

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

April 19, 2010

New Trier High School - Northfield Campus

Northfield Campus, Multipurpose Room C234, 7 Happ Road, Northfield, Illinois

Closed Session – 6:30 p.m. Open Session – 7:30 p.m.

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, Northfield, Illinois, Room C234, on Monday, April 19, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

Members Present

Mr. James B. Koch, President
Ms. Wendy Serrino, Vice President
Mr. Alan R. Dolinko
Ms. Carol Ducommun
Mr. F. Malcolm Harris
Mr. Robert Merrick
Mr. John Myefski

Administrators Present at Table

Dr. Linda L. Yonke, Superintendent
Mr. Donald R. Goers, Associate Superintendent
Mr. Paul Waechtler, Assistant Principal –
Northfield Campus
Mr. Timothy Hayes – Assistant Superintendent
for Student Services
Mr. Paul Sally – Assistant Superintendent for
Curriculum and Instruction

Also Present

Mr. Chris Johnson, Director of Technology; Mr. George Sanders, Director of Human Resources; Ms. Laurel Burman, Director of Special Education; Ms. Athena Petmezas, Director of Student Life; Ms. Michele Slav, Director of Business Services; Mr. Matt Ottaviano, Assistant Principal, Winnetka Campus; Mr. John Neiweem, Director of Physical Plant Services; Ms. Niki Dizon, Director of Communications; Mr. Jay Rosenberg, Department of English and NTEA President; Ms. Debbie Stacey, Director of Academic Services; Mr. Peter Tragos, NTEA Past President, Social Studies Department; Mr. Jeremy Boscaccy, Department of Technology; Mr. John Gilchrist, Kinetic Wellness Department Chair; Mr. Dan Starkey, candidate for Kinetic Wellness Department and Head Football Coach; Mr. Robert Spagnoli, Technology Education; Mitch Jones, Service Learning Coordinator and Social Studies Department; Mr. Paul Easton, English Department; Ms. Linda Matkowski, PMA Securities; Ms. Elizabeth Blodgett, NTESPA President; Mr. Gary Weitman, Ms. Marcia Oley, Ms. Sue Connaughton; Ms. Sharon Kristjanson; Mr. Charles Jameson; Mr. Simon Liang; Ms. Victoria Vancura; Mr. Winston Feng; Mr. Herbert Sorock; Mr. Daniel Fox; Ms. Vanessa Rachmaninoff; Ms. Liza Roche and numerous members of the Community.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Koch called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and asked for a motion to call the meeting to Open Session. Mr. Dolinko moved and Mr. Merrick seconded the motion that the Board move from Closed Session to Open Session. Upon a voice vote being taken, the members voted all in favor.

The motion passed unanimously.

I. Minutes

Mr. Koch requested a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Merrick moved and Mr. Harris seconded the motion that the Board approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 15, 2010 (open and closed session) and the minutes of the Special Meeting of March 25, 2010 (open session). Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Ms. Ducommun, Mr. Harris, Mr. Merrick, Mr. Myefski, Ms. Serrino,
Mr. Dolinko, Mr. Koch

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

II. Communications

Mr. Koch invited public comment at this time. Mr. Daniel Fox, Mr. Herbert Sorock and Ms. Sue Connaughton spoke about the district survey, community research and focus groups. Mr. Simon Liang, Ms. Victoria Vancura and Mr. Winston Feng voiced their support of a support staff member whose position was eliminated. Mr. Charles Jameson spoke in appreciation of New Trier's support of the Family Awareness Network (FAN). Mr. Koch thanked all the members for their statements and comments.

III. Special Orders of Business

A. Election of New Officers for the period April 19, 2010 through April 2011 Regular Meeting

President

As Board Secretary, Ms. Kelly asked for nominations from the Board for the office of President of the Board of Education. Mr. Koch nominated Ms. Wendy Serrino for the office of President of the Board of Education for the period of April 19, 2010 through the April 2011 Regular Meeting. Mr. Merrick seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. Mr. Dolinko suggested in light of there being no other nominations that Ms. Serrino be designated President by the acclamation of the entire Board. Upon a voice vote being taken, the members voted unanimously in favor of the motion. Ms. Serrino will be President of the Board of Education through the April 2011 Regular Meeting.

Vice President

Ms. Serrino asked for nominations from the Board for the office of Vice President of the Board of Education. Mr. Dolinko nominated Mr. John Myefski for the office of Vice President of the Board of Education for the period April 19, 2010 through the April 2011 Regular Meeting. Mr. Harris seconded the nomination. There being no other nominations, a voice vote was taken and all the members voted in favor of the nomination. The motion carried. Mr. John Myefski will be Vice President of the Board of Education through the April 2011 Regular Meeting.

Secretary

Ms. Serrino asked for nominations for the office of Secretary for the Board of Education. Mr. Dolinko nominated Ms. Lou Anne Kelly for the office of Secretary of the Board of Education for the period April 19, 2010 through April 2011 Regular meeting. Mr. Koch seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. Upon a voice vote being taken, all the members voted in favor of the nomination. The motion carried. Ms. Kelly will be Secretary of the Board of Education through the April 2010 Regular Meeting.

Ms. Serrino thanked Mr. Jim Koch for his two years of service as Board President and for all the time and effort he extended on the Board's behalf. His knowledge of New Trier, commitment to education, and his perspectives gained from Board work at NSSSED have been invaluable.

B. Report from Campus Principals and Assistant Superintendents

Dr. Yonke noted that Mr. Paul Waechtler will be reporting for both Dr. Dohrer and Ms. Borja who are both home ill this evening.

Mr. Paul Waechtler reported first on the activities at the Northfield Campus. The Freshman Institute Day was held on March 22 and went very well. Mr. Waechtler has received much positive feedback about the day and expressed appreciation and thanks to all who were involved in providing this all day event for the freshman class. Upcoming events include the freshman spring mixer dance on May 14; continuation of the Haiti project, which has collected \$70,000 so far along with funds for 400 tents and 150 tarps; and the annual "After the Academics" fair on May 10th, at which incoming freshmen are introduced to the various opportunities for joining clubs, activities, athletics and performing arts. Mr. Waechtler also noted his daily visits to the B Building, checking on the progress of the construction project to bring the building back into scholastic use.

Mr. Waechtler reported for Dr. Dohrer on the activities at the Winnetka Campus which included "Movin' on Up" for the current freshmen as they transition to sophomore year at the Winnetka Campus. This event provides a panel discussion followed by sophomores giving tours of the campus. There will be a program sponsored by FAN and the Social Work Department on Wednesday, April 21. Mr. John Cacioppo who wrote *Loneliness: Human Nature and the Need for Social Connection* will speak at 7:00 p.m. at

the Gaffney Auditorium. Juniors will be taking the PSAT tests on April 28 and 29 while the sophomores and seniors will have their Institute Days. Prom will take place on May 1 at the Chicago Hyatt Regency and the AP exams will take place the first two weeks in May.

Mr. Paul Sally reported on the planning that has begun for next year including looking at the use of recaptured space in the B Building and at the Winnetka Campus. Mr. Sally noted a committee has begun looking at the possibilities of setting up rooms and teaching spaces that will explore the use of space in a 900 square foot classroom, and which use contemporary designs in furniture and technology.

Mr. Tim Hayes introduced Mr. Dan Starkey, the new head football coach and Kinetic Wellness teacher. Mr. Starkey is coming from Glenbard South High School where he is head football coach. He shared his desire for a values-based philosophy for football and is eager to begin his new position. Mr. Hayes also noted that prom tickets are now being sold.

C. Service at New Trier High School

Mr. Hayes reported on Service at New Trier and the important role it plays throughout the school as reflected in its position in the school motto. This tradition of service is long and widely varied, as shown by the vast number of projects and participating groups.

Service work at New Trier falls into three categories: community service that addresses a specific cause; service-learning which involves advancing a curricular objective; and whole class or school-wide projects, like Senior Class Habitat for Humanity or the Haiti Relief Project. Mr. Hayes invited two staff members, Mitch Jones and Carolyn Muir to share with the Board information about their leadership in service projects and service-learning activities.

Mr. Jones began with a comment of appreciation to Mr. Jim Koch for his work and leadership for the Day Care project and thanked him for his creative thinking in facilitating a positive solution. Mr. Jones also noted that the Social Service Board's annual fundraiser "Band Aid" will be held this Friday, April 23, at 7:00 p.m. in Room G110 on the Winnetka Campus. All are welcome. Mr. Jones is club head sponsor for the Social Service Club and is the District's Service Learning Coordinator. The Social Service Club coordinates over 17 groups in their service work with agencies throughout the Chicago area and is a primary provider for service opportunities for New Trier students. Service Learning, which was piloted 4 years ago, has expanded greatly due to the benefits seen for students in making the connections between their curricular learning and life and service outside of New Trier. Mr. Jones introduced Glenna Siegel and Maxine Lapin from Aileen Heidkamp's Sophomore English class, who participated in working at the North Shore Senior Center. The two students shared their experiences with the Board. Melanie Jones is a sophomore in Dan Lawler's English class who also performed service with the Foster Reading Program. Ms. Jones noted that her experiences helped her grow as a person and taught her to be open to new experiences, cultures and diversity.

Ms. Carolyn Muir is the staff sponsor for the Haiti Project at the Northfield Campus. Ms. Muir reviewed the beginnings of the Project and its evolution which now has expanded to include earthquake relief. Ms. Muir recounted the outpouring of concern and donations within and around the New Trier community. Twenty-five thousand dollars was raised with online contributions in the first two weeks after the quake. Students Isabella Boetcher and Jessica Tetzlaff of the Global Activism Club spoke of their efforts to raise awareness and gather funds for the Haiti Project. Their enterprise has brought them to area schools and senior centers, as well as to student groups within New Trier. They shared their personal insights into service work and encouraged everyone to support the Haiti Project. The goal is to raise \$100,000 in order to help build two schools in Haiti.

Mr. Hayes concluded the presentation noting the importance of service as a part of the educational experience. Dr. Yonke noted the long history of service at New Trier, which has included selling war bonds to purchase an ambulance and aircraft during the World Wars. Dr. Yonke also pointed out that most of the service done by students requires personal involvement with the community and helps students make the connections

between the curriculum and service. They see the direct impact of their work on other people's lives, and develop life-long habits of service to others.

Mr. Koch praised the work of exceptional staff members like Mitch Jones, Tom Kucharski and Tom Tebbe for their teaching and mentoring that inspired his two sons to embark on careers in national defense. Discussion followed on information dissemination to students and parents about the various service opportunities.

D. Public Hearing: Holiday Waivers

Ms. Serrino opened the Public Hearing on Holiday Waivers. Mr. Paul Sally reviewed the background regarding waiver requests for school holidays. The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has simplified the process by moving it to the local level. The state no longer requires school districts to submit documentation for approval; however, schools must hold a public hearing on the proposed waivers to receive comment from interested constituencies. School districts which approve holiday waivers must honor the person/persons that the holiday recognizes through instructional activities.

While the needs of each school year may change, approval of the Holiday Waivers will allow greater flexibility in scheduling school days or teacher institute and in-service days. The District is not likely to hold school or conduct institute days on all of the waived holidays in any one given school year. The holidays recommended for waiver are:

- The birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (third Monday in January)
- The birthday of President Abraham Lincoln (February 12)
- The birthday of Casimir Pulaski (first Monday in March)
- Columbus Day (second Monday in October); and
- Veterans' Day (November 11)

Ms. Serrino invited public comment on the proposed Holiday Waivers. There was no one wishing to comment. Mr. Dolinko moved that the Board adjourn the Public Hearing on Holiday Waivers. Mr. Merrick seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Ms. Ducommun, Mr. Harris, Mr. Merrick, Mr. Myefski, Ms. Serrino,
Mr. Dolinko, Mr. Koch

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

E. Holiday Waivers Approval

Ms. Serrino called for any Board discussion on the Holiday Waivers. There was no further discussion. Mr. Merrick moved and Mr. Dolinko seconded the motion that the Board approve the Resolution to authorize the District to hold school or schedule teachers' institutes or in-service days on the following holidays: the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (third Monday in January); the birthday of President Abraham Lincoln (February 12); the birthday of Casimir Pulaski (first Monday in March); Columbus Day (second Monday in October); and Veterans' Day (November 11). Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Mr. Harris, Mr. Merrick, Mr. Myefski, Mr. Dolinko, Ms. Ducommun,
Ms. Serrino, Mr. Koch

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

F. Public Hearing: Amended Budget

Ms. Serrino opened the Public Hearing for the Amended Budget. Mr. Goers reviewed the process of amending the 2009-10 Budget and noted the primary purpose of holding the hearing was notify the public of the modified the budget and to seek public comment on the amended budget which now reflects the Northfield Renovation Project, the Life Safety expenditures which are a part of the Northfield Project, and the sale of Health Life Safety Bonds. Mr. Goers also noted the modifications in the budget that were made due to the Illinois Program Accounting Manual (IPAM) requirements and redistribution of the Federal 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funds, received

for general state aid and IDEA flow-through funds. Also recommended at this time is the closing out of the Building Capital Projects Fund and moving it to the Capital Projects Fund, which is the new fund required by the Illinois Program Accounting Manual. The changes had been reviewed at the March meeting. The net result is the difference between the revenues for the Health Life Safety Bonds sold (\$8.43 million) and the increased expense for the Northfield Renovation Project (\$4.45 million in Health Life Safety and \$2.9 million in Capital Projects), for a net increase of slightly more than \$1million. Mr. Goers invited questions from the Public. Ms. Cynthia Chase Kofkin requested clarification on the \$8 million bond issue and the Day Care Center. Mr. Goers and Dr. Yonke responded to Ms. Kofkin's questions. Ms. Marcia Oley inquired about the reporting process for the 2009-10 Amended Budget. Mr. Goers explained that the Amended Budget was needed due to the approval of the Northfield Renovation Project and the Health Life Safety bond sale. There were no other questions or comments from the Community. Mr. Koch moved and Mr. Dolinko seconded the motion to adjourn the Public Hearing for the 2009-2010 Amended Budget. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Mr. Merrick, Mr. Myefski, Mr. Koch, Mr. Dolinko, Ms. Ducommun, Mr. Harris, Ms. Serrino

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

G. Amended Budget Approval

Mr. Goers recommended that the Resolution Setting the Fiscal Year and Adopting the 2009-2010 Amended Budget, the Certificate of Revenue for the 2009-2010 Amended Budget, and the School District Amended Budget Form be approved. Ms. Serrino asked for any questions by the Board. There were no other questions or comments. Mr. Dolinko moved and Mr. Myefski seconded the motion to approve the Resolution Setting the Fiscal Year and Adopting the 2009-2010 Amended Budget, the Certificate of Revenue for the 2009-2010 Amended Budget, and the School District Amended Budget Form. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Mr. Myefski, Mr. Koch, Mr. Dolinko, Ms. Ducommun, Mr. Harris, Mr. Merrick, Ms. Serrino

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Goers noted the need for all the Board members to sign the School District Amended Budget Form, which was then distributed and signed by the Board. Mr. Koch took a moment to thank Mr. Goers and PMA Securities for their excellent work on behalf of the Board and the Community. Ms. Serrino noted that the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada has awarded The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to New Trier High School Township District 203 for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. This certificate is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. Also, an Award of Financial Reporting Achievement has been presented to Mr. Goers, for his primary responsibility in preparing the award-winning comprehensive annual financial report. Ms. Serrino and the Board congratulated and thanked Mr. Goers for his continued exceptional work for the District.

IV. Routine/Recurrent Items (consent agenda)

- *Bill List for the Period, March 1 – 31, 2010*
- *IHSA Renewal*

Mr. Goers presented the Bill List for the period March 1-31, 2010 and the annual renewal for the IHSA membership. He noted a list of capital projects which has mostly been completed, with a few exceptions. Mr. Goers invited questions or comments from the Board. There were no comments. Mr. Koch moved and Mr. Harris seconded the motion that the Board approve the Bill List for the period March 1-31, 2010 as presented and that the Board approve the renewal of the IHSA membership. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Mr. Koch, Mr. Dolinko, Ms. Ducommun, Mr. Harris, Mr. Merrick,
Mr. Myefski, Ms. Serrino

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

V. Board Member Reports

Mr. Koch reported that the NSSED is primarily working on budgeting. The task is difficult as the state is six months behind in payments, which has caused the rigorous process of cuts and RIF (Reduction in Force) notices. Mr. Koch also noted that the building project should be completed in May and it is under budget.

Ms. Ducommun reviewed the work of the Facilities Steering Committee which has identified areas of research and tasks to be accomplished. Some of the more concrete next steps include: look at the short term facilities needs and make recommendations, including Life Safety work at the Winnetka Campus; oversee the renovations at the Northfield Campus; establish a prototype of a 900 square foot classroom at both campuses in which different departments would test instructional practice using the technology rich space with their curricula; and explore best ways to proceed with the Long Term Facilities Plan. The committee is also interested in researching further facilities topics whereby some subcommittees will engage leadership from the steering committee and include members of the community. The Community Engagement Committee will seek volunteers to assist in research with the focus groups to provide input in designing the next survey as well as help out with the other committees. Ms. Ducommun invited anyone who is interested in working on these committees to contact her. Additional research areas could include learning in the 21st century classroom; examining the use of land at both campuses and in the community; continuing the traffic and parking committee; looking at other high schools, their classrooms, athletic facilities, art room and music space; examining the history of classroom space and use at New Trier; and addressing the issue of private funding in a public high school. It is hoped that these committees will be established and functioning in order to work in conjunction with the survey creation. A comprehensive report will be presented to the Board and community that would furnish a common understanding of these issues to progress in the facility planning.

Mr. Myefski stressed the importance of community input and participation, regardless of position on the Referendum. He specifically encouraged those who voted no to come forward and assist in looking at these various issues in order to be as constructive as possible. Ms. Ducommun echoed Steering Committee member Tim Hayes's belief that all issues be addressed without fear and in a spirit of honesty and fairness. She thanked the community for their participation thus far and for work to be done in the days ahead. Ms. Serrino thanked Ms. Sharon Kristjanson and Catherine King in assisting with soliciting new members for the focus groups and committees.

Mr. Harris spoke for the Community Engagement Committee and noted that the committee has reached out to a number of the opinion leaders in the community in order to seek out the broadest cross-section of thought. The Committee will hold focus groups as well as one-on-one interviews to assist in framing the questions and development of the survey. Mr. Harris also invited anyone interested in this process to come forward.

Mr. Merrick reported for the Technology Committee and their planning process for the next school year. There have been many meetings with teachers as well as within the departments to assimilate and synthesize all of the information available.

Mr. Harris noted that the Booster Club is revisiting the various needs of the school in general, and athletics specifically as they had received fewer than normal requests for assistance. This is most likely due in part by the anticipation of a referendum decision. It has been a very good year in fundraising for them and they are eager to support the school wherever it is needed. Funds are not carried over from year to year.

VI. Administrative Items

A. Personnel Report

Dr. Yonke presented the Personnel Report which included three appointments, one change of status, two leaves of absence and two retirements. Dr. Yonke also noted

there is an Addendum for approval. Mr. Dolinko moved and Mr. Koch seconded the motion to approve the Personnel Report and Addendum as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Mr. Koch, Mr. Dolinko, Ms. Ducommun, Mr. Harris, Mr. Merrick,
Mr. Myefski, Ms. Serrino

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

B. Sale of Life Health Safety Bonds

Mr. Goers reviewed the process for the sale of the Health Life Safety Bonds which included the Public Hearing at last month's Regular Board meeting. This bond sale of \$8.43 million covers the balance of the 2007 Health Life Safety Amendment and the recent 2010 Health Life Safety Amendment. The District has maintained its Aaa rating with Moody's Investor Services. Linda Matkowski (of PMA Financial Network, Inc.) assisted in evaluating possible bond structures. The bond sale took place this morning and seven firms submitted bid proposals. The low bid was provided by Hutchinson, Shockey & Erley at a true interest rate of 2.60% and will be paid off in 2018. Compared to earlier projections, the Life Safety issue produced a lower cost of approximately \$101,400. Mr. Jim Koch moved and Mr. Harris seconded the motion that the Board approve the Resolution providing for the issue of \$8,315,000 General Obligation Limited Tax School Bonds, Series 2010, of Township High School District Number 203, Cook County, Illinois, and for the levy of a direct annual tax to pay the principal and interest on said bonds. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Mr. Dolinko, Ms. Ducommun, Mr. Harris, Mr. Merrick, Mr. Myefski,
Mr. Koch, Ms. Serrino

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

C. Bookstore Recommendations

Dr. Yonke introduced the Bookstore Recommendations agenda item, giving background for the recommendations and noting the data that Paul Sally has compiled to present to the Board for review and comment. Mr. Sally noted the plan has been discussed with the Curriculum and Instruction Committee, the Department Chairs and Coordinators, and representatives of the Parents Association. Mr. Sally recommended the following six steps to help bring down the cost of books for families:

- 1.) Sign up to be a Follett Rent-A-Text program.
- 2.) Aggressively publicize Follett's book buyback dates.
- 3.) Clearly publicize ISBN numbers, within limits of our contract with Follett.
- 4.) Review requests for new editions by first determining if there is a compelling curricular need. If not, work with Follett to identify as many used copies as possible and require these to be on the rental program to preserve inventory.
- 5.) Continue our work studying the availability and effective use of e-books.
- 6.) Study the effectiveness of the above measures for reducing textbook costs for families against the cost of running our own book rental program with an associated book fee.

Mr. Sally elaborated on the six recommendations, noting benefits and challenges of each. Board discussion followed with questions and comments on the various options of purchase, rental and buy-back programs. Board members expressed their appreciation to Mr. Sally for pursuing these alternative choices that families will now have in acquiring texts for their children.

D. Approval of Student Bus Transportation Contract

Mr. Goers reviewed the joint bus transportation agreement of New Trier District 203 and Glencoe District 35. We share bus service with Glencoe in the morning but need dedicated service during the day and in the afternoon. This dedicated service has resulted in increased cost. This increase in the transportation program was subsidized by the Board at an initial cost of \$80,000 to limit bus fees. The subsidy has now increased to approximately \$100,000, which does not include the shuttle bus service nor the athletic and activity bus services of \$250,000. While we have been pleased

with Alltown, we bid out the service for 2010 through 2013 to make sure the District was paying competitive market costs. Bid specifications were sent out to ten different bus companies, and five firms submitted proposals. Mr. Goers reviewed details of the submitted bids. Alltown Bus Company and Illinois Central School Bus were the low bidders. After negotiations and further adjustments by Greg Polan, President of Alltown, Mr. Goers recommends that the Transportation Bid be awarded to Alltown Bus Service Inc. Mr. Dolinko requested the record to reflect that because he served for eight years on the District 39 Board of Education with the owner of the Alltown Bus Service, that he will not be participating in the discussion or decision on this matter. Mr. Myefski noted that he was on the Glencoe District 35 School Board, also for eight years, and had a very good experience with Alltown and is glad to see that there is still collective benefit to this joint agreement with Glencoe. Mr. Goers explained to the Board the arrangement that New Trier has with Glencoe, noting the different needs of the two districts. Mr. Koch moved and Mr. Harris seconded the motion that the Board award the Transportation Bid to Alltown Bus Services in accordance with the bid specifications and subject to terms and conditions of the contract developed by legal counsel. Upon a roll call being taken, the Board voted as follows:

AYE: Ms. Ducommun, Mr. Harris, Mr. Merrick, Mr. Myefski, Mr. Koch,
Ms. Serrino

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Mr. Dolinko

The motion passed.

E. 2010-2011 Budget Update & Capital Improvements

Mr. Goers provided an update report on the status of the 2010-11 Budget. Based on Board feedback and new information received, the Administration will present the Preliminary Budget in May, the Tentative Budget in June, and the Final Budget in July. A Public Hearing will be scheduled for the July meeting on the 2010-11 Budget. The list of recommended Capital Projects in excess of \$100,000 is included in this report, so that equipment can be ordered and installed prior to the start of the 2010-11 school year. Mr. Goers reviewed the details of the Revenue and Expenditure Guidelines, noting significant loss in state revenues of over \$1,000,000. The expenditure guidelines reflected cost containment measures to answer the loss of revenue. Mr. Goers invited questions from the Board members and noted the recommendation for approval of the Capital Projects in excess of \$100,000, which are three projects in the Technology Department. Much Board discussion followed regarding the Capital Projects. Mr. Dolinko requested looking at the costs of expansion and asked if that could be reduced by \$100,000 by lowering the number of newly-purchased computers. Mr. Chris Johnson responded that the department could look at the utilization and replacement of older computers and re-allocate some of the hardware. Ms. Ducommun inquired if the school was close to providing each student with a computer and should we be moving toward what is expected for college students. Dr. Yonke noted that our facility is not ready to provide that kind of access. Mr. Koch asked what would be the curricular impact of the cut-backs suggested by Mr. Dolinko. The Board also discussed other budget topics including the student/faculty ratio and how changes in enrollment affect scheduling classes and sectioning as well as and the impact of allowing more students to park at Northfield, the cost of shuttling students back and forth between campuses, and the impact of students taking the train. Ms. Serrino asked for a motion for the Capital Projects. Mr. Dolinko moved and Mr. Harris seconded the motion that the Board approve those capital projects listed in excess of \$100,000 as presented with the exception of the Computer Replacement & Additions budget being \$825,500 instead of \$925,500. Upon a roll call being taken, the Board voted as follows:

AYE: Mr. Harris, Mr. Merrick, Mr. Myefski, Mr. Koch, Mr. Dolinko,
Ms. Ducommun, Ms. Serrino

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

F. Approval of Research Contract: ECRA Group

Dr. Yonke proposed a partnership contract with the ECRA Group for research services beginning now through June 30, 2012. Various models and approaches to research have been tried in recent years, beginning with research responsibilities being assigned to the Director of Academic Services. A Director of Research was employed for the 2008-2009 school year, but the position was eliminated after one year. While having one central person was helpful, not all research needs were able to be met. This year, a number of projects have been outsourced such as the community survey by Fako Associates and the graduate follow-up study done by ECRA. Some survey work is done internally such as the Freshman Survey. Also, the Technology Department continues its development of a data warehouse that can be easily accessed by staff for specific research. Currently, research requests are handled by a Research Committee chaired by Paul Sally and Tim Hayes. The need for expert help, however, continues to grow for quantitative and qualitative research projects. Future research requests include continuing the Graduate Follow-up Study and adding a Senior Exit Survey; improving the Freshman Survey and sharing it with the sender districts; repeating the Strategic Planning Homework Committee follow-up survey to assess the implementation steps taken in the last two years; adding a Special Education Department formal exit survey for its families; and conducting community research regarding the referendum and future facility needs.

New Trier has worked with the ECRA Group for almost twenty years, and they conducted the enrollment model survey in 1998. The \$60,000 annual cost will be covered by funds already budgeted for research in Student Services, Curriculum & Instruction, and the Board/Superintendent accounts. Mr. Goers noted an actual savings of \$12,000-15,000 by bundling all these research needs together. Mr. Sally noted advantages to be gained in that the survey instruments would be more consistent and cohesive. Board discussion followed regarding data warehousing and data ownership at the end of the contract period. Mr. Sally responded that ownership by New Trier will be confirmed with ECRA. Mr. Merrick moved and Mr. Koch seconded the motion that the Board approve a contract with The ECRA Group for research services from April 20, 2010 through June 30, 2012. Upon a roll call being taken, the Board voted as follows:

AYE: Mr. Merrick, Mr. Myefski, Mr. Koch, Mr. Dolinko, Ms. Ducommun,
Mr. Harris, Ms. Serrino

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Business Reports

- *Financial Reports for March 2010*
- *Budget Status Report*

Before hearing about the Financial Reports, Ms. Serrino noted that by her calculations, Mr. Don Goers has saved the District over \$291,000 in the last 30 days through his negotiations and careful work on the Bus contract, the Bond sale and the Bids for Northfield, and not including the cost containment measures suggested for the 2010-11 Budget. Ms. Serrino thanked Mr. Goers and was appreciative for his watchful attention to costs on behalf of the District.

Mr. Goers reviewed the financial report for the month of March 2010 with quarterly reports and the Budget Status Report. He noted highlights and details of the various reports as well as those for the New Trier Extension and the Cafeteria Reports. Mr. Goers invited questions from the Board. No questions were asked.

VIII. Board of Education

- Calendar of Events

Dr. Yonke reminded the Board that the Prairie State testing will be on April 28 and 29; the Recognition & Retirement Dinner is May 7th; and the May Board meeting is May 17th. Dr. Yonke also noted that this year's Commencement is Sunday, May 30, of Memorial Day weekend.

- Board Members' Requests for Information and Staff Research and Suggested Agenda Items

There were no requests for information or suggested agenda items.

IX. Communications – Citizens’ Comments

Ms. Serrino invited any additional citizen comments at this time. Mr. Herbert Sorock addressed the Board for further clarification on officer voting procedures, health care cost increases, bus transportation subsidies. He also expressed appreciation to Mr. Goers for his timely and efficient responses to his numerous recent FOIA requests. Ms. Sue Connaughton thanked Mr. Dolinko for his vigilance and comments related to cost containment in the Capital Improvements category of the 2010-2011 Budget.

Adjournment

Mr. Koch moved and Mr. Dolinko seconded the motion that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
Ms. Serrino adjourned the meeting at 10:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

Wendy M. Serrino, President