

**NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
April 18, 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, April 18, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

Members Present

Mr. Greg Robitaille, Vice President
Ms. Cathy Albrecht
Mr. Alan R. Dolinko
Ms. Lori Goldstein
Mr. Patrick O’Donoghue

Administrators Present

Dr. Linda L. Yonke, Superintendent
Mr. Paul Sally, Associate Superintendent
for Curriculum & Instruction
Mr. Tim Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for
Student Services
Mr. Christopher Johnson, Assistant Superintendent
for Finance & Operations
Mr. Scott Williams, Assistant. Principal –
Winnetka Campus
Mr. Peter Tragos, Assistant Principal –
Northfield Campus

Members Absent

Mr. F. Malcolm Harris, President
Mr. John Myefski

Also Present

Ms. Niki Dizon, Director of Communications; Mr. Gerry Munley, Assistant Principal, Winnetka Campus; Ms. Ellen Ambuehl, Director of Special Education; Mrs. Linda Knier, Director of Academic Services; Mr. George Sanders, Director of Human Resources; Ms. Elizabeth Blodgett, New Trier Educational Support Professionals Association; Mr. Steve Linke, Winnetka Campus Facility Manager; Mr. Dave Conway, Northfield Campus Facility Manager; Mr. Steve Cashman, Architect; Mr. Spiro Bolos, Social Studies Department, President New Trier Education Association; Mr. Todd Maxman, Social Studies Department; Mr. Terry Phillips, Mathematics Department; Mr. Colby Vargas, Social Studies Department; Mr. Tim Kajfez, Social Studies Department; Ms. Sue Ellen Haak, Kinetic Wellness Department; Mr. David Ladd, Music Department Chair; Mr. Matt Sloan, Science Department; Mr. Mike Hill, Technology Department; Mr. Eric Johnson, Technology Department; Ms. Patricia Sumrow, Winnetka Project Facilitator; Mr. Rob Martinelli, Pepper Construction Co.; and members of the press and community.

BUSINESS MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER – 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Robitaille called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 6:30 p.m. Roll call was taken. All members were present except Ms. Goldstein, Mr. Harris and Mr. Myefski. Mr. Robitaille, in his role as Vice President filled in for the absent Mr. Harris in conducting the meeting. 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 student disciplinary cases. Mr. O’Donoghue seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

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

II. Closed Session – 6:30 p.m. — A201A

Ms. Goldstein arrived in time for the Closed Session.

BUSINESS MEETING

III. Open Session – 7:30 p.m. – C234

Mr. Robitaille re-called to Order the meeting of April 18, 2016 of the New Trier High School Board of Education at 7:33 p.m. Mr. Robitaille noted that the Board had returned from a Closed Session meeting and that he will be presiding for Mr. Harris. Roll call was taken. All Board members were present except Mr. Harris and Mr. Myefski. He welcomed those in attendance.

IV. Minutes

Mr. Robitaille asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. O’Donoghue moved and Mr. Dolinko seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on March 14, 2016 Open and Closed Session. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

V. Communications

Mr. Robitaille 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. Mr. Robitaille 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

Both Ms. Dubravec and Mr. Waechtler were attending the 21st Century Benchmark Consortium Conference. Mr. Tragos and Mr. Williams reported events from their respective campuses.

Mr. Peter Tragos, Assistant Principal of the Northfield Campus, reported on the activities at the Northfield Campus which included the PARCC Testing on April 4-8; the Day of Silence on April 14; and a Library exhibit on Human Rights. He highlighted a trip by the Social Service Board to the nearby Skokie Holocaust Museum which focused on Iraqi refugees. He also noted information on the Fourth Quarter Service Project and the After the Academics night which will be on May 9.

Mr. Scott Williams, Assistant Principal of the Winnetka Campus, announced that class schedules for next year will be sent out later in the week. Tomorrow, April 19 is the sophomore and senior Institute Day. Sophomores participate in off-site service projects and seniors stay on campus and explore the transition after high school. The ACT test will be administered to the juniors. The senior advisory online auction to benefit Habitat for Humanity ended last Friday as plans for another Habitat house continue. Faculty news included awards and grants for Brent Roman and Johanna Wininsky. Student news highlights noted the Speech & Debate Team, the Chess Team, and Power Lifting garnering IHSA, National, and NASA titles. Adam Grant, Professor of Management and Psychology, will present on May 5 for the FAN series of speakers. Mr. Williams also relayed a parent’s response to an article Ms. Dubravec and Mr. Waechtler wrote in the Parents Press. The article referred to the student fundraiser in World War I to purchase an ambulance for the war effort. The letter went on to say that one of the students enlisted to drive the ambulance in France and that student’s grandson is a current student at New Trier. Upcoming events included Junior Book Awards on April 21, Prom on April 30, Senior Awards on May 19, the AP exams from May 2-13, the last day for senior attendance on May 13, and Trevia Day on May 16.

Mr. Tim Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, noted another FAN speaker was Bryan Stevenson, speaking on the American Justice System. Mr. Hayes spoke highly of the presentation and is hopeful that Mr. Stevenson may be on the short list of speakers for the next All Staff Seminar Day. ECGC sponsored a panel discussion on Stress, Anxiety and Depression that was well attended by more than 120 parents. The next ECGC discussion is on May 10 on *Our Teens’ Moral Compass-Pointing in the Right Direction* led by Mr. Waechtler at 9:00 a.m. in Room C234.

Mr. Paul Sally, Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction reported that the Illinois Science Assessment will be administered by our Science Department on May 2 in Northfield and May 9 in Winnetka. This exam is required by the Race to the Top Grant and will take place in all double lab biology classes.

Mr. Chris Johnson, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations reported that there were four FOIA requests since the last Regular meeting of the Board. Information requested was on courses offered; payment bond of DeNovo; retiring teachers; and a list of student services staff members and security staff. All requests have been completed.

Dr. Yonke shared information on the Music Department's Italy tour with our Music students. She chaperoned students on this memorable trip and noted the wonderful responses from the Italians who attended their concerts. Dr. Yonke also congratulated Sue Ellen Haak for her 400th win as a boys' volleyball coach and Mike Napoleon for his 800th win as a baseball coach.

B. Board Officer Elections

Mr. Robitaille explained that per Board Policy 2-110 it is the custom of the Board to select new officers for the following year at the April Regular meeting. Noting that two members are absent from this meeting, it is the recommendation to suspend Policy 2-110, and postpones the election of new officers until the May Regular meeting when all members will be present. There was no additional discussion on the topic. Mr. Dolinko moved and Ms. Goldstein seconded the motion that in accordance with Board Policy 2-240 that the Board suspend Policy 2-110 until May 16, 2016 and hold officer elections at the May 16, 2016 Regular Board of Education meeting. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

C. Construction Update

Dr. Linda Yonke provided a PowerPoint presentation on the construction work at the Winnetka Campus. She reviewed the list of completed tasks for March and April which included completion of underpinning work; exterior masonry that is nearly complete; significant progress with the windows and skylights; beginning of drywall installation on floors 1-3; and framing out walls on the 4th floor. Also, a temporary wall has been constructed in the concourse; the concrete slab is poured for the concourse; and the masonry walls are erected in the lower level. Mr. Rob Martinelli concurred with the construction status. Dr. Yonke added that an agreement is close regarding the demolition contractors. The concourse work is behind schedule but the overall project is on time. There will be a neighbors' meeting on April 27 at 5:00 p.m. to discuss construction and summer project work. Mr. Martinelli highlighted the work through site photographs and responded to questions. Board discussion followed on summer demolition work, dust relief for neighbors, the logistics of Phase II with existing work done, the contingency summary, and change orders. Also discussed were the construction noise level and owner's costs and contingency projections.

D. Winnetka Storm Water Project Update

Dr. Yonke reported on plans that are part of the ongoing Storm Water System Study by the Village of Winnetka; these plans would significantly impact New Trier property at Duke Childs Field. She and Greg Robitaille attended the last public meeting on Storm Water Management on April 12 in order to consider their proposed options and to provide the Village with information on the District's use of the Duke Childs Field. Dr. Yonke reviewed Winnetka's history of addressing village flooding that goes back to an original plan for storm-water detention at Duke Childs Field, then progressed to the Deep Tunnel plan that has now been abandoned due to high costs. Now the Village is concentrating on the area south of Tower Road and west of Green Bay Road. The option now under consideration is a conveyance storage method which would eventually drain the water west toward the Skokie Lagoons and River. The imperative to address the issue is manifest in the occurrence of two one-hundred-year storms that have happened since 2008. Dr. Yonke shared aerial views of the streets and fields affected by flooding as well as the proposed solutions. She reviewed the Village's solution of using the New Trier Lacrosse and Soccer Fields for a retention pond and replacing the fields with new fields on top of the Willow Road landfill. Dr. Yonke noted concerns about losing the field space as they are contiguous; parking difficulties and access to the

landfill fields; and the ground settling of the landfill space. Mr. Robitaille noted a need for the District to speak with a public voice on the consideration of a detention option for the Duke Childs Fields. Board discussion followed with members sharing their concerns on the Village's proposals. Mr. Robitaille noted that the Village is still in an exploratory mode and no decisions have been made yet. He was grateful for the feedback to enable current and meaningful dialogue back to the Village discussion.

VII. Administrative Items

A. Treasurer's Report – February and March 2016

Mr. Chris Johnson reviewed the Treasurer's Reports for February and March 2016. He noted that the February Report follows the legacy reporting of three years of Fiscal Year Cash Flow Statements, the Financial Statement for February, the Cash and Investments Report, and the February Investment Report with the Historical Cash Balances Graph. The Treasurer's Report for March reflects the new reporting format with reports generated directly from the trust institutions rather than manual spreadsheets. Short term investments and checking account transactions occur with PMA/BMO Harris. Long term investments are held with MBS/Pershing. The Historical Cash Balances Graph is also included.

B. Monthly Financial Reports – March 2016

Mr. Johnson also reviewed the Monthly Financial Report for March 2016 which includes information on revenues and expenditures previously reported quarterly. The change to monthly accounting provides more timely information and tracking abilities. Mr. Dolinko noted that the new format had been vetted at the Finance Committee and promised to be an enhanced reporting tool going forward.

C. Tentative Amended Budget – FY 2016

Mr. Johnson reviewed the background for presenting the Amended Budget for Fiscal Year 2016. He noted that due to the bond sale in February, the District is now required to update the Budget reflecting the new revenue from the bond sale. The District sold bonds for Health Life Safety work and maintenance and renovations projects at the Winnetka Campus. He also highlighted that the Amended Budget will also clean up a few additional side items to facilitate the work for the auditors later this summer. The Amended Budget will be on display and a Public Hearing will be held on June 6, the date of the Regular June Board of Education meeting. While this is required procedure, Mr. Dolinko stated this is the best and good practice to do and it allows us to clean up items to be ready for the audit. Mr. Johnson responded to Board members' comments and questions. Mr. Dolinko moved and Ms. Albrecht seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the 2015-2016 Tentative Amended Budget and that a Public Hearing date be set for June 6, 2016, and that the 2015-2016 Tentative Amended Budget be placed on public display from April 18 through the Public Hearing. The board of Education also approves the expenditure over \$50,000 which includes the purchase of copiers for approximately \$95,000.00. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

D. New Textbooks for 2016 – 2017

Mr. Paul Sally, Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction reviewed the textbook adoptions for the 2016-2017 school year. The books will be voted on at the May Regular meeting and will be on display in room A201A, Northfield. He noted the nine new books come from English, Math, Modern and Classical Languages, and Social Studies Departments. He highlighted that while being sensitive to family costs on new books, many of the titles have a choice of eBook or print versions. Board discussion followed with Mr. Sally and Mr. Hayes responding to members' questions. Discussion centered on the evaluation of textbooks on perspectives and bias. Mr. Sally noted the Course Committee carefully screens the books to watch for bias, stereotyping, and imbalance. The Committee's recommendations are then approved by the Department Chairs and Mr. Sally.

E. Maintenance-Renovation Bids for Summer 2016

Mr. Chris Johnson introduced this agenda item noting that the bonds discussed earlier are intended to fund the Five Year Facility Plan; the first part of the project is the Health Life Safety work, the next phase is the restrooms and ELS transition rooms at the Winnetka Campus, and the third part is the concrete work at the Northfield Campus.

Mr. Steve Linke reported that seven contractors bid the work and they were all good quality firms. K R Miller & Company was chosen with a bid that is \$950,000 under the budget. Miller has provided services for the District in the past in our science lab renovations, as well as the Health Services and Library renovations. Mr. Steve Cashman shared information about the pre-bidding and bidding process and noted that we had an unusually high number of bidders due to the sudden lack of work with Chicago Public Schools and their budget crisis. Mr. Johnson praised the design team for working with Department Chairs to produce innovative solutions to the challenging spaces for Special Education and ELS rooms. Board questions on the staging and phasing of the renovation work were responded to by Mr. Linke and Mr. Cashman that there should be minimal disruption to the Pepper Construction work going on at the Winnetka Campus at the same time. Mr. Johnson responded to Mr. Robitaille's inquiry on the outcome of the extra proceeds stating that the extra left from the Health Life Safety funds will stay in that fund for the next HLS project. The same would be true for the moneys left in the Capital Projects Fund. Looking ahead to future projects, less funds will be needed to finance them for completion. Mr. Dolinko moved and Ms. Goldstein seconded the motion that the Board of Education approves and awards a contract to K.R. Miller Contractors in the amount of \$2,930,000 for the Winnetka Campus Renovation Work and approves related project costs including the owner's furniture cost of \$100,000, Architectural and Engineering fees of \$266,034.00, and asbestos abatement costs of \$200,000.

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

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

VIII. Consent Agenda

- Bill List for the Period March 1-31, 2016
- Personnel Report
- Ratification of Change Orders
- Capital Expenditures over \$50,000 FY 2016-2017
- Resolution identifying work contract to an Installment Purchase Agreement entered into by Township High School District 203, Cook County, IL
- Revised Calendar 2016-2017
- Board Policies – 2nd Reading and Approval
- Charter Bus Bid Approval
- Technology Network Equipment Contract
- Moving Services Bid
- Winnetka Project Signage Bid

Mr. Robitaille asked if any Board member would like to remove any 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 of Education approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Bill List for the Period March 1-31, 2016; the Personnel Report; that the Board of Education of New Trier Township High School District 203 ratifies Budget Change Order Number 7 to the contracts managed by Pepper Construction Company, and furthermore, deducts the amount of \$470,227.00 from the West Side Project Construction Contingency line item, all in the best interest of the District; that the Board approves the Capital Projects over \$50,000 as presented; the Resolution identifying work contracts to an Installment Purchase Agreement heretofore entered into by Township High School District Number 203, Cook County, Illinois; the Revised School Calendar for 2016-2017 as presented; the revised Board Policies as presented; that the District enter into an agreement with Infinity Transportation to provide charter bus services for the 2016-2017 school year and authorize the Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations to execute the contract subject to final attorney review; a contract with the Sentinel Technology as presented and authorize the Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations to execute the agreement; the Moving/Storage Summer 2016 Bid to Armstrong Relocation and Companies in the amount of \$128,570.00, all in the best interest of the District; and the Code-Required Signage Bid for the Winnetka Campus and awards the contract to ER2 Image Group in the amount of \$84,820.00 all in the best interest of the District. Ms. Albrecht seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

IX. Board Member Reports

Ms. Albrecht noted that the *ECGC* was a co-sponsor of the FAN presentation on Stress, Anxiety and Depression along with the Parents Association and the *New Trier Fine Arts Association*. Ms. Albrecht also reported for the *New Trier Education Foundation* reviewing the discussions of a Special Meeting on a consultant's report to boost Foundation fund raising and goals. The report recommended revising the committee structure, revisiting the mission statement, and aligning funding goals to District needs. Options being considered are a major gifts program and deferred giving. The Foundation will focus on finding donors for more significant donations.

Mr. Dolinko reported for the *Booster Club*. He noted that Mr. Fontanetta attended the meeting and members were happy to meet the new Athletic Director. The Club is considering Athletic Department requests for funding from the softball, baseball, and swimming programs and is considering the size of this year's payment for the turf project. They are very close to completing their commitment for the turf fields and anticipate final payment by the end of next year. The meeting also announced a slate of new board officers for 2016-17 and the end-of-the-year Booster Bash will be on June 8. Mr. Dolinko also reported there will be an event to honor Randy Oberembt on Monday, May 16 before the Regular meeting of the Board.

Ms. Goldstein shared news from the *New Trier Parents Association* which included that the Graduation Party theme has been chosen as Trevian Knights-Moroccan themed; the graduation yard signs are now available on RevTrack; and the 2019 Sophomore Class put on a program for sophomore parents with a panel discussion on the adviser system and extracurricular opportunities to dispel myths around sophomore year. The event was catered by Curt's Café in Evanston. The two cafes provide teaching internships on food service to at-risk youth. Two IGSS students presented an idea to the Parents Association to work with Curt's Café in providing food for advisory events. Ms. Goldstein also attended the *NSSED* meeting where discussions covered the Emergency Operational Plan Update on Crisis Management report presented by a consultant; an update report on withdrawal liability from an accounting firm; and presented their second draft of FY2017 Budget at \$48,544,072, which is balanced. She noted there may be other possible changes before the Final Budget is approved. She was not able to attend the *All School Forum*; however the discussion there was on student use of technology.

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

- Calendar of Events

Dr. Yonke highlighted that the Menz Dance event is Thursday night, April 21. Prom is on Saturday, April 30. The Recognition Dinner is on Friday, May 6 to honor retirees and 10- and 25-year employees. May 13 is the last full day for seniors. May 10 is a Farewell to the Tech Arts and Cafeteria Buildings event. Commencement is on Sunday, May 22.

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 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

Gregory Robitaille, Vice President