

**TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
February 16, 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 Tuesday, February 16, 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
Ms. Jan Borja, Principal – Northfield Campus
Dr. Timothy Dohrer, Principal -
Winnetka 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; Mr. Dave Conway, Physical Plant Services, Northfield Campus; Mr. Peter Tragos, Department of Social Studies and NTTEA Past-President; Ms. Niki Dizon, Director of Communications; Mr. Jay Rosenberg, Department of English and NTEA President; Ms. Maureen Magee, Co-President NTESP; Ms. Debbie Stacey, Director of Academic Services; Mr. Mark Jolicoeur, Perkins + Will; Mr. Bill Bennett, Pepper Construction Co.; Mr. Robert Martinelli, Pepper Construction Co.; Mr. Gary Weitman; Mr. Kevin Yost; Ms. Sharon Kristjanson; Mr. Wes Baumann; Ms. Dee Baumann; Mr. Herbert Sorock; Mr. Woody Imberman; Mr. Daniel Fox; Ms. Vanessa Rachmaninoff; Ms. Cheryl Smith; Ms. Jane Bentham; Ms. Judith Offerle; Ms. Catherine King; Mr. Robert Soare; Ms. Nina Schroeder; Mr. Jack Silverstein; Ms. Onnie Scheyer; Ms. Marcia Oley; Mr. Ed Marshall; Ms. Katie Okon 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. Merrick moved and Mr. Harris seconded the motion that the Board move from Closed Session to Open Session. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

I. Minutes

Mr. Koch requested a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Myefski moved and Mr. Harris seconded the motion that the Board approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 19, 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. Cheryl Smith, Bob Soare and Nina Schroeder thanked the Board and Administration for all their time and effort spent on the Facilities Project and referendum. Gary Weitman, Kevin Yost, Sharon Kristjanson, Daniel Fox, Vanessa Rachmaninoff, Jane Bentham, Marcia Oley and Judith Offerle expressed their views regarding the failed referendum with some calling for Board and Administration resignations and others requesting increased community involvement in future surveys and planning. Mr. Koch thanked all the members for their statements and comments.

Agenda Item III.C. Referendum Report was presented at this time.

III. Special Orders of Business

A. Report from Campus Principals and Assistant Superintendents

Ms. Jan Borja, Principal of the Northfield Campus spoke to the Board and audience about the Communications portion of the meeting. She was deeply saddened by the tenor of many of the comments that had taken a turn toward personal attack rather than focusing on the issues. She feared the type of role modeling exhibited here for major conflict resolution was neither appropriate as an example for our students nor conducive to reaching a positive and productive solution.

Dr. Timothy Dohrer, Principal of the Winnetka Campus, reported on various activities, including the successful completion of the first semester and final exams; the beginning of second semester; and class scheduling for next year. Service events for earthquake relief in Haiti took place at the New Trier vs. Evanston Basketball game. "Hoops for Haiti" resulted in both schools coming together to benefit the survivors of the earthquake. Dr. Dohrer also commented on the successful Jazz Festival on February 6 which also collected funds to be sent for Haiti relief. The Senior Class service project continues to support Habitat for Humanity by building homes in North Chicago. The Turnabout Dance will be Saturday, February 20, sponsored by the Global Exchange Club and Winter Carnival is scheduled for Friday, February 26 at the Winnetka Campus. Dr. Dohrer noted the school climate survey will take place the week of March 8-12 and encouraged all students, staff and parents to participate.

Mr. Tim Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services reported that the Sophomore Advisories are selecting the various service agencies for their Service Learning Project in anticipation of the Sophomore Institute Days, April 28 and 29, whereby they will complete a service project.

Mr. Paul Sally, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction introduced the next agenda item, a presentation by Chris Johnson for the Technology Planning Committee.

B. Technology Planning Committee Presentation

Mr. Sally is co-chairing this committee with Mr. Johnson, as the focus now is for technology integration into the classroom for the 21st Century. The committee's new mission and purpose is to explore and research effective use of educational technology, evaluate New Trier technologies and make recommendations for expansion of educational technology. Mr. Johnson presented a video of lessons demonstrating effective use of technology in the classroom. The Technology Planning Committee spent time in their meetings discussing the educational benefits and wide scale implementation of initiatives within budget and facility limitations. Mr. Sally and Mr. Johnson responded to Board member's comments and questions. Ms. Serrino requested further information on how fast New Trier implements technology as a learning tool and to benchmark ourselves with other schools nationally. Mr. Dolinko also noted that comparisons should include the District sender schools as many already have one-to-one technology for their students. Additional technology discussion followed.

C. Referendum Report

Dr. Yonke reported the unofficial results of the February 2, 2010 Referendum. The question put before the voters of High School District Number 203 was:

“Shall the Board of Education of New Trier Township High School District Number 203, Cook County, Illinois, build and equip additions to; improve the site of; and alter, repair, equip and replace portions of the District’s buildings at the Winnetka Campus; and issue bonds of said School District to the amount of \$174,000,000 for the purpose of paying the costs thereof?”

The unofficial referendum results showed 62.95% of the votes were no and 37.05 % of votes were yes, in favor of the project. Dr. Yonke acknowledged the wide margin of the outcome and she indicated that the Board and Administration need to spend time listening and considering various options for addressing facility needs. There is a broad recognition of the facilities challenges at the Winnetka Campus, with pressing needs for maintenance and upkeep. Dr. Yonke noted the sizable number of emails and other communications received with specific suggestions for proceeding; she indicated appreciation for all the community input. She also noted the Official Canvass, to be completed by the Cook County Clerk’s office, will be released on February 23, 2010 and then will be presented at the Regular March Board meeting. Also at the March meeting, Dr. Yonke will present a report of next steps, with information from the Community Engagement Committee and Steering Committee.

Mr. Koch concurred with Dr. Yonke about the need to continue gathering information for the work ahead and affirmed that the Board has acted with a common faith, devotion and purpose and has always advocated in the spirit of education.

D. Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

Mr. Don Goers noted that the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report was presented at the last Board meeting, but was not noted as an action item. Mr. Goers presented the report to the Board for acceptance. Mr. Dolinko moved and Mr. Myefski seconded the motion that the Board accept the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2009. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

E. Investment Portfolio Review

The Board of Education Policy 4.40 requires periodic review of the investment portfolio and its effectiveness in meeting the school district’s need for safety, liquidity, rate of return, diversification and general performance. This review analyzes the investment portfolio for 2009. Mr. Goers explained details of the investments and commented that he feels the portfolio has performed extremely well in meeting the District’s needs. Mr. Don Goers presented an overview of the investment portfolio and responded to Board questions.

F. Scholarship Report Allocation

Mr. Goers reviewed the annual report of the Scholarship Trust Fund, prepared by Mr. Bernard Myszkowski of Dearborn Partners. He detailed the various asset allocations in the Money Market Fund, the Stock Fund, and the Bond Fund, and he explained the calculation used to determine this distribution. Based on this report Mr. Goers recommended approval of a maximum allocation of \$97,350.00 for scholarships for the 2010 graduation class. This is approximately a \$2,000 decrease compared to last year’s maximum allocation of \$99,461. Mr. Goers responded to Board member comments and questions. Mr. Merrick moved and Mr. Harris seconded the motion that the Board approve a maximum allocation of

\$97,350.00 for scholarships for the 2010 graduation class. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

G. Calendar 2010-2011

Dr. Yonke presented the 2010-2011 School Calendar for the Board's approval. She noted it was delayed in being presented to the Board pending the Referendum outcome. Dr. Yonke also presented the Calendar of Regular Board meetings for the 2010-2011 school year. Dr. Yonke invited questions of the Board members. Board discussion followed regarding calendar planning and all agreed as to the difficulty of the task, and that there is often little flexibility in how the calendar is structured. Mr. Myefski suggested that the Board establish a calendar committee. Mr. Harris moved and Mr. Dolinko seconded the motion that the Board approve the 2010-2011 School Calendar and the 2010-2011 Board of Education Regular Meeting Calendar as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Routine/Recurrent Items (consent agenda)

- Bill List for the Period, January 1 – 31, 2010

Mr. Goers presented the Bill List for the period January 1-31, 2010 and the Capital Projects Status Report. All but two Capital Projects are completed. The Bill List shows a tuition and final assessment payment to NSED for the facilities work; \$1,026,000 of this payment came from the ARRA (federal stimulus funds). The use of these one-time ARRA funds will allow a portion of the bond proceeds initially earmarked for the NSED facilities project to be used to pay back the debt for roughly the next five years rather than using operational funds. Mr. Merrick moved and Mr. Harris seconded the motion that the Board approve the Bill List for the period January 1-31, 2010 as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

V. Board Member Reports

Mr. Harris reported for the Booster Club on the success of their "Second City" fundraiser which achieved \$44,000.00 in net earnings. There were 1500 people in attendance and he commended and congratulated the event chairs, Deb Kerr and Eileen Noren for the fine job organizing and implementing the event. Logistics for parking were well orchestrated and Mr. Harris noted the combined efforts with Tim Dohrer's office that helped ensure a smooth operation.

Mr. Dolinko followed with his report on the Traffic and Parking Committee, noting the progress made in parking for special events at the school. Increased use of satellite lots at the Indian Hill Metra station and the Elder Lane Park has already made a positive impact. Mr. Dolinko also noted the benefit of using increased human resources during the peak traffic hours to manage pedestrian and vehicle traffic more effectively. He expressed hope that in light of future cost containment measures, these improvements could be maintained.

VI. Administrative Items

A. Personnel Report

Dr. Yonke presented the Personnel Report which included two appointments, seven leaves of absence, and several resignations and terminations. Dr. Yonke also noted the inclusion of the Side Letter of Agreement between the District and the Education Association regarding the addition of two days to the school year calendar for 2010-2011 in exchange for the District paying startup costs for a staff daycare center. Mr. Myefski moved and Mr. Dolinko seconded the motion to approve the Personnel Report as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

B. Budget Discussion

Mr. Goers provided follow-up to the January report on Budget Assumptions and Parameters. That report has been updated to reflect the actual 2009 CPI (Consumer Price Index). While this addition has a positive impact on the District's long range financial projections beginning in 2012, future CPI increases are uncertain and other sources of revenue are a concern. Current projections reflect a deficit for the 2010-2011 school year. The Cost-Containment Committee and the Administrative team will evaluate alternatives to assist in understanding the financial implications and impact on the District's programs. Final recommendations for cost containment will be presented at the March Regular Board meeting with the intent of eliminating the projected deficit. At the March meeting, a response to the auditor's recommendations regarding Internal Controls also will be presented to the Board.

C. Approval of Life Health Safety Submittals

Mr. Goers noted that John Neiweem and Dave Conway have worked closely with Perkins + Will and Pepper Construction to complete the Life Safety Amendment related to the renovations project at the Northfield Campus. The work items included in the \$4,452,336 Amendment are waterproofing repairs to the plaza deck, replacement of existing HVAC equipment for Buildings B and F, replacement of existing exhaust fans, and replacement of fire and smoke detection equipment. The Administration is also seeking approval of the Certification of Need for Fire Prevention and Safety Funds. In addition to the life safety bonds for Northfield, the District will need to issue approximately \$3.8 million in bonds, which represents the remaining portion of the \$7.6 million in Life Safety Amendments approved in 2008. Bonds have been sold for half that amount as work was delayed at the Winnetka Campus pending the decision on the major facilities project. The remaining projects at Winnetka include tuck-pointing exterior masonry on the North and Tower Buildings, Gaffney Auditorium, and Bickert Gyms; replacement of the Tower Building canopy roofs; repair of existing unit ventilator louvers; replacement of chilled water pumps, valves, and controls. Also included in the \$3.8 million is replacement of the Building F roof at the Northfield Campus. Mr. Goers responded to Board members' questions. Mr. Myefski moved and Mr. Harris seconded the motion that the Board approve the attached Certification of Need for Fire Prevention and Safety Funds. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

D. Bid Approval – Northfield B Building Doors & Hardware

Mr. Goers reviewed the contract award recommendation made by Pepper Construction for the doors, frames and hardware purchases of the Northfield renovations to the B Building. The budgeted estimate for the purchase was \$80,000. Pepper recommended re-use of 66 of the Stepan doors, providing a savings of

approximately \$15,000. Four companies submitted bids. MD Builders was selected with a proposal for \$73,813. Mr. Harris moved and Mr. Merrick seconded the motion that the Board approve the recommendation to award the Northfield Renovation Project's Supply of Doors, Frames & Hardware to MD Builders at a total cost of \$73,813. 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.

Mr. Goers noted the need for a special meeting between the March and April Regular Board meetings to facilitate processing other contracts for the Northfield Renovation Project in order to keep the project on schedule.

E. Contract Approval – Day Care Provider

Dr. Yonke introduced Mr. George Sanders, Director of Human Resources, who worked with the Day Care Committee and Administrators to select a provider for the new Daycare Center. The Center will be located in the B Building of the Northfield Campus. The District and the Faculty Association have sought to establish a daycare facility for faculty and staff for the past sixteen years. This topic was discussed during the last contract negotiations between the District and the Faculty Association and resulted in the Side Letter agreement which states that the faculty will work two additional days during the 2010-11 school year.

A comprehensive process was used in the selection of a daycare provider, with four vendors submitting RFPs and participating in the interview process. Committee members included representatives from the faculty and support staff as well as the administration. After initial examination of proposals, interviews were conducted and committee members visited area daycare centers managed by the four vendors. Bright Horizons emerged as the clear first choice. Mr. Sanders thanked the committee, including Jacquie Gnant and Jessica Don who were in the audience. Mr. Dolinko moved and Mr. Merrick seconded the motion that the Board approve the selection of Bright Horizons as the New Trier High School staff daycare vendor, subject to final contract approval by the Associate Superintendent and legal counsel. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Business Reports

- *Financial Reports for January 2010*

Mr. Goers reviewed the financial reports for the month of January 2010 and invited questions from the Board. No questions were raised.

VIII. Board of Education

- **Calendar of Events**

Dr. Yonke also reported the Turnabout Dance is on February 20. No other special events were noted.

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

Ms. Serrino inquired about a previous request for research for the GPA/Naviance reporting for junior students applying to colleges. Mr. Sally responded that indeed work has been progressing on this issue and further study with Jim Conroy of the Post High School Counseling Department will continue. He noted that a meeting was scheduled for next week.

IX. Communications – Citizens’ Comments

Mr. Koch invited any additional citizen comments at this time.

Adjournment

Mr. Dolinko moved and Mr. Merrick seconded the motion that the meeting be adjourned.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Koch adjourned the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

James B. Koch, President