our students and those of other schools that allows them to investigate alternative options in their post high school years. The Booster Bash is also on January 30. January 23 is a practice ACT exam for those students who are interested. February 6 is the date of the Annual Frank Mantooth Jazz Festival and Concert in the evening. The freshman/sophomore musical is “Footloose” with performances February 10 through 13. The next Board of Education Regular meeting is February 15, Presidents’ Day. That is an Institute Day for faculty and staff with no school for students.

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

There were no requests for research or future 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 9:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

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F. Malcolm Harris, President