

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

May 20, 2013

New Trier Township High School

7 Happ Road, Room C234

Northfield, IL 60093

Open Session – 7:30 p.m.

A **Regular Meeting** of the Board of Education of New Trier Township High School District 203,
7 Happ Road, Room C234, Monday, May 20, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.

Members Present

Mr. Alan R. Dolinko, President

Mr. Peter Fischer

Ms. Lori Goldstein

Mr. John Myefski

Mr. Greg Robitaille

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

Members Absent

Mr. F. Malcolm Harris, Vice President

Mr. Patrick O'Donoghue

Also Present

Ms. Niki Dizon, Director of Communications; Mr. George Sanders, Director of Human Resources; Ms. Ellen Ambuehl, Director of Special Education; Mr. Christopher Wildman, Director of Business Services; Ms. Denise Hibbard, Assistant Principal, Northfield Campus; Mr. Matt Ottaviano, Assistant Principal for Student Services, Winnetka Campus; Ms. Katherine Schindler, Assistant Principal for Student Services; Ms. Athena Arvanitis, Director of Student Life; Mrs. Linda Knier, Director of Academic Services; Mr. Christopher Johnson, Director of Technology Department; Ms. Judy MacNab, Library Department Chair; Mr. Erik Saszik, Mathematics Department; Mr. Terry Phillips, President of the New Trier Township Education Association and Mathematics Department; Ms. Judy Gressel, Library Department; Mr. Peter Tragos, Social Studies Department; Mr. Dean Pinos, Social Studies Department Coordinator; Mr. Rob Forest, Social Studies Department; Mr. Alex Klein, Social Studies Department; Ms. Andrea Levin, Social Studies Department; Ms. Kerry Brennan, Social Studies Department; Mr. Kerry Hall, Social Studies Department; Mr. Tom Kucharski, Social Studies Department; Mr. Gary Schubert, Modern & Classical Languages Department; Mr. Paul Easton, English Department; Ms. Kay Pothast, Kinetic Wellness Department; Mr. Marty Laffey, Mathematics Department; Mr. Steve Drajpuch, Social Studies Department; Ms. Jenny Wexler, Mathematics Department; Ms. Joan Liess, Health Services Department; Mr. Wes Molyneaux, Science Department; Ms. Tiffany Myers, Social Work Department Coordinator; Mr. Marc Garneau, Business Education Department; Ms. Deborah Lazar, Library Department; Ms. Mary Lappan, Mathematics Department; Mr. James Burnside, Science Department; Mr. Todd Maxman, Social Studies Department; Ms. Elizabeth Blodgett, Co-President, NTESPA; Ms. Sheri Donovan, Science Department; Ms. Pam Beavin, Modern and Classical Languages; Ms. Mary Beth Barrett, Science Department; Mr. John O'Connor, English Department; Mr. Dan Lawler, English Department; Ms. Robin Ward, Science Department Coordinator; Mr. Paul Kermgard, Special Education Department; Ms. Julia Kessel, Modern and Classical Languages Department; Ms. Kay Boling, Special Education Department; Mr. Dan Gross, Activities Coordinator, Northfield Campus and Special Education Department; Mr. Josh Wenger, Aramark; Mr. Gary Petersen, Wilmette Beacon; Mr. Greg Trotter, *Chicago Tribune*; Mr. Steve Schering, *Pioneer Press*; and other members of the School, Community and Press.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Dolinko called the Special Meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. and welcomed members of the audience and community. Roll call was taken. Mr. Harris and Mr. O’Donoghue were absent; all other members were present.

II. Closed Session – NO CLOSED SESSION

III. BUSINESS MEETING – Open Session

IV. Minutes

Mr. Fischer moved that the Board approve the minutes of the Special meeting of May 1, 2013, open session. Ms. Goldstein seconded the motion. Upon a roll call being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Ms. Goldstein, Mr. Myefski, Mr. Robitaille, Mr. Fischer, 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 Rita Kropp shared her thoughts on the expansion of the iPad pilot program. Ms. Kropp expressed concern about the cost of the iPad, and asked what would happen if families refused to purchase the technology. She questioned the need for iPads in the classroom, and was particularly concerned about the additional burden to families who have to purchase more than one iPad.

VI. Special Orders of Business

Dr. Yonke announced the recommendation to appoint Peter Tragos as the Assistant Principal of the Freshman Campus. He is replacing Denise Hibbard who is changing positions to Principal of the Winnetka Campus. She highlighted Mr. Tragos’s extensive experience and the leadership roles he has held, and welcomed him to the Administrative Team.

A. Report from Campus Principals, Assistant Superintendents and FOIA Requests

Mr. Paul Waechtler shared information of events at the freshman campus which included a successful fund raising walk and pancake breakfast for the India Service Project, “After the Academics” on May 6 which introduces students to the many extracurricular activity opportunities, Shakespeare Day and finals.

Dr. Timothy Dohrer listed the numerous events at the Winnetka campus which included Spring Fest; the Ari Chester Memorial Softball Game on May 1; the Greg Harris Film Fest on May 2; completion of the AP exams; the Junior Awards ceremony; the spring play, ‘Comedia’ on May 8-10; the Spring Music Fest on May 15; the Spring Plays Festival the week of May 13; and the rededication of the Memorial Garden at Winnetka on Saturday, May 18. Dr. Dohrer also highlighted the activities for the senior class that includes the Habitat for Humanity senior gift; AP Art Show on May 21; the Senior Project Exhibition on Thursday, May 23; and *Trevia* Day and the last day for seniors on Friday, May 24; Commencement rehearsal on Friday, May 31; and Commencement on Sunday, June 2.

Mr. Timothy Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services reported on the transitioning time when this year’s initiatives are wrapping up with pot luck lunches and good-bye parties as well as looking forward to next year’s work and planning further progress in social and emotional learning.

Mr. Paul Sally, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, reiterated the importance of Senior Projects Exhibition and the learning opportunities that the program affords to our students. Mr. Sally also acknowledged the work being done on student growth and learning as part of the Supervision and Evaluation plan. There is great interest from teachers in piloting a program on measuring student learning and teacher practices. Mr. Sally noted the continuing efforts of the Mobile

Learning Initiative to reach out to parents to answer their questions as well as to present the benefits and opportunities of the iPad program.

Mr. Don Goers, Associate Superintendent reported that he has received two FOIA requests since the last Regular meeting of the Board. The first was a commercial request for actuarial information and the second was a request for information on the number of New Trier students that live in Wilmette. Both requests have been responded to and are closed out. Mr. Dolinko asked if there were any outstanding FOIA requests at this time. Mr. Goers reported that there were none.

B. Foreign Exchange Students

Foreign Exchange Students, *Jennifer Zahl, Marosh Petro, Rafael Gomes da Silva* and *Caroline Hvass* returned to the Board to thank them, their host families and Ms. Arvanitis for the opportunity to study at New Trier. The students were excited about the course offerings, clubs and athletic teams they experienced over this past academic year. Dr. Yonke and Ms. Arvanitis (who manages the program), commended the host families for their important role in making the experience such a success for the students.

C. New Textbook Adoptions

Dr. Yonke prefaced the textbook report by noting that the present adoptions are for print textbooks. The e-book adoptions will be addressed at the June Regular Board meeting. Mr. Sally reviewed the nine books presented from the Applied Arts, English, Science and Social Studies Departments. The books have been on display at the Northfield campus Board Conference room. He noted the small number of books presented which he attributes to the rise in e-book usage. He highlighted the two costliest books, the *Earth Science* textbook for the new Environmental Geoscience class and the Social Studies US History, Level 3 textbook, noting their availability in e-book form also. Mr. Sally invited questions and comments from the Board and responded to them. Board member queries and discussion included appreciation for cost sensitivity as well as the positive curriculum impact of the new textbooks. Mr. Myefski moved that the Board approve the new textbook adoptions as presented. Mr. Fischer seconded the motion. Upon a roll call being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Mr. Myefski, Mr. Robitaille, Mr. Fischer, Ms. Goldstein, Mr. Dolinko

NAY: None.

The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Administrative Items

A. Financial Reports for April 2013

Mr. Don Goers summarized the Financial Reports for April noting the Cash Flow statements to be in line with our position last year. He noted the tax revenues are a little behind comparatively which may be due to an increase in tax refunds. He does expect, however, to be under Budget on the expenditure side. Mr. Goers responded to Board members' comments and questions.

B. Preliminary Budget

Mr. Goers presented a Preliminary Budget report that showed little actual change from the Assumptions and Parameters report in April. He again noted the three greatest variables to be faculty salaries and benefits, state and federal revenue, and legislative action in Springfield on pension reform. The baseball netting project with the Winnetka Park District was budgeted and approved at \$58,000 may be postponed and will likely increase by \$40,000. Dr. Yonke noted that this will be discussed in detail as an agenda item at the June Regular Board meeting. Mr. Goers pointed out that the Tentative Budget is planned for presentation at the July or August Board meeting to be followed up with the Final Budget presentation in September. This schedule would allow for Ms. Witham to become familiar with the District's budgeting process before the Final Budget approval.

C. Post-Issuance Compliance Report

Mr. Goers reviewed the Board's Bond Resolution from March 2012 that included a section regarding "Record-Keeping Policy and Post-Issuance Compliance Matters." This section is to provide assurance to the Board that the District is maintaining sufficient records to demonstrate compliance with its covenant to ensure that the appropriate federal tax status for bonds and other debt obligations for the District are continued. Mr. Goers, as the District's Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer, has performed a compliance review with assistance of Chapman and Cutler, and has found that the District is in compliance at this time. Further, the IRS has not commenced an examination of any issue of Tax Advantaged Obligations nor has the agency requested a response to a compliance check. Mr. Goers does note that the 2010 Health Life Safety Bond Issue included the renovation of Building B. This project does include the private enterprise of the child day care center, Bright Horizons, which exceeds 5% of the Building B renovations. To insure that the District's bonds do not become taxable private activity bonds, the District must avoid receiving private payments through the life of the Bonds. To date, the District has not received, and does not expect to receive, any private payments in respect of bond-financed property during at least the life of this bond issue. Board discussion followed on the child day care center. Mr. Goers also noted that through the process of reviewing the Bonds, the District and Board will sign off on all the completed Health Life Safety Amendments to date as part of the Consent Agenda.

VIII. Consent Agenda

- Bill List for the Period, April 1-30, 2013
- Personnel Report
- IASB Annual Dues
- Appointment of Treasurer
- Statement of Completion – Life Health Safety Amendments
- Board Member Committee / Liaison Assignments

Mr. Dolinko asked if any Board member wished to remove any items of the Consent Agenda for separate discussion. Ms. Goldstein asked for a clarification on the Life Health Safety Amendments. Mr. Goers responded by explaining the process of the Life Health Safety projects and the areas they addressed. There were no other requests for discussion. Mr. Fisher moved that the Board approve the Consent Agenda items which included the Bill List for April 1-30, 2013, the Personnel Report, the IASB Annual Dues, the Appointment of Treasurer, and the Statements of Completion of Life Health Safety Amendments and the Board Member Committee /Liaison Assignments. Ms. Goldstein seconded the motion.

Upon a roll call being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Mr. Robitaille, Mr. Fischer, Ms. Goldstein, Mr. Myefski, Mr. Dolinko

NAY: None.

The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Board Member Reports

Mr. Fischer reported for the *New Trier Education Foundation* that the Executive Committee met and discussed their fundraising events. The Alumni Achievement Awards Banquet exceeded the event goals and was very successful. The next Foundation event is the Golf Outing on September 9. Discussions also included other fundraising events that could alternate years with the Alumni dinner, which is now on a two year cycle. The *All School Forum* met with a panel of recent graduates to discuss their preparedness for college and college life. The *School Safety Committee* met and will soon recommend concrete suggestions to the Board for increased security. Many of these suggestions are at minimal or no cost.

Ms. Goldstein shared information on the *ECGC* (Expanding Conversation Growing Community) Parent Committee which met for a presentation on All School Wellness. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey was

reviewed along with the corresponding goals for the next five years. The parents commended both principals for attending all the ECGC parent meetings and thanked them their excellent communication with parents. The *Fine Arts Committee* thanked Dr. Dohrer for the email blast which aided their fundraising. Summer School Scholarships were announced and presented to sixteen students. The Committee continues to meet to discuss with the Board and District concerning the renovations for the Cornog Auditorium. Ms. Goldstein noted the Vocal Jazz Concert will be May 21, the Co-op Review is on Thursday, May 23, and the Commencement Concert on May 31. She highlighted the High Five Choir Concert on May 10. The NSSED reviewed and evaluated their goals from last year to create a new Parent Advisory Team for ELS and a new Parent Leadership for the North Shore Academy. They have also amended their by-laws to be more flexible in appointing a superintendent for their executive board.

Mr. Robitaille attended the *Traffic & Parking* Winnetka Neighborhood meeting hosted by Dr. Dohrer and Dr. Yonke on May 14. He noted the meeting was well attended and the neighbors are very appreciative of Dr. Dohrer's efforts over the last five years. The neighbors are thrilled with the level of communication, and collaborative work has continued to improve traffic and parking issues at the Winnetka campus. Mr. Dolinko also commended the Winnetka Police Department for an increase in partnership with the school and the neighbors to improve the parking situation.

Mr. Myefski reported for the *Facilities Steering Committee* which met last week. He noted there will be discussion at the June meeting on Facilities as the committee is seeking Board input for discerning next directions for the Steering Committee. He also expressed a desire to change the name of the Facilities Steering Committee, as the name is too similar to the Facilities Committee and causes much confusion.

X. Board of Education Calendar of Events

Dr. Yonke expressed thanks and appreciation to Mike Napoleon, Randy Oberembt and Steve Linke for all their time and efforts on behalf of the District for the Duke Child's Baseball netting project. Recommendations have been made regarding changes to the netting around the field as well as landscaping which will enhance the appearance of the project. Changes to this capital project (approved in April 2012) will be presented to the Board at the June meeting.

In addition to the baseball field netting project, Dr. Yonke will be attending a Winnetka Village Council meeting on May 21 during which there will be a debate about cost cutting measures for their storm water project. While the \$1.5 million in cuts would save on costs for the total project, it would not alleviate flooding at the Winnetka Avenue viaduct; flooding at the viaduct, which is a major artery into the Winnetka Campus, inhibits New Trier's ability to function normally. Dr. Yonke plans to attend the meeting to express the hardship this would bring on the 3500 students and staff that travel the area daily.

Dr. Yonke noted the last day for seniors will be Friday, May 24; the New Trier Fine Arts Reception is on May 28 at 4:00 p.m.; Memorial Day is next Monday, May 27; Commencement is on Sunday, June 2 at 5:00 p.m.; the next Board of Education meeting is on Monday, June 3, which will also have the end of the year Student/Staff Board Recognition Program; the last day of student attendance is Friday, June 7; and the first day of Summer School is Monday, June 10.

Mr. Myefski expressed his appreciation of the District's involvement on these zoning issues and supported Dr. Yonke's appearance at the village meeting, noting the fiscal benefits of working together.

There were no requests for staff research, nor any new suggested future agenda items.

IV. Adjournment

Mr. Fischer moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Robitaille seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote being taken, all voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Dolinko adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

Alan R. Dolinko, President