

**NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203
SPECIAL WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
December 3, 2012
New Trier Township High School
7 Happ Road, Room C234
Northfield, IL 60093
Open Session – 6:00 p.m.**

A **Special Workshop Meeting** of the Board of Education of New Trier Township High School District 203, 7 Happ Road, Room C234, Monday, December 3, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present

Mr. Alan R. Dolinko, President
Mr. F. Malcolm Harris, Vice President
Ms. Carol F. Ducommun
Mr. Peter Fischer
Ms. Lori Goldstein
Mr. John Myefski
Mr. Patrick O'Donoghue

Administrator Present

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

Also Present

Ms. Niki Dizon, Director of Communications; Mr. George Sanders, Director of Human Resources; Ms. Ellen Ambuehl, Director of Special Education; Mr. Christopher Johnson, Director of Technology; Ms. Denise Hibbard, Assistant Principal, Northfield Campus; Mr. Matt Ottaviano, Assistant Principal for Student Services, Winnetka Campus; Ms. Athena Arvanitis, Director of Student Life; Mrs. Linda Knier, Director of Academic Services; Mr. Randy Oberembt, Athletic Director; Mr. Chris Wildman, Director of Business Services; Mr. Terry Phillips, NTEA President, Mathematics Department; Ms. Stacy Kolack, Director of Student Activities, Winnetka Campus; Mr. Dan Gross, Activities Coordinator, Northfield Campus; Ms. Nina Lynn, Speech & Theatre Department Chair; Ms. Anne James-Noonan, Performing Arts Coordinator; Mr. Greg Robitaille, Finance Committee member; Bruce Lyon, Finance Committee member; Mr. John Huston, Chicago Tribune; and other members of the Community and Press.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Dolinko called the Special Meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Roll call was taken. All members were present. Mr. Dolinko briefly reviewed the history of student fees and proposed the conversation should focus on the larger issues of beliefs, principles, and concepts.

II. Student Fee Discussion

Dr. Yonke began the discussion by posing three questions to the Board: 1) What are your beliefs about school fees? 2) What principles should guide decision making about how fees are assessed? and 3) Is the current fee structure consistent with the articulated beliefs and principles; if not, how can the fee structure be changed to more accurately reflect those beliefs? Dr. Yonke noted the materials, prepared by the administrative team, provide information on student fees currently in place at New Trier, a comparison of area High School student fees, and a fee schedule of the township district sender schools. The New Trier information is divided into categories of General, Curricular Special, Curricular, Extracurricular, Testing/Assessment, Transportation/Parking and Other (publications and graduation party). Total fee revenue generated last year was \$1,482,449, which includes fees collected for the Parent's Association and some sales items such as Yearbooks. Discussion followed with Board members weighing in on which fees were acceptable to be included and which costs should be considered to be a standard part of the curricular program and paid by the District. Most members agreed that student fee assessments were inconsistent and a fresh approach was needed. Each board member talked about their beliefs about costs that should be included in the regular District budget and costs that could be assumed by the "users," or students who are accessing extracurricular or special programs. On balance, the Board agreed that any changes should be

revenue neutral, and that curricular costs should be part of the regular District budget. The Board also came to consensus that they did not want to implement a “pay-to-play” program, but preferred smaller fees that provide all students access to all extracurricular programs and attendance at most events without paying admission or an added participation fee. Mr. Dolinko suggested that the guiding principles for making any changes should be equity, fairness and simplicity. In general terms the Board members were in favor of the District paying all costs that pertained to curriculum, while extracurricular and club activity fees could be assessed to students. The administration will present a proposal, based on the principles outlined by the Board, at either another Special Meeting or the Regular Meeting this winter.

III. ADJOURN

Mr. Dolinko requested a motion to adjourn. Mr. O’Donoghue moved and Ms. Ducommun seconded the motion to adjourn. Upon a voice vote, all members were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

Alan R. Dolinko, President