

**NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
February 18, 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 Tuesday, February 18, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

Members Present

Mr. Alan R. Dolinko, President
Mr. F. Malcolm Harris, Vice President
Mr. Peter Fischer
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

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. Matt Ottaviano, Assistant Principal, Winnetka Campus; Mr. Peter Tragos, Assistant Principal, Northfield Campus; Ms. Katherine Schindler, Assistant Principal for Student Services, Winnetka Campus; Ms. Athena Arvanitis, Director of Student Life; Mr. Christopher Wildman, Director of Business Services; Ms. Judy Macnab, Library Department Chair; Ms. Erika Immel, Library Department; Mr. Eric Saszik, Mathematics Department, President, NTEA; Mr. Terry Phillips, Mathematics Department; Ms. Jenny Wexler, Mathematics Department; Mr. Mike Valadez, Technology Department; Ms. Hilerre Kirsch, Speech & Theatre Department; Mr. Jason Boumstein, Applied Arts Department Chair; Mr. Josh Wenger, ARAMARK Manager; Ms. Elizabeth Hennessy, Wm. Blair & Co.; Ms. Robin Randall, Legat Architects; Mr. Brad Paulsen, Wight & Co.; Mr. David Powell, Wight & Co.; Mr. Andy Joseph, Wight & Co.; Mr. Wes Bauman, and other members of the faculty, press and community.

BUSINESS MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER – 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Dolinko called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 6:31 p.m. Roll call was taken. All members were present. Mr. Dolinko asked for a motion to move to Closed Session. Mr. Fischer moved and Mr. Harris 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. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment to Closed Session – 6:33 p.m.

II. Closed Session – 6:30pm — A201A

The Closed Session meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

BUSINESS MEETING

III. Open Session – 7:30 p.m. – C234

Mr. Dolinko re-called to order the meeting of February 18, 2014 of the New Trier High School Board of Education and welcomed those in attendance. Roll call attendance was taken and all Board members were present. Mr. Dolinko noted that the Board had returned from a Closed Session 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. Mr. Dolinko also noted that there will be no decision made this evening on the Design Team for the Winnetka Campus facility project. At the conclusion of the February 10 Special Board Meeting, the Board and Facilities Steering Committee set aside more time for public comment and input and the recommendation and Board decision will take place at the newly-scheduled Special Meeting of the Board of Education on Monday, March 3, 2014.

IV. Minutes

Mr. Dolinko requested a motion to approve the minutes of the January Regular meetings. Mr. Fischer moved and Ms. Goldstein seconded the motion to approve minutes of the Special Workshop Meeting of January 16, 2014, open session; the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on January 21, 2014, open and closed session; and the Special Workshop Meeting of February 10, 2014, open session. Mr. Dolinko asked if there were any comments or corrections to the minutes. None being noted, a roll call vote was taken and the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

V. Communications

Mr. Dolinko invited members of the Community to address the Board. Ms. Wendy Serrino, former New Trier Board of Education President, spoke to the Board on the benefits of adding courses in Computer Science to our Program of Studies. She noted the demand for people trained in coding and the high level of interest among students in this type of course.

Agenda Item VI.B. Student Musical Presentation was performed at this time.

VI. Special Orders of Business

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

Mr. Paul Waechtler, Principal of the Northfield Campus, reviewed the events of the last month, including the Turnabout Dance on February 8 with record high attendance; the Northfield Dance Ensemble Showcase with the Kinesis Ensemble; course selections for next year for present and future freshman students; and Four-Year Planning conferences with parents. Mr. Waechtler thanked administrators and staff for their efforts in scheduling classes for the 2014-15 school year. He also shared compliments received from a University of Chicago professor who spoke at the all-Township Institute Day. She interviewed about forty recent New Trier graduates attending UC and was impressed with their fondness for New Trier and their teachers and their successful performances at the University (*their lowest GPA was 3.2*).

Ms. Denise Hibbard, Principal of the Winnetka Campus, shared information about events at the Winnetka Campus. She extended congratulations to the Sports Medicine Club which took first place at the Illinois Bone & Joint Knowledge Bowl for the second consecutive year. She also noted that faculty member Don Wurth, other Science Department faculty, and New Trier Science Olympiad team members welcomed students from Chicago Public Schools' middle schools and helped conduct experiments with them. Hibbard noted that this is the first year for complete online course registrations for 9th, 10th and 11th grade students. Additionally, thirty-three students have qualified to be National Merit Finalists. "Social Justice and Equality in Education" was the topic for discussion for Spiro Bolos' & Dan Lawler's Social Service Group who hosted students from Calvin Park High School, CPS, for a day of dialogue and inquiry. New Trier girls' gymnastics team placed first in sectionals and will advance to state competition on February 21 and 22. Ms. Hibbard was pleased to announce that Mr. Gerry Munley, Science Department Chair will be assuming the administrative position of Assistant Principal for Academic Services. Mr. Munley has

worked at New Trier for over 20 years and has been Science Department Chair for 18 years. Everyone is eager to work with Mr. Munley in this new position, which he will assume on March 17. He will work during the spring with the current Assistant Principal on building the master schedule.

Mr. Tim Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, noted that *The Pirates of Penzance* will be performed on March 13 through 16 at the Gaffney Auditorium. He spoke of the 2014 All Township Institute Day on Social and Emotional Learning. Ms. Sian Beilock, Professor of Psychology at the University of Chicago, gave the opening address to approximately 1700 teachers and staff members of the district. The day included four workshop sessions on 147 topics with 160 presenters. Mr. Nate Ekland closed the day speaking on the importance of the adult culture and climate in schools and its impact on kids. Ms. Beilock is speaking this evening in the Cornog Auditorium as part of a FAN presentation.

Dr. Yonke commended Mr. Hayes and thanked him for his leadership role in bringing over 2000 staff members from 7 different school districts together for an outstanding day.

Mr. Paul Sally, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, added his congratulations on the success of the all-Township Institute Day. Mr. Sally also reported on the evening parent meetings sponsored by the Parents' Association addressing technology issues associated with the Mobile Learning Initiative. The meetings are going well in answering parent concerns and questions and similar meetings are planned for the future. Mr. Sally was pleased to introduce Ms. Erika Immel as the new Library Department Chair, replacing Ms. Judy Macnab who is retiring in June.

Ms. Cheryl Witham, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, reported there were two FOIA requests since the last Regular Board of Education meeting. One requested student data and the other financial data. Both requests have been responded to and are completed.

B. Musical Presentation

Ms. Hilerre Kirsch of the Speech & Theatre Department, introduced New Trier students Sawyer Denton (Frederic), Liam Millet (Pirate King), and Rebecca Schreisheim (Ruth) who star in this year's spring choir-opera musical *The Pirates of Penzance*. The students performed "When You Had Left Our Pirate Fold" for Board members and audience. The Gilbert & Sullivan comic opera will be performed on March 13, 14 and 15 at 7:30 p.m. in the Gaffney Auditorium and at 2:00 p.m. on March 16 in the Gaffney at the Winnetka Campus.

C. Community Engagement & Facilities Steering Committee Update

Dr. Yonke reviewed the work of the Facilities Steering Committee and Community Engagement Committee since the unsuccessful referendum of February 2010. While improvements have been made at the Northfield campus (renovation of the B Building and addition of synthetic turf in the stadium), no substantive improvements have been made to the Winnetka campus. The Board approved the Facilities Steering Committee recommendations to do a project in the summer of 2014 to address ADA issues in the Gate Gymnasium and both campus auditoriums; however, the overarching Winnetka facility deficits remain. Discussions about a west side facilities project at Winnetka are progressing in both the Facilities Steering Committee and the Community Engagement Committee, assessing what kind of project can meet needs at the Winnetka Campus and garner community support for financing the project. A design team selection process was implemented this winter, beginning with Requests for Qualifications (RFQ) from architectural teams from across the country. Three teams were selected in the competition to present Requests for Proposals (RFP) for a Winnetka Campus project. These proposals were presented to the Board of Education at the February 10 Special Workshop Meeting. The Facilities Steering Committee met on February 12 and recommended that the Board take additional time for staff, student, and community comment and feedback on the proposals to assist the committee and Board in making a decision about the architectural design team. To that end, the three design proposals will be on display at both campuses while video and pictures will be available for viewing on the school website. The Community Engagement Committee will now press for an intense period of interaction with all stakeholders through presentations, workshop meetings, Parents Association Q & A meetings, mailings, tours, and surveys to garner as much community input as possible. The Citizens' Task Force of twenty will be expanded to include additional community members. Dr. Yonke noted again there will be no decisions made this evening. Board members Lori Goldstein and Mac Harris spoke as committee members of the Community Engagement Committee to thank everyone for taking an active interest in this current facilities process. Mr. John Myefski and Greg Robitaille, as members of the Facilities Steering Committee discussed the need for more detailing on the timing of such a project to be able to better plan with particular dates. Board discussion followed on

timelines with respect to the design teams, ballot deadlines, and community engagement goals.

D. Board Policy Revisions – 1st Readings

Dr. Yonke reviewed the details of the five Board Policies brought forward for adoption or revision, which are Policy 4-10 Fiscal and Business Management; Policy 4-15 Identity Protection; Policy 4-60 Purchasing Practices; Policy 5-200 Terms and Conditions and Outside Employment; and Policy 6-280 Grading and Promotion. She noted that questions, comments, and suggestions were sought from Board members for this First Reading. Changes could be incorporated for a Second Reading and presented for approval at the March Regular Board meeting. Discussion came forward on Purchasing Practices with questions on the limits of \$25,000 and \$50,000 for bidding and for securing professional services. The Board asked that the Policy Committee consider items 2 and 9 in 4-60 and to modify wording to add clarity. Additional discussion followed on the wording of Policy 5-200, and it was suggested that the phrase *their services* be changed to *these services* in the last paragraph. The Board also requested that the Committee explore whether additional language is warranted in Policy 5-200, such as requiring disclosure to supervisors or publishing lists of faculty involved in outside employment. Further questions on Policy 4-10, monthly quarterly reports, and final adoption procedures regarding deficit reduction plans were answered and referred back to Committee for clarification.

VII. Administrative Items

A. Financial Reports for January 2014

Ms. Cheryl Witham reviewed the Cash Flow Statements, Investment Reports and Financial Reports noting January revenues at \$730,000 and expenditures for the same period of over \$7 million. She noted this to be the low period between tax levy payments and next month will present a different picture as it will include the spring tax revenues. Total Fund Balances ended at \$81 million. Ms. Witham examined the Investment Portfolio which showed \$61 million with 97.5% invested in certificates of deposit and 2.5% in government securities. Approximately \$16 million is invested in Money Market accounts with rates close to that of the certificates of deposit. The Money Market investments chart shows that 39% is with PMA, 38% with North Shore Community Bank and 13% with RBC.

B. Investment Portfolio

Board Policy 4-40 requires the District to perform periodic reviews of the District's Investment Portfolio. Ms. Witham noted the analysis was performed for the period of January 2013 through December 2013 and showed the District's Portfolio to have been invested well, as compared to performance benchmarks. She cited the average investment allocation is approximately 98% in certificates of deposit and 1.8% in government securities. The District's relationship with PMA allows it to have access to over 200 banks across the country. Board discussion followed on investments with PMA, average duration of portfolio investments and cash flow risks with Cook Co. tax revenues.

C. Scholarship Allocation Report

Ms. Cheryl Witham reviewed the history of the New Trier High School Scholarship Trust Fund which was established in 1949 by the New Trier Parents Association. The \$2.2 million fund is invested with Vanguard according to the Board's Investment Objectives and Policies. Mr. Bernard Myszkowski of Dearborn Partners volunteers his time in managing the account for the District. A total of 1.9% of the assets is invested in a money market fund, 72.9% in stock funds and 25.3% in bond funds. The investments are currently over invested in stock funds due primarily to performance of the S&P 500 Stock Fund Index which returned 32.3%. Mr. Myszkowski is recommending that we liquidate part of the S&P 500 Index Fund in order to finance withdrawals for the Scholarships this year. This will bring the investment portfolio within the guidelines. The Scholarship allocation amount for the Class of 2014 is \$116,830 which is \$11,000.00 over last year's allocation. Board members queried Ms. Witham on the fund and its allocations. Mr. Myefski moved and Mr. O'Donoghue seconded the motion that the Board approve a maximum allocation of \$116,830 for scholarships for the 2014 graduation class and that these funds be withdrawn from the S&P 500 Stock Fund Index. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

D. Board Calendar 2014-2015

Board of Education Regular Meeting Dates

July 2014 – June 2015

Monday, July 21, 2014
Monday, August 25, 2014
Monday, September 15, 2014
Monday, October 20, 2014
Monday, November 17, 2014
Monday, December 15, 2014
Tuesday, January 20, 2015
Tuesday, February 17, 2015
Monday, March 16, 2015
Monday, April 20, 2015
Monday, May 18, 2015
Monday, June 8, 2015

Board discussion began on the proposed 2014-2015 Calendar of Regular Meeting Dates with some members noting possible conflicts with specific dates or the established third Monday of the month (with the exceptions of August, June, Dr. Martin Luther King Day and Presidents' Day). Conversation considered other options; however, the Board agreed to keep the established protocol of scheduling Board of Education meetings on the third Monday of the month. This item will be voted on at the March Regular Board of Education meeting.

E. Resolution for not to exceed \$4,200,000 Bonds for the purpose of increasing the Working Cash Fund and for a direct annual tax to pay said Bonds

Mr. Dolinko noted that this is the last step in the process for the funding of the Summer of 2014 ADA Projects whereby the Board is being asked to set a parameters resolution that allows the Board President and the District Treasurer, Ms. Witham, to approve the sale of bonds. The sale will take place Thursday, February 22, 2014. Mr. Myefski moved and Mr. Fischer seconded the motion that the Board of Education approves the Parameter Resolution Authorizing the Bond Sale subject to final review by legal counsel and the Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Consent Agenda

- Bill List for the Period January 1-31, 2014
- Personnel Report

Mr. Dolinko asked if any Board member wished to remove items of the Consent Agenda for separate discussion. No items were requested for open discussion. Mr. Dolinko asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Fischer moved that the Board approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Bill List for the Period of January 1-31, 2014, the Personnel Report. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Board Member Reports

Mr. Myefski reported on his participation at the *Technology Committee* meeting. The Committee broke into small groups to discuss what parents are going through in dealing with the technology tools their students are using. The Technology Department is exploring additional ways to help parents and students recognize and

realize the potential benefits of the Mobile Learning Initiative in high school as well as earlier in the feeder schools.

Mr. O'Donoghue also attended the *Technology Committee* meeting, at which his group discussions were about screen time and extracurricular uses of the iPad. Mr. O'Donoghue also attended the *Traffic & Parking Committee* meeting where he noted there is new signage at Winnetka and Woodland Avenues. There is also improved outside lighting on the building at that same corner, significantly improving visibility in the area. A new pedestrian crosswalk will be installed at the intersection of Sheridan Road and Winnetka Avenue. At the *Fine Arts Association* meeting, Mr. O'Donoghue reviewed the Summer 2014 ADA Projects at both campuses. He reported that they are embarking on a fund raising campaign to raise \$10,000 for costs related to the Cornog ADA renovations. The e-vite campaign will begin on February 27. Any excess funds will go toward workshops, residencies and scholarships.

Mr. Robitaille reported that the *Finance Committee* will be meeting on March 6 and will be looking at funding alternatives for a potential Winnetka capital project.

Ms. Goldstein noted that there was no *NSSSED* meeting since the last regular Board meeting. She commended Tim Hayes for the very successful all-Township Institute Day. An *ECGC* workshop will be held on February 26 at 9:00 a.m. in Room C234 called, "Continue the Conversation: Strategies to beat Performance Anxiety". The next *ECGC* meeting will be March 13. The *New Trier Parents' Association* will present the Junior Parent College Admissions program on March 5 in the Cornog Auditorium at 7:00 p.m. The Association's "District Dialogue" will be rescheduled in March as it was cancelled due to inclement weather.

Mr. Fischer reported that the *New Trier Education Foundation* did not meet this month; however, they are seeking new members as some of the current Board members will be ending their terms. He asked that if Board or community members know anyone who is interested in serving on the Foundation, they should contact Marianne Breen. The *All-School Forum* met and listened to a presentation by the student leaders of *ECGC*, explaining what they do and the discussions that are held in adviser rooms. Mr. Fischer noted the increase in student participation in the All-School Forum.

Mr. Dolinko attended the Booster Club meeting where members were thrilled at the successful results of the 2nd City Night benefit. He noted the membership continues to work on raising funds for the remaining balance of the Tackle the Turf Project. They are focusing on soliciting corporate sponsorships that align with District policy. Spike League and Night League are going well and spring sports start on Monday, March 3.

X. Board Members' Calendar of Events

- Calendar of Events

Dr. Yonke noted a Friday event on February 21 for parents, not on the enclosed calendar, sponsored by the Parents Association, the Fine Arts Association, the Booster Club, *ECGC*, and the New Trier Education Foundation offering an opportunity to look at the proposed designs, provide feedback, and answer questions. Senior Carnival is on Friday, February 28. This is a senior class fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity and a popular event for young families in the community. There will be a Special Meeting of the Board on Monday, March 3. The student musical, *The Pirates of Penzance*, will be performed on March 13, 14, and 15 in the evening and Sunday afternoon on March 16. The next Regular Board of Education meeting is on March 17.

- Board Members' Request for Staff Research and Future Agenda Items
There were no requests made 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 10:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

Alan R. Dolinko, President