

**NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203
SPECIAL WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
July 24, 2014
New Trier Township High School
7 Happ Road, Room C234
Northfield, IL 60093**

A **Special Workshop 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 Thursday, July 24, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present

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
Mr. Paul Waechtler, Principal – Northfield Campus

Members Absent

Mr. Alan Dolinko, President

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. Christopher Johnson, Director of Technology; Mr. Christopher Wildman, Director of Business Services; Mr. Terry Phillips, Mathematics Department; Mr. Todd Maxman, President, New Trier Township Education Association; Ms. Jenny Wexler, Mathematics Department; Mr. Steve Linke, Plant Operations Manager for Winnetka Campus; Mr. Dave Conway, Plant Operations Manager for Northfield Campus; Ms. Elizabeth M. Hennessy, Principal William Blair & Co.; Mr. David Powell, Wight & Co.; Mr. Kevin Havens, Wight & Co.; Mr. Brad Paulsen, Wight & Co.; Mr. Peter Brown, Wight & Co.; Mr. Jay Ripsky, Pepper Construction Co.; Mr. Rob Martinelli, Pepper Construction Co.; Mr. Steve Shearing, *Pioneer Press*; press and community.

BUSINESS MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Harris called the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of July 24, 2014 to order at 7:02 p.m. Roll call was taken. All members were present except for Mr. Dolinko. Mr. Harris reviewed the agenda items for the evening and invited Dr. Yonke to present an update of the activities of the Community Engagement Committee.

II. Community Engagement Update – Citizen’s Task Force

Dr. Yonke noted that an important part of the Community Engagement Plan was to create a group of “key influencers” from the community to assist in reviewing and planning a potential project at the Winnetka Campus. She stated that this Community Task Force has met eight times to discuss the design, the print materials, the poll/survey results, and financial information. Dr. Yonke noted that their input has been invaluable as they made positive critical assessments of the process and expressed strong support of the project. Ms. Goldstein and Mr. Harris, both members of the Community Engagement Committee and the Citizens’ Task Force agreed with Dr. Yonke’s comments and added that everyone in the group was very thoughtful regarding the process and in agreement that this is the right direction for the District. Members of the task force were carefully chosen to include constituents that were for and against the project during the 2010 Referendum, and that included a balanced representation of all New Trier Township by gender, age, those with and without children in school. Dr. Yonke summarized the Winnetka Facility Project in a Power Point presentation, providing context and background, including the purpose of the project, the timeline, recommendations from

the Finance Committee, and staff input as well as ideas from the Community Engagement Committee, the Citizens' Task Force, neighbor meetings, traffic and parking discussions, storm water management objectives, cost estimates, and next steps. Dr. Yonke stressed that the cost of the Referendum stays at \$89M.

Mr. Harris asked fellow Board members to hold their questions until the end of the presentations by Wight & Co. and Pepper

III. Wight & Co. Presentation & Update

Mr. Brad Paulsen, Principal in Charge at Wight & Co. for the Winnetka Facilities Project, previewed the PowerPoint presentation which is an update of the Preliminary Design. The project has evolved since the presentation to the Facilities Steering Committee on July 16. Details of the current project were presented by David Powell, Project Manager; Kevin Havens, Design Principal; and Peter Brown, Educational Planner. Mr. Powell reviewed the four stages of the Design Process and related them to the scheduled timeline and completion dates. Through numerous meetings and collaboration with staff and students the Wight team consulted New Trier teachers, analyzed schedules and programming, and examined time and space utilization. The pre-design results of all this planning will bring a 35% increase of area for program spaces; 27 new 900 square foot core academic classrooms; increased flexibility in scheduling; expanded opportunities for students; environments where teachers will excel; and a school that is a better neighbor. Mr. Havens reviewed the site plans of each floor, highlighting specific features on the different levels. He focused on areas of particular interest which were the library, the loading dock, core academic areas, and the concourse. Mr. Powell shared the daylighting metrics of the concourse skylights. He also showed views of the school exterior, on-site parking, vehicle circulation, student drop-off, and storm water detention. Mr. Havens reviewed the evolution of the planning as seen with comparisons of current exterior views over the competition entries and highlighted exterior quality and materials.

IV. Construction Management Update – Pepper Construction

Mr. Jay Ripsky of Pepper Construction reviewed the process of cost management, highlighting areas of focus which included careful examination of the existing building, meetings with the Village of Winnetka, specific trade contractor input, assumption alignments, and working sessions with the Facilities Steering Committee. Mr. Rob Martinelli of Pepper presented their Executive Summary which showed their total cost estimate for the Winnetka Facilities Project at \$102,471,301. He noted that it was a concept estimate and it will be reviewed and adjusted two more times if the issue is voted for by the Board on a referendum question. He reviewed and explained the details of the construction costs of the West Addition, the Concourse Renovation, the Renovations to the North and Tower Buildings, Sitework on the North and West Side, Temporary Classrooms, Construction Management Services, Owner's Direct Cost and Architectural, Engineering and Consulting Services. The total cost for contingencies and exhalation are \$11,652,820. Mr. Martinelli listed the next steps which included continued feedback alignment from the Board, schematic design budgets, site logistics, construction schedule development and further analysis and working sessions with the Facilities Steering Committee. He presented a look at the proposed construction schedule and phasing plan.

Mr. Paulsen concluded the presentation and invited questions and comments from the Board.

Board members weighed in with their views of the project and their questions which included the likelihood of using the contingency fund; more details about the loading dock; more information about the materials used; more floor plans to show how spaces work and flow together; more explanation of the curtain wall; the number of 900 square foot core classrooms added; drainage and flood control; ornamental and miscellaneous metals; the concourse and sound amplification; the project phasing; and the HVAC System. Board discussion followed on the project budget overage of \$2.5M. Mr. Myefski and Mr. O'Donoghue expressed their belief that a 2.5% savings could be found somewhere in the budget to bring it in line with the original target of \$100M. Members agreed that 2.5% is a reasonable request for Wight and Pepper to take another look at the project budget to find additional savings. Mr. Harris noted that at this stage, the budget is \$102.5M and would expect all parties to continue to work towards \$100M. He stressed that the \$89M referendum request amount has not changed.

V. Public Comment

Mr. Harris invited members of the Community to address the Board. There was no one who wished to speak.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

Alan R. Dolinko, President