

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

**June 9, 2014**

**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, and Room C234 on Monday, June 9, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

**Members Present**

Mr. Alan R. Dolinko, President  
Mr. F. Malcolm Harris, Vice President  
Ms. Lori Goldstein  
Mr. John Myefski  
Mr. Patrick O’Donoghue  
Mr. Greg Robitaille

**Administrators Present**

Dr. Linda L. Yonke, Superintendent  
Ms. Cheryl Witham, Assistant Superintendent  
for Finance & Operations  
Mr. Timothy Hayes, Assistant Superintendent  
for Student Services  
Mr. Paul Sally, Assistant Superintendent  
for Curriculum & Instruction  
Ms. Denise Hibbard, Principal –  
Winnetka Campus  
Mr. Paul Waechtler, Principal –  
Northfield Campus

**Members Absent**

Mr. Peter Fischer

**Also Present**

Ms. Niki Dizon, Director of Communications; Mr. George Sanders, Director of Human Resources; Ms. Ellen Ambuehl, Director of Special Education; Mrs. Linda Knier, Director of Academic Services; Mr. Gerry Munley, Assistant Principal, Winnetka Campus; Mr. Peter Tragos, Assistant Principal, Northfield Campus; Mr. Matt Ottaviano, Assistant Principal Winnetka Campus; Ms. Athena Arvanitis, Director of Student Life; Mr. Christopher Johnson, Director of Technology; Mr. Christopher Wildman, Director of Business Services; Mr. Steve Linke, Plant Operations Manager for the Winnetka Campus; Mr. Dave Conway, Plant Operations Manager for the Northfield Campus; Mr. Todd Maxman, Social Studies Department; Ms. Lindsey Arado, Social Studies Department; Mr. Eric Saszik, Mathematics Department, President, NTEA; Mr. Josh Wenger, ARAMARK Manager; Mr. David Powell, Wight & Co.; Mr. Kevin Havens, Wight & Co.; Mr. Peter Brown, Wight & Co.; Mr. Brad Paulsen, Wight & Co.; Mr. Scott Flanagan, Wight & Co.; Mr. Rob Martinelli, Pepper Construction; Mr. Jay Ripsky, Pepper Construction; Ms. Karen Ann Cullotta, Chicago Tribune; Mr. Steve Schering, Pioneer Press; and other members of the faculty, press, and community.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

**I. CALL TO ORDER – 6:00 p.m.**

Mr. Dolinko called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of June 9, 2014 to order at 6:01 p.m. Roll call was taken. All members were present except Mr. Peter Fischer and Mr. Myefski. Mr. Dolinko asked for a motion to move to Closed Session. Mr. O’Donoghue moved and Ms. Goldstein seconded the motion that the Board adjourn to closed session for the purpose of discussing the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity; and for the purpose of collective negotiation matters between the District and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Mr. Harris, Mr. O'Donoghue, Mr. Robitaille, Ms. Goldstein, Mr. Dolinko

NAY: None

The motion passed.

**Adjournment to Closed Session – 6:03 p.m.**

**II. Closed Session – 6:00pm — A201A**

The Closed Session meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

*Board of Education Recognition Program – 7:00 p.m. Student Cafeteria*

**III. Reconvene to Open Session – 7:30 p.m. – C234**

Mr. Dolinko recalled to order the meeting of June 9, 2014 of the New Trier High School Board of Education at 7:47 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. Roll call attendance was again taken and all Board members were present except Mr. Peter Fischer. Mr. Dolinko noted that there was a Closed Session meeting earlier in the evening, and that the Board of Education Recognition Program had taken place in the cafeteria, thereby delaying the continuation of the June Regular Board meeting. He announced that if anyone wished to address the Board during the Citizen's Comments part of the agenda, he or she would need to fill out a yellow Communications Request Form found on the table at the back of the room and pass it up to the Board table.

**IV. Minutes**

Mr. Dolinko requested a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting on May 19, 2014. Mr. O'Donoghue moved and Mr. Harris seconded the motion to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 19, 2014, open and closed session. Mr. Dolinko asked if there were any comments or corrections to the minutes. Mr. Robitaille asked for clarification on the discussion of Special Education expenses as they pertain to budget planning and that an analysis would be provided, preferably before the approval of the FY 2014-2015 Budget. Conversation followed and the minutes were amended on the Preliminary Budget agenda item to read: *More budgetary information will be presented to the Board.* Board consensus agreed to this change. Mr. O'Donoghue moved and Mr. Harris seconded the motion to approve the amended minutes of the meeting of May 19, 2014 open and closed session. A roll call vote was taken and the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

**V. Communications**

Mr. Dolinko invited members of the Community to address the Board with their comments and concerns. Mr. Zachary Lazar, retired New Trier teacher, shared his concern about identity theft that has taken place against a number of New Trier retired teachers and his desire that information pertaining to this would be centralized for those investigating the theft.

Dr. Yonke and Mr. Christopher Johnson provided Board members with background information on this issue and what is currently being done. Incidents began two to three months ago and seem to be concentrated among retired employees of TRS who were hired between 1968 and 1992. The District hired a security firm to audit our systems for any breaches and none were found. Administrators are working with the Northfield and Winnetka Police as well as the State's Attorney's office. Board conversation followed and it was noted that inquiries regarding this issue are being directed to the Human Resources office.

## **VI. Special Orders of Business**

### **A. Report from Campus Principals and Assistant Superintendents**

Mr. Paul Waechtler, Principal of the Northfield Campus, reported on the events of the freshman campus as the year winds down. He lauded this current year's freshman class as a great group of kids and wished them well as they transition to the Winnetka Campus. Mr. Waechtler noted the conclusion of the campus-wide Service Learning Project which was a partnership with the village of Barind, India. Last year students contributed to the building of a school in Barind and this year student efforts provided over \$8000 toward a clean water source and sanitation for the village. Shakespeare Days took place last week with over 350 participating in Shakespearean Performance with multiple performances around the school. Yearbooks were distributed on May 23; final exams will be this week on Tuesday through Thursday; and the last day of school is Friday, June 13. He thanked the Parents' Association for the snacks they provided during final exam days. Summer school starts Monday, June 16.

Ms. Denise Hibbard, Principal of the Winnetka Campus, echoed the comment that it had been a great year at the Winnetka campus. She noted how much the seniors were missed and how quiet the campus was. She commented on the wonderful Commencement ceremony on June 1 for the 1071 seniors as well as the graduation ceremony for the New Trier Learning Center on May 29 featuring four students. She thanked all the parents involved with the Parents' Association who provided the Graduation Party "On the Move" at the Northfield campus for the graduates. Ms. Hibbard recapped some of the spring honors recognized at the Board's program earlier in the evening which included Boys' Lacrosse-State Champion; Girls' Lacrosse-2<sup>nd</sup> Place; Girls' Soccer-State Champions; Boys' Tennis-3<sup>rd</sup> Place; Girls' Water Polo-Sectional Champions and top 8 in State; Boys' Baseball and Girls' Softball State Sectional participants; and Boys' and Girls' Track had individuals who placed specific events at the State meet. She noted that all were student athletes and performed as well in the classroom as in competition. Ms. Hibbard noted that New Trier has won 110 State Championships and 165 Championships if Lacrosse, Fencing, Field Hockey and Special Olympics are included. Summer school begins on Monday, June 16, with 1,460 students enrolled.

Mr. Tim Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, stated that this is the time of greatest transition for the Student Services Department. Plans are being made with the Parent ECGC Committee on themes and speakers for next year while at the same time bringing closure to this year's activities. Mr. Hayes also commented on the comprehensive nature of the Free the Children partnership in which our Northfield Service Learning Project participates. He also noted the receipt of a video from the program for all of our students, thanking them for their help and participation.

Mr. Paul Sally, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, provided an update regarding the Mobile Learning Initiative which will be 100% one-to-one next year. Parents received mailing information to sign up, and 26% have done so. He noted that Summer School students will be using e-texts on iPads and availing themselves of the cost savings for materials. Professional Development for teachers using iPad for instruction is taking place over the summer with 174 teachers signed up in 18 different sessions.

Ms. Cheryl Witham, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations, noted there was one FOIA request since the last Regular meeting of the Board in May. She is in the process of responding and has sought clarification before completing the request.

### **B. Community Engagement Committee Update**

Dr. Yonke referred to the memo written by Ms. Niki Dizon, Communications Director, on the Community Engagement Committee activities, which provides an update on the various means and methods of presenting information to and gathering feedback from the community about the proposed facilities project at the Winnetka Campus. Dr. Yonke noted that over 500 residents have attended the workshops and tours and over 25,000 households have received four mailings from the District that include post cards, letters, a question-and-answer document and an information sheet with a survey to return. To date, approximately 2500 responses have been received, scanned, and forwarded to Paul Hanley, District consultant, for analysis. Mr. Hanley will be present at the June 30 Special Meeting of

the Board to present the results of the written responses as well as the results of the phone poll. Dr. Yonke stated that the feedback has been interesting and very helpful in seeing the respondents' priorities for the District and the level of support of a facilities project. Ms. Goldstein, member of the Community Engagement Committee enthusiastically implored the public to answer their survey. Mr. Harris, also a member of the Committee echoed Ms. Goldstein's comment and highlighted the importance of the feedback for the Board to make an informed decision. Mr. Dolinko opened the floor to general Board discussion. Mr. Myefski aired concerns on the questions of the survey and that they had not been previewed by the entire Board or the Facilities Steering Committee. Dr. Yonke responded that it was the recommendation of Mr. Hanley that publishing the questions from the survey in advance would lessen the validity of the study. Board discussion followed with Mr. Dolinko, Mr. Robitaille and Mr. Harris expressing confidence in the survey process and the decision to hire a community engagement consultant. Discussion also included whether to respond to letters to the Editor in the local papers to which Dr. Yonke responded it was Mr. Hanley's recommendation not to respond and skew public opinion but to rather continue to present factual information to all residents. She did note however, that the comments sections of the responses back have been very helpful in assessing which factual information helps to dispel misconceptions. Ms. Dizon noted that the survey and phone poll are tools to get the true reflection of public opinion. Mr. Dolinko noted that the communities' questions tend to be thematic and not very different from those of the last referendum. He also stated that while there will always be a spectrum of opinion on this issue, it is the role of the District to provide the community with the facts.

### **C. Wight & Co. Presentation and Update**

Dr. Yonke introduced Wight & Company, noting that since their selection on March 3, they have worked continuously in collaboration with staff to update plans and incorporate ideas into the facilities project at the Winnetka Campus. She highlighted that some areas are similar to the conceptual drawings seen in March and some have changed. Dr. Yonke was clear in stating that the evening's presentation is not the final design. Mr. Brad Paulsen of Wight & Co. began the presentation stating that an evolution of the plan and design has taken place over the months since the competitive design work was done. A planning process was created with all the stake holders to gather input and ideas to get to the final design. He gave an overview of the presentation and what would be covered which included the current planning and concept alignment; the exterior expression of the addition and the cost control management and phasing. David Powel, Project Manager and Peter Brown, Educational Planner guided the presentation through the different areas of the building addressing questions of who, what, how, and why of the planning design. Mr. Brown reviewed the planning process that came through the Facilities Steering Committee, the Design Advisory Group and the different Department Work Groups to create guiding principles as they look at the spaces to be created or renovated. Mr. Brown reviewed the program components as well as the planning opportunities that each presented. Mr. Powel reiterated the project parameters as remaining at \$100 million with a construction budget of approximately \$80 million. Mr. Kevin Havens, Design Principal, presented the planning and concept design of the four different floors of the Winnetka campus. He explained the draft concept plans as well as the changes to the exterior expression of the design and invited questions from the Board members. Mr. Rob Martinelli of Pepper Construction thanked the Board for the opportunity to work with the District and explained the cost control process for the project and validated the phasing plan and schedule. Board members followed with questions on phasing, completion dates, storm water retention, traffic flow, loading dock location, elevator lift, the new north side exit, the south side secondary entrance, the added amphitheater area and the fourth floor skylights. Mr. Dolinko expressed his appreciation to the entire Wight team for listening to the various groups, committees, and departments and by their responsiveness suggesting solutions to cited concerns.

## **VII. Administrative Items**

### **A. Financial Reports for May 2014**

Ms. Cheryl Witham reviewed the financial reports, cash balances, and Investment Portfolio for May.

She noted the cash on hand is at \$93 million, down from the previous month. As expected, receipts at this time of year are down, as the district is waiting for the summer tax payment and expenses are high with the ADA construction projects underway. Mr. Robitaille queried Ms. Witham on the comparisons to previous Fiscal Year End figures. Ms. Witham stated the District is on track to end the fiscal year as anticipated. She reported 92% of Investments are currently invested in certificates of deposit earning .558% of which 40% are invested with PMA; 32% with North Shore Bank; and 14% with RBC.

#### **B. FY 2015 Budget Update**

Ms. Witham presented an update report on the FY 2014-2015 Budget, noting the work presently is one of compiling information and analysis. She reviewed the areas of revenue with General State Aid probably staying at 85%. She highlighted that Cook County has released the Draft Agency Tax Rate Report for the 2013 Levy which showed new property coming in at approximately \$5,000,000 more than anticipated. Salaries would see no change. Ms. Witham did note an increase in Property Casualty and Liability Insurance by \$55,000 due to the additional claims this past winter. The Tentative Budget will be presented at the July Regular Board meeting and the Final Budget would then be approved at the September meeting.

Mr. Dolinko revisited the topic of a Special Education expenses report for a closer look and deeper analysis. He suggested that while information will be very helpful to the Board to understand more clearly the various factors of that department's budget and planning, very little is within the District's control. A historical look might be appropriate in July or August. This would have no impact on budget decisions for the FY 2014-15 Budget. Mr. Robitaille and Mr. Myefski agreed it would not help in the immediate planning; however, understanding the why and where of the 65% increase would be beneficial for future estimating. Board discussion followed on the type of report, what information would be included such as trends, NSSSED services and contributions, and students getting these services. Ms. Ambuehl and Ms. Witham responded to Board members' questions.

#### **VIII. Consent Agenda**

- Bill List for the Period May 1-31, 2014
- Personnel Report and Addenda
- Prevailing Wage Approval
- Sentinel Network Services Agreement

Mr. Dolinko asked if any Board member wished to remove items of the Consent Agenda for separate discussion. Mr. O'Donoghue requested the Sentinel Network Services Agreement be pulled out for separate discussion. Mr. Dolinko asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items remaining. Mr. O'Donoghue moved that the Board approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Bill List for the Period of May 1-31, 2014, the Personnel Report and Addenda and approval of the Prevailing Wage Resolution as presented. Mr. Robitaille seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

Mr. O'Donoghue asked to pull the Sentinel Network Services Agreement for explanation and discussion. Christopher Johnson explained that the agreement covers the Sentinel network maintenance and Cisco Software updates. Mr. O'Donoghue moved to authorize the Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations to execute the "Cisco Installment Payment Agreement" with Cisco Capital regarding the Sentinel Network Services Agreement subject to attorney review. Ms. Goldstein seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

**IX. Board Member Reports**

Mr. Myefski inquired if it would be possible to look into air conditioning at the Commencement ceremony (currently at Welsh Ryan Arena, NU) and whether we can address the issue of accessibility for handicapped patrons. Dr. Yonke noted it would be an interesting discussion to move away from NU. Mr. Dolinko suggested perhaps that the Parents' Association research these commencement issues and report back.

Ms. Goldstein thanked the Parents Association for the Graduation Party and the Booster Club for their contributions to the Turf Fields.

**X. Board Members' Calendar of Events**

- Calendar of Events

Dr. Yonke reviewed the last days of the school year, noting final exams are on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, June 10, 11 and 12; the last day of school is Friday, June 13; Summer School begins on Monday, June 16; and the Special Meeting of the Board will be on Monday, June 30. Dr. Yonke and Administrators, Paul Sally, Tim Hayes, Denise Hibbard and Paul Waechtler will attend an Educational Leadership Conference at Dartmouth on June 22 through June 26. New Trier was invited to participate in the program with other schools from across the country. Mr. Dolinko raised the calendar issue of the July Regular meeting which is scheduled for July 21. Mr. Myefski and Mr. Dolinko are unable to attend on that date. After Board discussion, it was decided by consensus to move the July 21 meeting to July 24 when six Board members would be present. Mr. Dolinko will be the sole member unable to attend on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

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

There were no requests for staff research or future agenda items.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

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F. Malcolm Harris, Vice President