

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

**August 22, 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, August 22, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

**Members Present**

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

**Administrators Present**

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

**Also Present**

Ms. Niki Dizon, Director of Communications; Mr. Peter Tragos, Assistant Principal, Northfield Campus; Mr. George Sanders, Director of Human Resources; Ms. Stephanie Helfand, Chief Technology Officer; Mr. Myron Spiwak, Business Services Director; Mrs. Linda Knier, Director of Academic Services; Mr. Gerry Munley, Assistant Principal, Winnetka Campus; Mr. Scott Williams, Assistant Principal, Winnetka Campus; Ms. Athena Arvanitis, Director of Student Life; Ms. Ellie Ambuehl, Director of Special Education; Ms. Robyn Ward, Science Department Coordinator, Northfield Campus; Mr. John Cadwell, English Department Chair; Ms. Mary Lappan, Mathematics Department Chair; Ms. Michael Christensen, Social Studies Department Chair; Mr. Mike Lee, Science Department Chair; Mr. Colby Vargas, President, New Trier Education Association, Social Studies Department; Ms. Lorri Starck-King, Modern and Classical Languages Department Chair; Ms. Deborah Kind, New Trier Learning Center; Mr. Jason Dane, Kinetic Wellness Department; Ms. Stephanie Farruggia, Special Education Department Chair; Mr. Mike Hill, Technology Department; Mr. Eric Johnson, Technology Department; Mr. David Powell, Wight & Co.; Mr. Rob Martinelli, Pepper Construction Co., Mr. Wes Baumann and members of the press and community.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

**I. CALL TO ORDER – 6:30 p.m.**

Mr. Robitaille called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 6:30 p.m. Roll call was taken. All members were present. Mr. Dolinko moved to 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 to discuss collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

**Adjournment to Closed Session – 6:32 p.m.**

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

## **BUSINESS MEETING**

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

Mr. Robitaille re-called to Order the meeting of August 22, 2016 of the New Trier High School Board of Education at 7:30 p.m. All members were present. Mr. Robitaille noted that the Board had returned from Closed Session.

### **IV. Minutes**

Mr. Robitaille asked for 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 June 6, 2016 closed session and the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on July 25, 2016 open and closed session. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

### **V. Communications**

Mr. Robitaille extended the invitation to anyone wishing to speak to the Board during the Communications portion of the meeting to fill out the Public Communication Request form and pass it forward to the Board table. No one wished to address the Board.

### **VI. Special Orders of Business**

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

Mr. Paul Waechtler, Principal of the Northfield Campus, shared news of events at the freshman campus in preparation for the new school year. He highlighted his thanks to the Physical Plant Services staff who worked tirelessly over the summer months with Summer School at this campus, as they dealt with the usual prep for fall and additional heavy rain storms. New freshmen activities include adviser room picnics with senior helpers, iPad training, and fall sports practices. Freshman Athletic Orientation is scheduled for August 31 and the Parent Adviser Night is on September 6.

Ms. Denise Dubravec, Principal of the Winnetka Campus, also highlighted her gratitude to the Physical Plant Services staff for all their work at the east campus throughout the buildings and new construction. She praised them for their consistently professional work in transforming the new and old educational spaces. Ms. Dubravec noted that New Trier has exactly 4,000 students registered for this year. The class tallies are 1055 seniors, 957 juniors, 951 sophomores and 1037 freshmen. The Leadership Teams met on August 19. The Winnetka Campus Leadership Team welcomed three new members: Mary Lappan, Chair of the Mathematics Department; Michael Christensen, Chair of the Social Studies Department; and Augustino Fontanetta, Athletic Director. She noted the year's theme to be leadership development through best practices. There are 56 new transfer students to the school and a special meeting for these families is planned for August 31. Bob Berlin of the Math Department meets with all the new transfer students throughout the year, with larger quarterly meetings combining the new students from both campuses. This program provides vital input in easing the transition for these transfer students. Athletics have begun for the year. The first day of school at Winnetka will include a short presentation on the new building. In faculty news, Kiran Subhani of the English Department won the NTCE 2016 Paul and Katie Farmer English Journal Writing Award. She will travel to Atlanta, GA in November to receive the honor. Ms. Dubravec is assisting the New Trier Education Foundation in contacting the alumni honorees for the next Alumni Achievement Banquet in the spring. Calendar events include the first day of school and the Sophomore Assembly on August 29; Post High School Counseling Parent Night on September 1; the Foundation Golf Outing on September 12; the grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony on September 14; and alumni tours on September 17.

Dr. Tim Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services noted the advisers are ready to welcome students back. The sophomore advisers are planning their home visits. The first FAN presentation is today and this evening with Representative John Lewis at Loyola University Chicago Campus and Evanston

Township High School. Mr. Lewis is the U.S. Representative from Georgia and author of a new book titled *March*.

Mr. Paul Sally, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction reported the new teacher orientation began today. He praised this strong program for our teachers presented by Linda Knier and Aileen Heidkamp. He noted committee meetings have begun on integrating student growth into teacher evaluations. There is also a new committee evaluating the new teaching spaces at the Winnetka Campus. Mr. Sally also highlighted the efforts of the Technology Department in mentoring the teachers into their new classrooms, and students to dispensing iPads and conducting iPad training.

Dr. Linda Yonke shared her gratitude for the Physical Plant Services Department as well. The added challenges from the construction project with furniture and equipment stored throughout the building, renovations on every floor, and heavy rains that flooded spaces throughout the campus. She also highlighted the academic achievement recorded in Newsweek that New Trier is ranked the 17<sup>th</sup> Best High School in the country. Dr. Yonke noted that there was only one other open-enrollment public school listed in the top twenty. The ACT report shows our students' average composite score has risen to 27.8. Dr. Yonke congratulated all the students for their achievements.

Mr. Chris Johnson, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, noted there were eight requests for information since the last Regular Board of Education meeting in July. The three that have been completed relate to telecommunication leases, the design system of the Duke Childs Field, and the freshmen placement process. The five remaining requests are from a single person, and therefore more time is allowed for responding. Those requests include information on sound levels at the Northfield Campus, insulation of the turf fields at the Northfield Campus, policy regarding recordings of students, correspondence regarding the installment of a gas tank at the Northfield Campus, and the right to film at the Northfield Campus. All requests are being worked on to be completed in the appropriate time allowed.

#### **B. New Teacher Introductions**

Mr. George Sanders, Human Resource Director, announced the hiring of 16 new teachers for the 2016-17 school year. He noted the range of their years of experience, their academic degrees (16 masters and 1 PhD.), and the fact that there are two New Trier alums and one returning teacher. New faculty members were introduced by their department chairs. John Cadwell welcomed Vanessa Nomura to the English Department. Mary Lappan welcomed John Carter, Annie Chung, Katie Martin, and John Nasshan to the Math Department. Lorri Starck-King welcomed Qi Zhang and Brenda Crosby to the Modern & Classical Languages Department. Mike Lee welcomed Micah Bank, Mike Coy, and David Haak to the Science Department. Michael Christensen welcomed Laura Bean and Chris Van Den Berg to the Social Studies Department. Patricia Savage-Williams welcomed Tamika Sanders as the new School Psychologist. Stephanie Farruggia welcomed Robert Maddalozzo to the Special Education Department. Deb Kind welcomed Brian Fischer to the faculty in the New Trier Learning Center.

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

Mr. Chris Johnson presented a Construction Update Report using PowerPoint slides showing the Winnetka Campus Project progress. Neighbor relations remain a focus point as Pepper continues to mitigate the construction dust with water and street cleaning. Traffic issues are also being addressed with input from the Village to ease traffic flow for all concerned. The project is on track for completion and the Phase I work passed inspections for the Occupancy Permits in readiness for the first day of school. Minor punch list items will be completed before the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on September 14. Demolition and excavation for Phase II has begun and is on schedule. Mr. Johnson noted that the Construction Change Order for this month is smaller than usual and the format has been adjusted for easier reading. Mr. Martinelli of Pepper Construction provided narration on the photos of the site showing the progress of the work. Board member comments and questions followed as Mr. Johnson and Mr. Martinelli responded. Areas of discussion included the green roofs, the Gaffney Auditorium, the budget, and the owner's contingency budget.

#### **D. Facilities Steering Committee Report**

Dr. Yonke reviewed the 2015 Board-approved 5-Year Facilities Plan with facility work that occurred in 2015 and 2016 and significant amounts of work planned for 2017. The 2016 work includes at the Winnetka Campus the renovation of the mammoth cooling units, the addition and renovation of restrooms, the replacement of electrical feeders, the renovation of the Special Education ELS instructional spaces and an

upgrade to the building automation system. At the Northfield Campus, the projects include concrete repairs, outside air dampers, and tennis court resurfacing. Overall the projects are trending under budget. The work planned for 2017 include renovation of spaces in the Tower/North Buildings including old photography classrooms, the PPS corridor, the remaining portions of the old library, the Brierly Gallery, the Triship/Girls Clubs rooms, the Student Activity Office, a meeting room, and offices for Business Ed, Applied Arts, and ESL. The plan also includes the replacement of boilers that serve the Tower Building, North Building, and gyms and the replacement of a small storage building on the east athletic fields. At Northfield, the planned work includes major concrete repairs, sump pumps, radiant controls, and further energy conservation work. Dr. Yonke noted that the Finance Committee has looked at the work to be done and further considerations by the Facilities Committee and the Facilities Steering Committee will occur before recommendations are made and approval by the Board is sought, possibly in October. Committee members Mr. Dolinko and Mr. O'Donoghue shared their impressions of the new construction, highlighting the open concourse, the green roof, the cafeteria, library, and café stair. Mr. Dolinko noted that the ideal balance of function and aesthetics will serve the community for decades to come. Mr. O'Donoghue complimented the smooth transitions made between the old and new spaces. Further Board discussion on the necessity of a new Long Term Facility Plan followed.

## **VI. Administrative Items**

### **A. Treasurer's Report – July 2016**

Mr. Johnson presented Treasurer's Reports for July 2016. These reports include Cash Flow Statements for three years, the monthly Financial Statement, the Cash and Investments Report, and Investment Statements. He noted this report is for the first month of the new fiscal year and shows the significant tax revenues received in the amount of \$18.9M. Large Cash Expenditures are noted in the Financial Reports but are not reflected in the Treasurer's Report. They were dispersed this summer but had accrued in the previous fiscal year and show up on the July Financial Reports.

### **B. Financial Reports – July 2016**

Mr. Johnson also presented the Financial Reports for the month of July 2016. He noted the summer reports are typically lower in expenditures. Property tax revenues may be adjusted as journal entries are completed. He also highlighted the variance that occurred because iPads were purchased last spring for this school year.

### **D. NTESPA Contract Approval**

Mr. Johnson reviewed the negotiation highlights between the District and the New Trier Education Support Professionals Association. This four year contract, 2016-2020 covers 206 educational support employees including instructional assistants, office assistants, security staff, and technology employees. He noted the negotiations went smoothly using a modified IBB method as used for the teacher negotiations. The contract is fair to both sides, keeping with raises below 3%. Insurance changed so all three groups of employees now have the same policies and negotiating with insurance carriers can be done as a single unit. There is a slight reduction in retirement benefits and a provision to come back to the negotiating table if funding from local and state governments change. Ms. Albrecht reported as the Board representative on the negotiating team that the process was positive and she was grateful that the agreement is four years and will avoid all three bargaining units negotiating at the same time, next time. Mr. Johnson also noted key assistance from District Counsel, Shellie Anderson who helped throughout the process. Mr. Robitaille asked for a motion to approve. Mr. Dolinko moved and Ms. Goldstein seconded the motion to ratify the Four Year Contract Agreement with the NTESPA, 2016-2020. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

## **VIII. Consent Agenda**

- Bill List for the Period July 1-31, 2016
- Personnel Report and Addenda
- Ratification of Change Order #11
- Second Reading / Approval Board Policies

Mr. Robitaille asked if any Board member would like to remove any items from the Consent Agenda for separate discussion. None of the Consent Agenda items were singled out for discussion. Mr. Dolinko moved that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Bill List for the Period, July 1 through 31, 2016; the Personnel Report and the Addenda; that the Board of Education of New Trier Township High School District 203 ratifies Budget Change Order #11 to the contracts managed by Pepper Construction Company; and furthermore, deducts the amount of \$144,455.00 from the West Side Project Construction Contingency line item, all in the best interest of the District; and that the Board approve the revisions to Policies 2-140 and 7-290. Mr. Myefski seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

## **XII. Board Member Reports**

Ms. Albrecht reported for the *New Trier Education Foundation*. Their meeting was on August 2. Highlights of the meeting included discussion on the September 12 Golf Outing for which 110 golfers have signed up. There is still room to attend the dinner and board members are invited. The Foundation is continuing to raise funds for the second Green Roof of the Winnetka Campus Facilities Project. The goal is to raise \$100,000. A Special Education donor has challenged the Foundation to a \$20,000 goal. The donor will contribute \$5,000 if the Foundation will contribute \$15,000. The Foundation Committee is also looking at the Foundation's By-Laws at the suggestion of a development consultant. They have voted to add the New Trier District 203 Superintendent as a voting member.

## **X. Calendar of Events & Board Members' Requests for Staff Research and Future Agenda Items**

- Calendar of Events

Dr. Yonke reviewed the calendar of events over the next few weeks which included the two staff Institute Days on August 25 and 26. Board members are welcome to attend Thursday at the Winnetka Campus. The day begins with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. and the open session begins at 8:30 a.m. Staff meetings on Friday occur at the respective campuses. Students return on Monday, August 29. The first regular season football game is Friday, August 26. The Foundation Golf Outing is on September 12; the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Winnetka Campus Project is on September 14 at 6:00 p.m. Weather permitting, the ceremony will be outside and an Open House will follow until 8:00 p.m. The next Regular Board of Education meeting is on September 19.

-Requests for Staff Research & Future Agenda Items

Mr. Robitaille requested that Athletic Director, Augustino Fontanetta, provide an overview of his initial impressions of the Athletic Programs and facilities. The report to the Board will be scheduled at an appropriate and convenient time for both the Board and Mr. Fontanetta.

## **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:56p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

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Gregory Robitaille, President