

BOARD BRIEFS

News from the New Trier Township High School District 203

Special Board of Education Meeting

April 29, 2019

Board Welcomes Two New Members, Elects Officers

The New Trier High School District 203 Board of Education welcomed two new members and elected new officers. The Board also said farewell to two outgoing members who are leaving after eight years of service each.

Jean Hahn of Glencoe and Brad McLane of Winnetka both were sworn in as new members, while incumbent Board member Cathy Albrecht of Wilmette began her second four-year term on the Board. All three ran unopposed in the April 2 municipal elections after their endorsement by the New Trier Caucus. The new Board elected Albrecht as president and Marc Glucksman of Glencoe as vice president.

Hahn was a member of the Glencoe District 35 Board of Education from 2011-2019. She has served on a number of volunteer and community organizations, including the Highland Park/Highwood Legal Aid Clinic, the League of Women Voters of Glenview/Glencoe, the Village of Glencoe's Sustainability Working Group and Task Force, and Family Service of Glencoe. Hahn holds a B.A. in political science from the University of California at Santa Barbara and a J.D. from Harvard Law School. She is the parent of a current New Trier sophomore and an incoming freshman.

McLane, an executive search consultant, has served on several municipal boards in Winnetka, including as a commissioner for the Winnetka Park District and Winnetka Plan Commission, and as a member of the Design Review Board. His community involvement also includes the Winnetka Caucus Council, Parks Foundation, Paddle Tennis Club Board, and chair of Winnetka Congregational Church. McLane holds a B.A. in architecture and organizational behavior from Yale University and an MBA from the University of Chicago. He is the parent of two New Trier graduates and a current freshman.

Lori Goldstein and Patrick O'Donoghue of Wilmette, who both were first elected to the District 203 Board of Education in 2011, exited the Board after serving two terms. Goldstein, an employment attorney, was the Board's vice president in 2016 and 2017 and served as liaison to the North Shore Special Education District and on the District's Community Engagement and Policy Committees. O'Donoghue, a municipal engineering specialist, served as liaison to the Booster Club and on the District's Naming and Facilities Steering Committees.

Four-Year Faculty Contract Approved

The New Trier High School District 203 Board of Education approved a four-year faculty contract that contains District costs while still keeping New Trier competitive in retaining and hiring high-quality teachers.

Teachers approved the contract earlier Monday following more than 77 hours of negotiations over 17 sessions between January and April. Representatives from the faculty, administration and Board participated in the collaborative bargaining sessions, which were facilitated by an independent mediator.

“This contract recognizes the community’s priority of maintaining excellence in teaching while giving the District the financial stability to achieve balanced budgets in coming years,” Board of Education President Greg Robitaille and New Trier Education Association President Paul Moretta said in a joint statement. “We are thankful for the hard work and long hours our negotiating committee put into the process to achieve this contract.”

The agreement will increase teachers’ salaries an average of 3.69 percent in 2019-20, 3.3 percent in 2020-21, and 3.16 percent in 2021-22, with the schedule in 2022-23 to be determined by CPI. This total includes both base and step increases.

Retirement benefits will change for both Tier I (hired in Illinois public education before Jan. 1, 2011) and Tier II (hired on or after Jan. 1, 2011) Teachers’ Retirement System participants. For Tier I participants, end-of-career salary increases will be modified to provide 5 percent a year for the 5th and 6th years before retirement, and 3 percent a year for the last four years in lieu of regularly scheduled base raises.

For Tier II participants, the contract does not include end-of-career salary enhancements. Instead, these teachers will receive \$750 annual District contributions to a 403(b) plan, up from \$500 in the last contract, with the option of an additional \$500 annual match.

The contract also builds on the District’s successful reduction of health benefit costs in the last contract by offering a lower-cost HMO plan and eliminating the lowest-deductible PPO plan, which an analysis found was more expensive to most employees and the District than other plans.

Kenilworth TIF Presentation

The Village of Kenilworth gave a presentation about its proposed Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District for the Green Bay Road business area, which the village is advocating to attract new businesses to an area that has declined in value. If it is adopted, New Trier District 203 would not receive incremental revenue from property in the TIF zone for the duration of the TIF district, and New Trier Township taxpayers outside the TIF area would see a very small increase in their New Trier taxes to offset that lost revenue.

New Trier Board members raised concerns about the potential 23-year length (with an additional 12-year extension) of the proposed district, the lack of an intergovernmental agreement to lessen the impact on New Trier District 203 taxpayers, and transparency of the process for all voters. They also noted that approval of such a district in Kenilworth could lead to the creation of TIF districts in the many other communities that New Trier serves, taking potential business tax revenue off the books, potentially for decades, and shifting the burden to residential taxpayers. The Village of Kenilworth has scheduled a public hearing on the proposed TIF District on May 20 at 7 p.m. at Kenilworth Village Hall.

The New Trier Board of Education generally meets on the third Monday of each month, with the business portion of the meeting beginning at 7 p.m. in Room C234 on the Northfield Campus, 7 Happ Road.

Full videos of Board meetings are available online at <https://nths.mediaspace.kaltura.com/category/BOARD+OF+EDUCATION/>

Information about Board of Education members, upcoming meetings, agendas, minutes, and other documents are available at <http://www.newtrier.k12.il.us/boardofeducation/>