

NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
March 14, 2016
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, in Room C234 on Monday, March 14, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present

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

Administrators Present

Dr. Linda L. Yonke, Superintendent
Mr. Paul Sally, Associate Superintendent
for Curriculum & Instruction
Mr. Christopher Johnson, Assistant Superintendent
for Finance & Operations
Ms. Denise Dubravec, Principal – Winnetka Campus
Mr. Paul Waechtler, Principal – Northfield Campus

Also Present

Ms. Niki Dizon, Director of Communications; Mr. Gerry Munley, Assistant Principal, Winnetka Campus; Ms. Ellen Ambuehl, Director of Special Education; Mr. Peter Tragos, Assistant Principal, Northfield Campus; Mr. Myron Spiwak, Director of Business Services; Mrs. Linda Knier, Director of Academic Services; Ms. Athena Arvanitis, Director of Student Services; Mr. George Sanders, Director of Human Resources; Ms. Stephanie Helfand, Chief Information Officer; Ms. Elizabeth Blodgett, New Trier Educational Support Professionals Association; Mr. Steve Linke, Winnetka Campus Facility Manager; Mr. Dave Conway, Northfield Campus Facility Manager; Mr. Spiro Bolos, Social Studies Department, President New Trier Education Association; Mr. Randy Oberembt, Athletic Director; Mr. Todd Maxman, Social Studies Department; Ms. Jessica Don, Technology Department and Co-President of the New Trier Educational Support Professionals Association; Mr. Terry Phillips, Mathematics Department; Mr. Colby Vargas, Social Studies Department; Mr. Michael O’Connor, Post High School Counseling Department; Mr. Mark Hines, Modern and Classical Languages Department; Mr. Mike Hill, Technology Department; Mr. Eric Johnson, Technology Department; Mr. Augustino Fontanetta, Mr. David Powell, Wight & Co.; Mr. Rob Martinelli, Pepper Construction Co.; and members of the press and community.

BUSINESS MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER – 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Harris called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 6:01 p.m. Roll call was taken. All members were present except Mr. Myefski. Mr. Dolinko moved to 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 discussing collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees; and for the purpose of discussing litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular District has been filed and is pending before a court of administrative tribunal, or when the District finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the closed meeting minutes. Mr. O’Donoghue seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

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

II. Closed Session – 6:00 p.m. — A201A

Mr. Myefski arrived in time for the Closed Session.

Student & Staff Recognition Program – 7:00 p.m. – Room C234

BUSINESS MEETING

III. Open Session – 7:30 p.m. – C234

Mr. Harris re-called to Order the meeting of March 14, 2016 of the New Trier High School Board of Education at 7:33 p.m. Roll call was taken. All Board members were present. Mr. Harris noted that the Board had returned from a Closed Session meeting and the Winter Board Recognition Program for students and staff. He welcomed those in attendance. Mr. Harris invited anyone who wished to address the Board during the Communications part of the agenda 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. Harris asked if there were any comments or corrections to the minutes. None being offered, Mr. Dolinko moved and Mr. Robitaille seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on February 15, 2016 Open and Closed Session. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Mr. Myefski,

The motion passed.

V. Communications

Mr. Harris invited anyone from the audience that wished to address the Board to come forward. No one wished to speak.

VI. Special Orders of Business

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

Mr. Paul Waechtler, Principal of the Northfield Campus reported on events which included follow up Lunch & Learn sessions on the Dr. Martin Luther King Day; the culmination of Third Quarter and the start of Fourth Quarter, with grades being mailed home; Study Hall release for freshmen and Spring Break beginning on Saturday, March 19. Mr. Waechtler noted that the PARCC testing will take place in early April on the 4th through the 8th for the English Language Arts and Algebra I. The Biology testing date is yet to be determined. He thanked the senior adviser rooms for presenting another great Winter Carnival. He also shared the news about a partnership of New Trier students with middle school students from Volta Elementary School in Chicago. Science faculty members Don Wurth, Mary Beth Barrett, Tracy Smith, and Patricia Carlson sponsored New Trier students in mentoring and raising funds for the Volta students' participation in the Science Olympiad competition. Volta was the only neighborhood school competing and its students came in First Place, winning 40 of 46 medals.

Ms. Denise Dubravec, Principal of the Winnetka Campus, also noted the end of the Third Quarter and the beginning of spring sports, in which over 1200 students have registered to participate. The Chinese Music and Arts Club performed for the first time at the Neighborhoods of the World event put on by the Chinese Fine Arts Society in Chicago. Student Activities is piloting electronic voting taking place on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. Assemblies have taken place highlighting the leadership positions open for consideration. Student Alliance has kicked off a month-long Clean Up Campaign to help focus attention on litter and school cleanliness. A public service announcement was produced and directed by Jacob Shaw with assistance by Kinetic Wellness teacher Andy Horne. Senior Project is underway with 126 seniors registered to participate. Their last day of classes will be Friday, April 8. Ms. Dubravec thanked all the Senior Advisors and senior students for the successful Winter Carnival. Total monies collected for Habitat for Humanity now totals \$49,673. New Trier's Science Olympiad team came in first place overall in the regional competition. They now move on to the state competition on April 16 at the University of Illinois. Building tours of the Winnetka Campus Project have included both administrators and Architecture & Design classes. Ms. Dubravec thanked both Pepper and Wight for the opportunities to view the progress first hand. Dr. Madeleine Levine, renowned psychologist and author spoke to students on March 3. The

Social Service Board presented discussions on education and the financing of education with students from New Trier, Calvin Park HS and Richard T. Crane Medical Preparatory HS. State representatives and Senator Biss attended to hear students share their educational experiences. “Women in Rhythm” performed last Saturday for a benefit concert for the Raise the Stage campaign. The Special Olympics’ annual PESO Basketball Game is on Wednesday, March 16 when the New Trier Trevians will take on the Lake Forest Scouts. Ms. Dubravec highlighted that seventy music students will participate in a concert tour over Spring Break to Rome, Florence and other Italian cities.

Ms. Dubravec introduced Mr. Augustino “Augie” Fontanetta as the new Athletic Director to begin his position on July 1, 2016. Mr. Fontanetta replaces retiring Athletic Director, Randy Oberembt. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve New Trier again, as he started his teaching/coaching career at New Trier in 1994.

Mr. Sally, Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction shared information on the state’s Seal of Bi-Literacy. Illinois is one of three states that award this important recognition for those proficient in one or more languages in addition to their native language. New Trier ran a pilot for taking this test in French, Chinese, German and Spanish with many students performing well. Mr. Sally indicated Ms. Starck-King and Ms. Rubin will continue to work on this and provide more information at a later date.

Mr. Chris Johnson, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations reported that there were five FOIA requests since the last Regular meeting of the Board. Four came from a single person. The first was asking for a list of the District’s office employees; another for the sub list credentials; another for substitute teacher policies and procedures; and one more for a list of after -school clubs. Mr. Johnson noted that all requests have been filled and completed.

B. Mobile Learning Report

Ms. Stephanie Helfand, Chief Technology Officer, presented an update on the Mobile Learning Program, now in its fifth year of implementation. This is the second year of full 1:1 iPad use for all students. The integration of the iPad has grown and evolved over the last two years to provide numerous opportunities for application in the classroom. Ms. Helfand named instructional examples used within Applied Arts, Business Education, Accounting, Math, Geometry, and Social Studies. She detailed the benefits of the *Canvas* Learning Management System that include file sharing, grading, and feedback features for class work as well as applications for clubs, advisor rooms, course committees, departmental work, and other groups. EBook usage and available titles have increased also. According to Follett Bookstore sales data, the average bookstore expenditure per student has decreased by 48% between FY 2010 and FY2015. Ms. Helfand also reviewed the existing student iPad training and teacher professional development. A student survey of 1,198 respondents assisted in the analysis of student iPad use as well as other devices used for student work and homework. She concluded the report by suggesting areas of future focus that include the new Apple Education iOS9.3; confirming the iPad as the device of choice; improving student experience on the *Canvas* LMS; digital citizenship curriculum; managing student distraction; improving communication between eBook publishers and stakeholders; and continuing to adapt and deliver professional development. Ms. Helfand, Mr. Sally, and Mr. Johnson responded to questions and comments from Board members. Discussion and comments included topics on a teacher survey and the level of usage of iPads by teachers; the number of eBook titles; bookstore sales and exact cost reductions for families; the impact of the Mobile Learning Initiative on the overall District Technology Budget; the increased demand on wireless infrastructure; technology communication with sender schools for a seamless transition to high school; and the changes in the summer technology training.

C. Facilities Steering Committee Report & Construction Update

Dr. Yonke reviewed the highlights of the Facilities Steering Committee meeting from March 9. She and Mr. Rob Martinelli from Pepper Construction narrated the progress as seen in the Construction Update PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included that the scaffolding is down on the west and south sides of the building; the last piece of steel for the concourse was installed and work continues on the underpinning of the junction between the Tower Building and the old Tech Arts Building. Committee discussion included a review by Steve Linke and Dave Conway on the summer work that the Board approved last fall for maintenance, Health Life Safety work, and renovations of spaces for the ELS program and some restrooms in the Tower Building. The Committee also discussed timing and deadlines concerning work on the Black Box Theatre. The Raise the Stage Capital Campaign presented the Board with a check for \$400,000 at the February Board meeting, noting they have double that amount in written pledges. Decisions to go forward will determine amounts needed for the construction of the space and the

equipment to fill it out. Board discussion followed on the progress of the project with members sharing their excitement for the new space.

VII. Administrative Items

A. Bond Sale Report

Mr. Johnson provided a follow-up report on the final pricing of the Bond Sale which took place on February 18, 2016. The Series A, B and C Bond Sales were previously authorized by the Board for health-life safety, maintenance and renovation work. Mr. Johnson was pleased to report that due to the very competitive market on that day, the District was able to realize a total principal, interest and cost of issue savings of \$734,000 over the projections. Mr. Dolinko lauded the extraordinary results and highlighted the benefits of the District's strong bond reputation and tax base yielding the best rates possible, aided by the perfect timing in the bond markets. Mr. Johnson thanked both Ms. Cheryl Witham and Liz Hennessey of William Blair & Co. for their attentive stewardship and design to achieve these positive results.

B. Treasurer's Report – December 2015 and January 2016

Mr. Chris Johnson provided Treasurer's Reports for December 2015 and January 2016. The Business Office has made significant progress in adjusting to the new format in financial reporting. The reports included three years of Cash Flow Statements, December and January Financial Statements, December and January Cash and Investment Reports, and Historical Cash Balance Graphs. He noted the ending cash balance for January 2016 was \$74M; receipts were \$808,000; payroll was \$3.5M; and other disbursements totaled \$5.7M. The Investment Portfolio includes Certificates of Deposit at 82% of the portfolio earning .924% and Municipals at 17.7% of the portfolio earning 1.238%. The top investment firms are PMA with 52% of the portfolio, First Bank with 19%, and Fifth Third Bank with 12%. Investments for the Winnetka Campus Project include Certificates of Deposits earning .64%; Securities earning .688%; and Municipals earning 1%. The top investment firms for the Winnetka Campus Project are PMA with 36% of the portfolio; Fifth Third Bank with 25%; and Raymond James and First Bank both with 13%.

C. Board Policies – First Reading

Dr. Yonke presented three Board Policies for revision for the Board's consideration. These have come about due to a change in Illinois law. The first, Policy 2-200, is an expansion of the reasons to move to Closed Session discussions. The current reason covering "Security" will now include "school building safety and security" as part of the reason to meet in closed session. This phrase is added so the Board may discuss emergency plans, locations of security equipment, evacuation plans, and other safety issues that the District may not wish to make known publicly. The second policy, 7-100 clarifies the language for health examinations and exemptions and the third policy, 7-180 expands the prohibition of Student Use of Tobacco on School Property to include e-cigarettes. These revisions are being presented for their First Reading and no action is required by the Board. Board discussion followed on who determines acceptable exemptions to Policy 7-100, and whether Nicorette gum or the Nicotine Patch would also be applied to Policy 7-180. Dr. Yonke noted these comments will be addressed at the next Policy Committee Meeting on April 7, and the revised policies will be presented at the April Regular Board meeting for a 2nd Reading and Board approval.

VIII. Consent Agenda

- Bill List for the Period February 1-29, 2016
- Personnel Report
- Ratification of Change Orders
- IHSA Renewal 2016-2017
- Mechanical Renovations Bid Approval

Mr. Harris asked if any Board member would like to remove items from the Consent Agenda for separate discussion. None of the Consent Agenda items were singled out for discussion. Mr. Dolinko moved that the Board approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Bill List for the Period, February 1-29, 2016; the Personnel Report; that the Board of Education of New Trier Township High School District 203 ratifies Budget Change Order #6 to the contracts managed by Pepper Construction Company; and furthermore, deducts the amount of \$100,988.00 from the West Side Project Construction Contingency line item, all in the best interest of the District; the IHSA membership renewal for 2016-2017 and that the Board agrees to the Constitution, By-Laws, Terms and Conditions, and Administrative Procedures, Guidelines, and Policies of the Association for the 2016-17 school term; and that the Board approves and awards a contract to Mechanical Inc. in the amount of \$1,987,000.00 for the Mammoth Unit Renovations and Building Automation Upgrade at the Winnetka Campus, and the Outside Air Damper Replacement at the Northfield Campus. Ms. Goldstein seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

IX. Board Member Reports

Ms. Albrecht reported for the *New Trier Education Foundation*. They are planning and implementing activities which include the mailing of a Tea Party invitation, the 'un-event' for Foundation solicitations; the Golf Outing which is planned for September 12; and next year's Alumni Achievement Award gala. The "Raise the Stage Campaign" originally collected donations through the Education Foundation, but the Raise the Stage Committee has moved most of the funds collected to a District account. The Foundation has created an endowment for professional development in honor of James Marran. Ms. Albrecht also attended the *ECGC* parent meeting on March 9 which was a seminar on *The Seven Principles of Healthy Connections of Friendship and Love* presented by Alexandra Solomon. Dr. Solomon is an assistant clinical professor at Northwestern University. The next event on April 13 for the parent group is a presentation on Stress, Anxiety and Depression in Room C234 at 1:00 p.m.

Ms. Goldstein reported that NSSD will be meeting later this week. The New Trier Parents Association is busy planning the senior events that include the Senior Institute Day, Trevia Day and the Graduation party. The parent presentation on April 13 is a co-partnership with ECGC, the New Trier Parents Association, the New Trier Fine Arts Association, and the Booster Club. Ms. Goldstein thanked Pat Sumrow, the Winnetka Campus Project Facilitator for assisting with the donation of recycled furniture from our project to a CPS school in need. The *All School Forum* presented Madeline Levine as speaker on Stress & Resilience. Ms. Dubravec is looking into partnering with FAN to bring more such speakers to address students. Dr. Levine focused on the two-thirds of students who are not depressed and how they are exhibiting resilience. Discussion also included what New Trier has already done to reduce stress, the elements of the Strategic Plan related to student stress, encouraging parents not to push their students into higher level classes, and use of the Profile to reduce anxiety and dispel student myths.

Mr. Greg Robitaille noted that items from the *Facilities Steering Committee* have already been covered in earlier agenda item discussions. The *Finance Committee* also met. Important discussion covered the use of an appropriate CPI figure in forecasting projections. The Committee is considering moving away from using a ten-year average of the CPI to a five-year average which would allow for more consistency with current market rates. Discussion followed on data that would validate such a move and its relevance.

Mr. John Myefski attended the *New Trier Fine Arts Association* meeting. He noted the importance of the grants and scholarships awarded by the Association. Members are excited about the "Raise the Stage" Campaign for the Black Box Theatre and continue to be interested in the scheduling of early bird classes in student schedules.

Mr. Harris echoed Ms. Albrecht's review of the student performances in *Legally Blonde*, noting they were very good and the evening very enjoyable. Mr. Harris added the benefits of attending the *All School Forum* sessions that provide insights into student life by listening to student comments and opinions.

X. Board Members' Requests for Research & Calendar of Events

- Calendar of Events

Dr. Yonke reviewed calendar events noting that Spring Break begins on Saturday, March 19. Dr. Yonke and others will chaperone a music tour of 105 student musicians to Italy for the week, traveling to Rome, Florence, Venice and Milan. The Policy Committee will meet next on April 7. The ACT test will be administered on Saturday, April 9 and Tuesday, April 19. All standardized testing locations have been shifted to Northfield during the Winnetka Campus Construction Project except for the school-day ACT on April 19 and most AP testing. Board Committee meetings happen the second week of April, beginning on Monday, April 11. The next Regular Board meeting is on Monday, April 18. Senior Prom is on Saturday, April 30.

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

There were no requests for research or future agenda items. Mr. Myefski mentioned that he will not be at the April Board meeting as he will be traveling to Cuba with the American Institute of Architects.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

F. Malcolm Harris, President