

**NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
September 18, 2012
New Trier Township High School
7 Happ Road, Room C234
Northfield, IL 60093**

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, Room C234 on Tuesday, September 18, 2012 at 7:30 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

Administrators Present

Dr. Linda L. Yonke, Superintendent
Mr. Donald Goers, Associate Superintendent
Mr. Timothy Hayes, Assistant Superintendent
for Student Services
Mr. Paul Sally, Assistant Superintendent for
Curriculum & Instruction
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; Mr. Matt Ottaviano, Assistant Principal, Winnetka Campus; Mrs. Linda Knier, Director of Academic Services; Ms. Denise Hibbard, Assistant Principal, Northfield Campus; Mr. Christopher Wildman, Director of Business Services; Ms. Athena Arvanitis, Director of Student Life; Mr. Terry Phillips, Mathematics Department, NTEA President; Mr. Erik Saszik, Mathematics Department, NTEA President-Elect; Mr. Marty Laffey, Mathematics Department, NTEA Past President; Ms. Elizabeth Blodgett, Business Services, NTESPA Co-President; Mrs. Kathy Heublein, Social Studies & English Department Support Staff, NTESPA Co-President; Ms. Mary Ann Apple, Technology Department, NTESPA Negotiating Team; Ms. Pamela Asplund, Technology Department, NTESPA Negotiating Team; Ms. Jenny Wexler, Mathematics Department; Mr. Mark Onstott, Kinetic Wellness Department; Ms. Judy Macnab, Library Department Chair; Mr. Todd Bowen, Modern & Classical Languages Department Chair; Ms. Judy Gressel, Library Department; Ms. Anne James Noonan, Performing Arts Coordinator; Mr. Josh Wenger, Aramark; members of the press and members of the community.

BUSINESS MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Dolinko called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to Order at 7:31 p.m. Roll call was taken. All members were present. Mr. Dolinko welcomed those in attendances, and noted that if anyone wished to address the Board, he or she needed to fill out a Communications Request Form found on the table at the back of the room and pass it up to the Board table.

II. Closed Session – No Closed Session— C234

No Closed Session was held this evening.

IV. Minutes

Mr. Dolinko requested a motion to approve the minutes of the August and September meetings. Mr. Fischer moved and Mr. Harris seconded the motion to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on August 20, 2012, open session and closed sessions; and the Special Meeting of September 4, 2012, open session. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Mr. Fischer, Ms. Goldstein, Mr. Harris, Mr. Myefski, Mr. O'Donoghue, Ms. Ducommun, Mr. Dolinko

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

V. Communications

Mr. Dolinko invited members of the Community to share their comments with the Board. Ms. Mary Ann Apple and Ms. Pamela Asplund addressed the Board to introduce the NTESPA negotiating team and thank the Board and Administration for the successful contract negotiations which culminated in a new four-year agreement.

VI. Special Orders of Business

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

Mr. Paul Waechtler, Principal of the Northfield Campus, reviewed the various activities marking the start of the new school year, which included various orientation events. He noted that there will be a Student Activities Fair on Wednesday, September 19 inviting freshmen to consider participation in clubs and other school activities. The Freshman Mixer is scheduled for October 3 and the Freshman-Go-To-School Night is on October 4.

Dr. Timothy Dohrer, Principal of the Winnetka Campus, reported on some of the transition events for sophomores and their parents to orient them to the east campus activities and culture. An Activities Fair similar to the one at Northfield offered hundreds of students the opportunity to seek out clubs and other interests for after school participation. Dr. Dohrer also noted the kick-off meeting of the ECGC (Ethical Conduct & Global Citizenship) Parent committee which sponsored a book discussion of Madeleine Levine's book, *Teach Your Children Well*.

Mr. Timothy Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, noted the first meetings of a number of committees which will meet monthly for the remainder of the school year, including the Equity Team, the student "Voices in Equity" committees on both campuses, and the All School Wellness committee of students, parents and staff. He highlighted that author Brene Brown will be speaking in the Cornog Auditorium on October 10 at 7:00 p.m. about her new book, "Daring Greatly: How the Courage to be Vulnerable Transforms the way we Live, Love, Parent and Lead", sponsored by ECGC and FAN. Mr. Hayes also reported on the township meetings of the sender school principals to continue the conversation about Social and Emotional Learning and to seek ways to promote it among all the township schools.

Mr. Paul Sally, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, reported on the monthly meetings of the township curriculum directors who are currently discussing the Common Core Standards and the new state testing. Mr. Sally felt the meetings were valuable for sharing ideas and trends in both the junior highs and the high school. Other ongoing work in curriculum concerns the New Course Proposals and the Profile Report. New courses will be presented in October and the Profile Report will be presented in November.

Mr. Don Goers reported on three FOIA requests that had been received since the last Regular Board of Education meeting. The first involved a request for information about legal fees incurred by the District that resulted from a personnel matter; the second request was for information on a Bill List that had been approved by the Board; and the last request was for New Trier graduate information on colleges attended, ACT scores and Grade Point Averages. The third request was denied as reports of those kind do not exist and due to privacy issues. The other two requests were fulfilled. All requests have been responded to and there are no outstanding FOIA requests at this time.

B. Lagniappe/Potpourri Presentation

Performing Arts Coordinator Anne James Noonan introduced New Trier students Emma Wold and Leah Neustadt as co-producers of this year's Lagniappe/Potpourri production, "Spoiler Alert." The two senior students explained the many facets of producing an all student show which included selecting a Board, designers, directors, choreographers, composers, writers, cast, and crew. Meetings begin in March of the previous year and run through tech week, dress rehearsal, and performance in October. Over 170 students are involved in Lagniappe, with 9 adult sponsors. The co-producers were most grateful for the opportunity

for students to step up and lead in every area of the production. Ms. Wold and Ms. Neidham responded to Board members' comments and questions. The Lagniappe/Potpourri production will take place on October 17, 18, and 19 at 7:30p.m. in the Gaffney Auditorium at the Winnetka Campus.

C. Foreign Exchange Students

Ms. Athena Arvanitis oversees New Trier's Foreign Exchange Program and introduced this year's four exchange students. *Ms. Jennifer Zahl* from Germany, is living with host family Nicolas & Toni Stapel; *Mr. Marosh Petro* from Slovakia, is living with host family Ron & Jackie Pomerantz; *Ms. Caroline Hvass* from Denmark, is living with host family Matthew & Charlotte Walker; and *Mr. Rafael Gomes da Silva* from Brazil, is living with host family Chris & Kathy Tucker. Ms. Arvanitis thanked the Board and the host families and also the Global Exchange Club which provides extra assistance to the students to help them feel welcome.

D. Mobile Learning Initiative Update

Dr. Yonke introduced this report with a brief overview of the pilot program approved by the Board last year. This year's program includes over 600 students. Mr. Christopher Johnson, Director of Technology reported that the Mobile Learning Initiative was off to a strong start thanks to the teachers, technology staff and students working over the summer. Planning for this year's pilot began last March with professional development work and solicitation of teacher proposals. After the participating teachers and students were selected, communication with the families was a key component and over 500 students came in over the summer to receive training on the iPad. The initiative includes a Student Technology Leadership Program whereby students support and train other students with the iPad and iPad related projects. Mr. Johnson noted that evaluation and assessment is also part of the program and early survey results show positive reception and strong enthusiasm on the part of the faculty. 90.4% of the non-participating faculty responded that they would allow students to use the iPads in their classes.

New Trier students James Resko and Elizabeth Lee, both members of the Student Technology Leadership Program, presented their own testimonials regarding their experiences with the iPad pilot program. Mr. Resko, Ms. Lee, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Sally responded to Board members' comments and questions.

E. Teacher Leader Presentation

Mr. Paul Sally, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, presented a report on New Trier teachers involved in professional leadership activities outside of New Trier. The first such report was presented to the Board in May 2011. This year's report documents more than sixty faculty who contributed their professional leadership to local, state and national organizations during the 2011-2012 school year. The report shows that at the local level, some staff members serve in a consulting role with other school districts. At the state and national level, our teachers belong to professional organizations, taking on leadership positions through their service on committees or other roles. These professional organizations provide opportunities to collaborate, hear new ideas and practices relevant to the field, set ethical standards, and establish state and national goals for their specific area of education. Some also contribute to the knowledge in their field by writing articles or books and presenting at conferences. Mr. Todd Bowen of the Modern Classical Languages Department, Ms. Jenny Wexler of the Mathematics Department, and Mr. Mark Onstott of the Kinetic Wellness Department shared their experiences of their involvement in national organizations, state and national test development and grading, regional conferences, and state assemblies. They expressed their gratitude to the Board for the opportunities to participate and the value it brings back to New Trier. Additional comments from Mr. Tim Hayes, Dr. Yonke and Board members reiterated the impressive and unusual opportunities this type of professional development affords the New Trier community.

VII. Administrative Items

A. August Financial Reports

Mr. Don Goers presented the August Financial Reports which were brief as this is only the second month of the new fiscal year. The Cash Flow position for 2012-13 is good due to the early collection of property taxes; however, as the year progresses the budgetary picture will be more complete. Mr. Goers also noted that the current investments rate of return is relatively low, below .8%. October's reports will provide more information along with budget comparisons.

B. Summer School Report

Ms. Athena Arvanitis, Director of Student Life, reviewed the mechanics of the Summer School program noting the variety of course offerings. Enrollment for summer school continues to trend up with approximately 45.5% of the total student body taking summer classes, mostly in the two areas of sports and science. The summer travel program took students to China, Ecuador, France, England, and the Rocky Mountains. The online registration process is running smoothly with 91% of registrations processed through the Summer School Web-store. A tuition increase of 2.7% is recommended for next year to match the CPI. Changes for next year include some new course proposals which will be brought to the Board for approval. Facility use will be changed for the summer to include the new turf for the benefit of the over 1500 students enrolled in the summer sports programs. Ms. Arvanitis responded to Board members' comments and questions. Discussion included the topics of salaries and benefits, driver's education, enrollment figures, and a request to hear about the travel programs in the spring before the trips begin.

VIII. Consent Agenda

- Bill List for the Period August 1-31, 2012
- Personnel Report

Mr. Dolinko asked if any Board member wished to remove any item for separate discussion. No one asked for further discussion. Mr. Myefski moved that the Board approve the Consent Agenda items which include the Bill List for August 1-31, 2012 as presented and amended and the Personnel Report as presented. Mr. Harris seconded the motion and the amended motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Ms. Goldstein, Mr. Harris, Mr. Myefski, Mr. O'Donoghue, Ms. Ducommun, Mr. Fischer, Mr. Dolinko

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Board Member Reports

Mr. Myefski attended the first meeting of the year for the All School Forum. He is very excited about its program and anticipates lively discussion when the students arrive. The Facilities Steering Committee met and will continue to look at facility issues at the campuses. The Finance Committee will also continue the fee discussions from last year. The Technology Committee has not yet begun their meeting schedule.

Mr. Harris noted that he had missed the Booster Club meeting; however, he did attend the dedication of the new turf field. He applauded the ceremony and the participation by all constituencies including Booster representatives, administration, Board members, Athletic Department representatives, the Turf Committee, and the engineers and contractors. Mr. Harris considered it a meaningful opportunity to celebrate everyone's accomplishments and to dedicate the new field. Dr. Tim Dohrer relayed the enthusiasm that the teams and coaches are experiencing at being able to play on the new field.

Ms. Ducommun noted she was also looking forward to the start-up of the Facilities Steering Committee and the Communications Committee which will be reviewing the Annual Report that will be published soon. Reporting for the Parents' Association, she noted the smooth transition of the officers for this year, Co-Presidents Ronna Gordon and Betsy Helmer. She highlighted speakers and events sponsored by the Parents' Association and encouraged checking the Association website for current information.

Ms. Goldstein reported for the ECGC Parent Committee meeting. New Trier Social Worker, A.J. Gomberg led a discussion on transitions. She also reported for the New Trier Fine Arts Association with their many activities. They will be providing a Fine Arts- Faculty luncheon in October and the fall play "Laughing Stock" will be performed after Lagniappe on October 24-26 in the Cornog Auditorium. Ms. Goldstein noted that the NSEED is discussing increasing their reserves and are following the Pension Reform Act in evaluating their administrators.

Mr. Fischer also attended the All School Forum meeting with Mr. Myefski. He noted that the New Trier Education Foundation will have their meeting Monday, September 24 and will be discussing their budget and the success of the fall benefit Golf Outing.

X. Board Members' Calendar of Events

- Calendar of Events

Dr. Yonke reviewed the numerous events taking place before the next regular Board meeting on October 15. The first paired early dismissal/late arrival days are scheduled for Friday, September 21 and Monday, September 24. The Yom Kippur School Holiday falls on Wednesday, September 26. On Thursday, Sept 27th Paul Tough will speak on his book "Beyond Smart: How Grit, Curiosity and Character Help Children and Teens Succeed" at 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Cornog Auditorium. Freshman-Go-To-School is on Thursday, October 4. The Superintendents, Principals and Technology Directors of the 21st Century Benchmark Consortium will be meeting in Palo Alto, California on October 3-5. In addition to tours and meetings of the Palo Alto High Schools there will also be a tour at the Google corporate offices. Homecoming weekend is October 12-13 which includes the Parents' Association Tailgate Party and the Staff picnic. The Literary Festival will take place at the Winnetka Campus on Friday, Oct. 12. Ms. Ducommun noted that a District Dialogue is scheduled for October 17 at Sidley & Austin in downtown Chicago.

- Board Members' Request for Staff Research and Future Agenda Items

There were no requests for staff research or agenda items.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

Alan R. Dolinko, President