

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

**June 5, 2017**

**New Trier Township High School  
7 Happ Road, Room C234  
Northfield, IL 60093**

*Amended November 20, 2017  
Board of Education Regular Meeting*

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, June 5, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

**Members Present**

Mr. Greg Robitaille, President  
Ms. Lori Goldstein, Vice President  
Ms. Cathy Albrecht  
Mr. Keith Dronen  
Ms. Carol Ducommun  
Dr. Marc Glucksman  
Mr. Patrick O'Donoghue

**Administrators Present**

Dr. Linda L. Yonke, Superintendent  
Dr. 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**

Mr. Peter Tragos, Assistant Principal, Northfield Campus; Dr. Stephanie Helfand, Chief Technology Officer; Mr. Myron Spiwak, Business Services Director; Mr. Gerry Munley, Assistant Principal, Winnetka Campus; Ms. Athena Arvanitis, Director of Student Life; Ms. Ellie Ambuehl, Director of Special Education; Mr. George Sanders, Director of Human Resources; Ms. Niki Dizon, Director of Communications; Mrs. Linda Knier, Director of Academic Services; Mr. Scott Williams, Assistant Principal for Student Services; Ms. Nina Lynn, Media, Speech & Theatre Department Chair; Mr. Spiro Bolos, Social Studies Department; Mr. Robert Spagnoli, Applied Arts Department; Mr. Steve Linke, Winnetka Campus Facilities Manager; Mr. Dave Conway, Northfield Campus Facilities Manager; Mr. Mike Hill, Technology Department; Mr. Eric Johnson, Technology Department; Mr. Steve Linke, Facilities Manager, Winnetka Campus; Mr. Dave Conway, Facilities Manager, Northfield Campus; Mr. Jay Ripsky, Pepper Construction; Mr. Rob Martinelli, Pepper Construction; Mr. Marty Platten, Pepper Construction Co.; Mr. Jim Smiley, Wight & Co.; Ms. Dale West Wyant, Mr. & Mrs. Andy McCausland, Ms. Katie Seigenthaler, Mr. Matt Hayes and members of the press and community.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

**I. CALL TO ORDER – 6:00 p.m. – Rm. C234**

Mr. Robitaille called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 6:00 p.m. in Room C234. Roll call was taken and all members were present except Ms. Goldstein and Dr. Glucksman. Mr. Robitaille asked for a motion to move to Closed Session. Ms. Ducommun moved and Mr. O'Donoghue seconded the motion that the Board adjourns 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 student disciplinary cases. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Mr. Dronen, Ms. Ducommun, Mr. O'Donoghue, Ms. Albrecht, Mr. Robitaille

NAY: none

The motion passed.

**II. CLOSED SESSION – 6:00 p.m. – Rm. A201A**

**BUSINESS MEETING**

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

Mr. Robitaille re-called to order the meeting of June 5, 2017 of the New Trier High School Board of Education at 7:51 p.m. All members were present. He noted that the Board was delayed in the start of the Open meeting due to the Student Recognition Program in the Cornog Auditorium. He and the Board were pleased to honor the many students on their academic and athletic achievements.

### IV. **Minutes**

Mr. Robitaille asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. O'Donoghue moved and Ms. Albrecht seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on May 15, 2017, open session. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Ms. Ducommun, Dr. Glucksman, Ms. Goldstein, Mr. O'Donoghue, Ms. Albrecht, Mr. Dronen, Mr. Robitaille

NAY: none

The motion passed.

### V. **Communications**

#### **A. Public Comment**

Mr. Robitaille invited anyone from the audience who wished to address the Board to please come forward and fill out a communications request form from the back table. No one chose to address the Board.

#### **B. Raise the Stage Presentation**

Ms. Dale West Wyant, Campaign Director for the Raise the Stage Capital Campaign, presented Mr. Robitaille and Dr. Linda Yonke a check from the Campaign for \$1,210,000. The funds from the campaign will enhance and equip the new Black Box Theatre in honor of Mary Catherine Hayes ('10) and Sarah McCausland ('13). The Hayes and McCausland families were in attendance, participated in the presentation of the gift, and expressed their gratitude for naming the Black Box Theater for their daughters, the Hayes-McCausland Black Box Theatre. Ms. Wyant noted the number of donors was well over 900. Ms. Wyant also thanked Ms. Renee Mosley, Ms. Niki Dizon, Mr. Chris Johnson and Ms. Nina Lynn for their assistance and support. On behalf of the District and the community, Dr. Yonke and Mr. Robitaille thanked the families and Ms. Wyant for the extraordinary opportunity this donation will provide the students of New Trier. A large poster check was presented to Dr. Yonke and Board President, Greg Robitaille by the Hayes and McCausland families made out to the school in the amount of \$1,210,000.

#### **C. Farewell to Dr. Linda Yonke**

Mr. Robitaille invited fellow Board members to share their thoughts on Dr. Yonke's service to the District over the past eleven years. Comments were personal and humorous as each Board member looked back on Dr. Yonke's tenure of leadership for the students, staff and faculty of New Trier. Members recounted her work on the Strategic Plan, the School Within a School, STEM, Social and Emotional learning, teacher evaluations, the Mobile Learning Initiative, the Benchmark Consortiums as well as the Winnetka Campus Facility Project. Her vision of leadership was a model for all the Administration and faculty. Mr. Robitaille presented a parting gift of a framed and mounted piece of the terrazzo floor from the Winnetka Campus with the inscription: *"The New Trier Township High School District 203 Board of Education Past and Present thanks you, Dr. Linda Yonke, for your dedication, leadership, vision and pursuit of excellence. The people you have inspired, taught, and challenged to learn and grow are countless. Your impact on this District will endure and continue to propel our school to new levels. You have embodied the New Trier High School motto, "To commit minds to inquiry, hearts to compassion, and lives to the service of humanity." This school is a better place because of you. On behalf of the entire New Trier community, we honor your career and tenure as our leader."*

Dr. Yonke thanked the Board and all the Administrative Team for their assistance and hard work on behalf of the students. A brief intermission followed with refreshments for all in attendance.

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

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

Mr. Waechtler, Principal of the Northfield Campus shared news that two freshman students received honors that were too late for the Board Recognition Program. Maggie Cao won 5<sup>th</sup> Place Honors in a National Essay Contest by the Chinese American Citizens Alliance. Olivia Laske scored a perfect score in the National Latin Exam and was one of 813 perfect scores out of one hundred thirty-five thousand

students from fifteen countries who participated. Mr. Waechtler also congratulated and welcomed Social Studies teacher Lori Worth, who will become the new Transitions Coordinator at the Northfield Campus. Freshmen students received their yearbooks on Trevia Day, May 26. That day was also Shakespeare Fest where over 34 sections of English classes, over 700 students perform works of William Shakespeare throughout the campus. He noted that Final Exams took place on Thursday, Friday, and today. He thanked the New Trier Parents Association for providing snacks for the students during exam days. The last day of student attendance is Wednesday, June 7. Mr. Waechtler thanked Peter Tragos and Natalia Katsinis for their efforts to resolve course conflicts for next year. Summer School begins on Monday, June 12. He noted work by Gail Gamrath, Mark Howard and Sue Ellen Haak has begun for the Class of 2021 in preparing advisory assignments.

Ms. Dubravec, Assistant Principal of the Winnetka Campus, began her report discussing the Tim Estberg Celebration Memorial Event in the Cornog Auditorium on May 24. She commented on the amazing and wonderful tribute to Tim by faculty, staff and students. Ms. Dubravec then highlighted the student accomplishments for this year, which includes one-third place title, six-second place titles, a state Championship, and first in state for the Science Olympiad team. Commencement was Sunday, June 4 at the Sears Centre in Hofmann Estates. The change in venue from Northwestern University was necessitated by the renovation project at the Welsh-Ryan Arena. Ms. Dubravec thanked the Senior Advisor Chairs, Technology, and PPS staff for their work in making commencement so memorable for the 1000 students and their families. A review and discussion of the new venue will take place to consider all feedback as planning for next year's graduation begins. She also thanked the Parents' Association for providing the Graduation Party for the senior class.

Dr. Timothy Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, also commented on the Senior Class Commencement and appreciation for the work of all the senior advisors in assisting their students through their high school years. He thanked them and Senior Advisor Chairs, Susie Paunan and Chris Pearson for their efforts on behalf of all the students.

Dr. Paul Sally, Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, noted implementation of the new Powerschool platform will start over the summer months. Further integration will continue over the 2017-18 school year. Dr. Sally also noted hiring for the next year is almost complete with only a few positions left to fill. Mr. Robitaille asked if the Personnel Report could be adjusted to include the reason for the vacancy that was being filled. Dr. Sally stated that information will be noted in the future.

Mr. Christopher Johnson, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations reported that no new FOIA requests have been received since the last Regular meeting of the Board of Education. He added however, that one request remains open which is for purchasing records for Special Education.

## **B. Public Hearing FY 2017 Amended Budget**

Mr. Chris Johnson reviewed the new information affecting the FY2017 Budget requiring the filing of an Amended Budget for FY17. The changes to the Budget for FY17 include: recording the Bond Sale that took place in February 2017; accounting for this spring's Health Life Safety work and Renovation Projects approved at the November 2016 Board meeting; recording the IMRF UAAL pay-down that occurred in December 2016; decreasing the budgeted health insurance expenditures to account for the insurance premium holiday; increasing the amount allocated to capital to fund the contingency use for the Winnetka Campus Project; and accounting for an inter-fund transfer from Operations to Capital Projects. This new amended budget is balanced, save for the one-time use of reserves for the IMRF pay-down. Mr. Robitaille invited members of the public who wished to speak on this topic to come forward. No one addressed the Board on the Amended Budget. Mr. Robitaille requested a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing. Mr. O'Donoghue moved and Ms. Goldstein seconded the motion to adjourn the Public Hearing on the FY2017 Amended Budget. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Dr. Glucksman, Ms. Goldstein, Mr. O'Donoghue, Ms. Albrecht, Mr. Dronen, Ms. Ducommun, Mr. Robitaille

NAY: None

The motion passed.

### **C. FY 2017 Amended Budget Approval**

Mr. Christopher Johnson responded to Board members' comments and questions following the adjournment of the Public Hearing. Mr. O'Donoghue moved and Ms. Ducommun seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the Resolution adopting the 2016-2017 Amended Budget as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Ms. Goldstein, Mr. O'Donoghue, Ms. Albrecht, Mr. Dronen, Ms. Ducommun, Dr. Glucksman, Mr. Robitaille

NAY: None

The motion passed.

### **D. Report on Student Growth in Teacher Evaluations**

Dr. Paul Sally provided an update on integrating student growth into teacher evaluations. Measuring student growth was mandated by the State in 2010 with the Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA). The administration convened a PERA Joint Committee to implement the requirements of the law into our teacher evaluation plan. The Committee's work focused on creating a system that was both meaningful and feasible for the teacher and the teacher's Primary Supervisor. Dr. Sally reviewed the process for the plan that included pilot programs during the 2014-15 and 2015-16 school years in anticipation of the 2016-17 implementation. New Trier's philosophy for student growth projects highlighted that teaching is an art and a science, good teaching includes continuous and life-long professional growth, good teaching adheres to the New Trier Characteristics of Professional Practice, and evaluations must be meaningful and feasible. The Committee decided to adopt one Type I assessment which was a national normed test and one Type III assessment which is individualized by teachers and focuses on the students in their classroom. He summarized the types of rubrics many teachers use to create a coherent set of criteria to evaluate student work using descriptions of levels of performance in order to measure student growth. He noted that over one hundred ninety student growth projects were completed and the committee observed that significant and meaningful discussions about teaching emerged from the process and many high-quality sample projects had been developed. Dr. Yonke commended the PERA Joint Committee of both teachers and administrators, for their important work and emphasized the long methodical process to bring discussions of student work into evaluations in a meaningful way. Board discussion followed as Dr. Sally responded to members' comments and questions on the mechanisms of tracking, individualization, collaboration, stipends, the measure of the quantitative assessments such as PLAN and ACT, and the logistics for evaluating all the teachers. Dr. Sally noted the Board will be updated every two years on the supervision and evaluations. The next update will occur in July or August 2018 with a comprehensive report.

## **VI. Administrative Items**

### **A. Monthly Construction Update**

Mr. Marty Platten of Pepper Construction Company reviewed the Project Summary of Phase II of the Winnetka Campus Project. He provided narration to the construction photos documenting the project's progress, which included: the masonry walls in the theatres are complete as well as other wall surfaces; the access ramp to the service yard was removed; interior work is progressing; the stud framing is complete; the Concourse is undergoing framing and drywall; and the project is on schedule. Mr. Johnson reviewed the Construction Budget Update in which he noted increased revenue from the "Raise The Stage" Capital Campaign of \$210,000. He also noted the total cost of construction dropped from \$103,397,672 to \$103,166,691. The Owner Cost Alignment was completed with a positive variance of \$110,000. Change Order #22 totals \$306,619. The projected contingency decreased to \$1,459,011 and the unidentified Contingency Usage was reduced by the one-month value of \$140,739. In summary, Mr. Johnson noted the estimated ending balance fell from \$1,593,721 to \$1,578,882. The Estimated total cost fell to \$104,745,573. Mr. Johnson invited comments and questions from Board members on the Construction Project and the current Budget Change Order #22. Mr. Platten responded to queries on Phase II placeholders in the budget. Board discussion followed on neighborhood facilities meetings, traffic and access roads, and street paving. Mr. Platten also responded to queries on manpower, logistics, and the modular units.

### **B. Bright Horizons Contract Renewal**

Mr. George Sanders, Director of Human Resources, provided a report on the Child Care Facility located in the B-Building. Bright Horizons Family Solutions is the care provider with whom the District has

contracted. They are a premier nationally and internationally known child care provider. The current seven-year contract is ending on June 30, 2017. Mr. Sanders reviewed the background and history of Bright Horizons and highlighted the exceptionally high satisfaction level that parents have about the company. The New Trier Child Care Center opened in August of 2010 and the Center received Accreditation through National Association for Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and Gold Level Circle of Quality from Illinois ExceleRate. He noted there are sixteen teacher and staff positions, designated parking and a secure building with approved access. Mr. Sanders summarized the Bright Horizon's profile noting they have thirty years of child care management, 850 centers in the U.S., Puerto Rico, UK, Ireland and Canada, and they are a well-respected, financially strong company. Board discussion followed as members queried Mr. Sanders on non-New Trier families, Bright Horizon's commitment to New Trier, and student participation in early childhood volunteer activities. Ms. Goldstein moved and Ms. Albrecht seconded the motion that the Board approve the Bright Horizons contract renewal for five years. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Ms. Goldstein, Ms. Albrecht, Mr. Dronen, Ms. Ducommun, Dr. Glucksman, Mr. Robitaille

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Mr. O'Donoghue

The motion passed.

### **VIII. Consent Agenda**

- Bill List for the Period May 1-31, 2017
- Personnel Report
- Ratification of Change Order #22
- Technology Network Equipment Service Contract
- IASB Annual Dues
- No. Cook Young Adult Academy 2017-18 Intergovernmental Agreement
- Calendar Modifications – Learning Cohort Professional Development Time
- Hanover Research Contract Renewal
- Interim Special Education Directors Contracts Approval

Mr. Robitaille asked if there were any items on the Consent Agenda that should be removed for separate discussion. Mr. Robitaille noted that he wanted to discuss the Hanover Research item. Mr. O'Donoghue requested separate discussion for the Bill List and the Calendar Modifications and Mr. Dronen asked to remove the IASB dues and the Special Education Directors for discussion. Mr. O'Donoghue moved and Dr. Glucksman seconded the motion that the Board approve the Personnel Report, including Appointments, Resignations/Retirements and Stipends for the 2017-2018 School Year; that the Board of Education of New Trier Township High School District 203 ratifies Budget Change Order #22 to the contracts managed by Pepper Construction Company, and furthermore deducts the amount of \$306,619 from the West Side Project Owner's Contingency line item; approve the North Cook Young Adult Academy 2017-2018 Intergovernmental Agreement; and approve a renewal contract with Sentinel HANS as presented, and authorize the Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations to execute the agreement. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Ms. Albrecht, Mr. Dronen, Ms. Ducommun, Dr. Glucksman, Ms. Goldstein, Mr. O'Donoghue, Mr. Robitaille

NAY: None

The motion passed.

Mr. O'Donoghue requested the Bill List be presented in a file format that is searchable. Mr. Johnson agreed and noted it will be changed to a native pdf file. Mr. O'Donoghue moved and Ms. Ducommun seconded that the Board approve the Bill List for the period May 1-31, 2017. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Mr. Dronen, Ms. Ducommun, Dr. Glucksman, Ms. Goldstein, Mr. O'Donoghue, Ms. Albrecht, Mr. Robitaille

NAY: None

The motion passed.

Mr. Dronen commented that it would be helpful to have more detail on what is provided with the Annual Dues for the IASB. Mr. Dronen moved and Ms. Ducommun seconded the motion that the Board approve the 2017-2018 IASB Dues. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Ms. Ducommun, Dr. Glucksman, Ms. Goldstein, Mr. O'Donoghue, Ms. Albrecht, Mr. Dronen, Mr. Robitaille

NAY: None

The motion passed.

Mr. O'Donoghue asked what are the changes to the 2017-2018 School Year Calendar. Dr. Yonke responded that there was the addition of a professional development Early Dismissal Day on November 9. Dr. Sally noted the decision to include three days of professional development to the school year calendar per semester. While this calendar was approved two years ago we needed to add the one more Early Dismissal Day for first semester next year. Mr. O'Donoghue moved and Ms. Ducommun seconded the motion that the Board approve the modifications to the 2017-2018 school Year Calendar. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Dr. Glucksman, Ms. Goldstein, Mr. O'Donoghue, Ms. Albrecht, Mr. Dronen, Ms. Ducommun, Mr. Robitaille

NAY: None

The motion passed.

Mr. Robitaille requested discussion and background information for renewing the subscription for Hanover Research. Dr. Yonke responded that the Administration does indeed use the research information provided by Hanover. She noted alternate trials used for providing research and data gathering were unsatisfactory in the past. The Research Committee meets monthly and has found the Hanover information very useful. Dr. Sally and Mr. Johnson noted the contract will be reviewed and can be terminated with the 90 day out clause. Mr. Robitaille was reassured the District contract was beneficial. Mr. O'Donoghue moved and Dr. Glucksman seconded the motion that the Board approve the contract with Hannover Research in the amount of \$39,000 for FY18 and \$39,000 for FY19 and authorize the Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations to execute the agreement subject to final attorney review. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Mr. O'Donoghue, Ms. Albrecht, Mr. Dronen, Ms. Ducommun, Dr. Glucksman, Ms. Goldstein, Mr. Robitaille

NAY: None

The motion passed.

Mr. Dronen commented that the decision to appoint Interim Special Education Directors is the right decision. He encourages early communication to the community, use of an executive search firm and parent input. Mr. Dronen moved and Mr. O'Donoghue seconded the motion that the Board approve the contracts for the Interim Special Education Directors, as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Ms. Albrecht, Mr. Dronen, Ms. Ducommun, Dr. Glucksman, Ms. Goldstein, Mr. O'Donoghue, Mr. Robitaille

NAY: None

The motion passed.

**IX. Board Member Reports**

Dr. Marc Glucksman reported for the *ECGC Parent Group* which met for a presentation with Dr. Tim Hayes on technology use. The program was facilitated by New Trier alumnus, Josh Stoller, Class of '14. Discussion centered on the disconnect that parents have with the actual use of technology by their students. Social media discussions were very relevant as ten Harvard applicants from around the country were rejected because of their presence on social media.

Ms. Albrecht noted that the *New Trier Educational Foundation* meeting was changed to June 13 instead of June 20. She also reported for the *Community Engagement Committee* which hosted the community-wide farewell reception event in the Trevians Commons at the Winnetka Campus for Dr. Yonke on Wednesday, May 31. Dr. Yonke was honored with performances by the High Five Choir and New Trier alumna Ayoun Alexandra Kim who played cello. Scores of community members attended to wish Dr. Yonke well in her retirement.

Ms. Goldstein reported for *NSSSED* which also celebrated the retirements of staff and member district staff, such as New Trier's own Ellie Ambuehl. Ms. Goldstein thanked Ms. Ambuehl for her years of service to the District and the Special Education students who benefited from her talent and dedication.

Ms. Ducommun shared a year-end report for the New Trier Fine Arts Association. She noted the Association received \$40,000 in donations and provided 51 students with Summer Scholarship awards of \$300 each, \$16,000 in other grants, \$10,000 for music, art and debate trips and various performing arts receptions. Ms. Ducommun noted the strong reserves of the Association and the intention to draw them down for the benefit of more students. She also commended Wendi Williams of Glencoe as she is stepping down in her role as president of the Association. Her leadership skills over the past three years have been most appreciated. Ms. Ami Campbell will be stepping up to fill the role of president for the next year.

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

- Calendar of Events

Dr. Linda Yonke reviewed events which included Wednesday, June 7 is the last day of student attendance; Tuesday, June 6 is Grading Day; Summer School begins next Monday on June 12 and the Education Foundation meeting is on Tuesday, June 13. The next Board of Education meeting is on Monday, July 17. Dr. Yonke noted the last day of Summer School is on July 28, which leaves five weeks before the start of school for the 2017-2018 school year.

Mr. Robitaille noted he and Dr. Sally are looking for dates to schedule the IASB Board/Superintendent Self Evaluation Workshops.

Dr. Yonke added that the New Trier Baseball team has made it to the final four in State. The Championship Games are this weekend in Joliet.

-Requests for Staff Research & Future Agenda Items

Ms. Ducommun asked for information on the stipends payed for the position that help with the student growth portion of the teacher evaluation process.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. O'Donoghue moved that the Board adjourn the Regular Meeting. Ms. Ducommun seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote being taken, all members indicated they were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 10:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

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Gregory Robitaille, President