

**NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
March 20, 2017**

**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 20, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

**Members Present**

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

**Administrators Present**

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

**Members Absent**

Mr. Alan R. Dolinko

**Also Present**

Mr. Peter Tragos, Assistant Principal, Northfield Campus; Ms. Stephanie Helfand, Chief Technology Officer; Mr. Myron Spiwak, Business Services Director; Mr. Gerry Munley, Assistant Principal, Winnetka Campus; Mr. Scott Williams, Assistant Principal, Winnetka Campus; Ms. Athena Arvanitis, Director of Student Life; Ms. Ellie Ambuehl, Director of Special Education; Mr. George Sanders, Director of Human Resources; Ms. Niki Dizon, Director of Communications; Mrs. Linda Knier, Director of Academic Services; Mr. Christopher Pearson, Senior Boys Advisor Chair; Mr. Colby Vargas, President New Trier Education Association, Social Studies Department; Mr. Mike Hill, Technology Department; Mr. Eric Johnson, Technology Department; Mr. Dave Conway, Facilities Manager, Northfield Campus; Mr. Steve Linke, Facilities Manager, Winnetka Campus; Mr. Marty Platten, Pepper Construction Co.; Mr. Scott Flanagan, Wight & Company; Mr. Sudesh Saraf, Wight & Company; Mr. Michael Hudson, Mr. Oscar Alcantara, Ms. Beth Feeley, Ms. Lindsey Feeley, Ms. Jasmine Hauser, Ms. Olivia Hauser, Ms. Betsy Hart, Ms. Susan Gallagher, Mr. Joe DiCamillo, Ms. Laurie Goldstein, Mr. Darrell Butler, Mr. Ryan Cason, Ms. Celia Buckman and members of the press and community.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

**I. CALL TO ORDER – 6:00 p.m.**

Mr. Robitaille called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 6:01 p.m. in Room C234. Roll call was taken. All members were present except Mr. Dolinko. Mr. O’Donoghue 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 to discuss Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular District has been filed and is pending before a court or 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; and to discuss collective negotiation matters between the District and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees; and to discuss student disciplinary cases. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

## **Adjournment to Closed Session – 6:01 p.m.**

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

#### **BUSINESS MEETING**

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

Mr. Robitaille re-called to Order the meeting of March 20, 2017 of the New Trier High School Board of Education at 7:38 p.m. All members were present except Mr. Dolinko. Mr. Robitaille noted that the Board had returned from Closed Session and a student recognition ceremony.

### **IV. Minutes**

Mr. Robitaille asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. O’Donoghue moved and Ms. Albrecht seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on January 16, 2017, closed session and the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on February 20, 2017, open and closed session. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

### **V. Communications**

Mr. Robitaille invited anyone from the audience who wished to address the Board to please come forward and fill out a communications request form from the back table. Thirteen speakers wished to address the Board on the topic of All School Seminar Day. Mr. Michael Hudson, Mr. Oscar Alcantara, Ms. Beth Feeley, Ms. Lindsey Feeley, Ms. Jasmine Hauser, Ms. Olivia Hauser, Ms. Betsy Hart, Ms. Susan Gallagher, Mr. Joe DiCamillo, Ms. Laurie Goldstein, Mr. Darrell Butler, Mr. Ryan Cason, and Ms. Celia Buckman shared their thoughts about the day. Mr. Robitaille thanked everyone for their thoughts and stated specific questions will receive a response from the Board or administration. He noted that any private citizen may comment on events at the school and citizen groups may fundraise for their group consistent with their prerogatives. These groups have nothing to do with the Board of Education, nor do their fundraising efforts.

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

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

Mr. Waechtler, Principal of the Northfield Campus began his comments with a recognition of the successful All School Seminar Day at the Northfield Campus. He noted the freshmen read *March* by Andrew Aydin and were very engaged in discussions with him that morning. Third Quarter ends on March 24, and eligible freshmen will now have release time from their study hall in the Fourth Quarter. Mr. Waechtler commended the annual Winter Carnival event as a great time for students working together for community outreach. He reported on the Service Learning Initiative at Northfield which is “Closing the Food Gap – Food for All”. The initiative provides service opportunities through the advisor rooms and clubs. He highlighted that this week is “Random Acts of Kindness Week” sponsored by student groups and staff to celebrate kindness to all.

Ms. Denise Dubravec, Principal of the Winnetka Campus attended the Alumni Achievement Awards Dinner celebrating notable New Trier Alumni. She thanked Niki Dizon, Renee Mosley, Megan Maginity and Marianne Breen for their involvement in bringing this celebration together. Mr. Dubravec highlighted the alumni speakers sharing time and talent with students during the week. She noted that Winter Carnival raised \$22,000. Spring Athletics has begun with 1182 students signed up for spring sports. The largest team sport is Track with 230 sign-ups and the smallest with 15 sign-ups is Bass Fishing. Ms. Dubravec shared that there are 113 seniors enrolled in Senior Project this year. Student Alliance has elected new officers. Dr. Yonke spoke at the International Women’s Day Seminar which was well attended. Two students won on the TV show “Wheel of Fortune.” Student, Lucy Spahr’s documentary on global warming was one of the 100 winners out of 5,000 submitted nationally in the C-Span video contest. Her film will be shown in the EPI Center on April 4. Ms. Dubravec noted New Trier has 27 National Merit Semi-Finalists and 23 Finalists. Mr. Jim Conroy, Chair of the Post High School Counseling Department, will be working on Cal-Tech’s Advisory Board. Mr. Andy Milne has won the National Health Educator of the Year Award.

Mr. Milne created a website to fundraise for other health teachers to attend professional conferences.

Dr. Linda Yonke added briefly to the discussion of the International Day of Women on how positively impressed she was with the event planned by a large group of students. It was well attended and appreciated. She also commented on the Alumni Hall of Honor Dinner and the very accomplished alumni. She noted how all of them felt so honored to be inducted into the Hall of Honor and in listening to their stories, they all reflected how important their teachers were in their lives.

Dr. Timothy Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services echoed the same reaction to the Hall of Honor inductees that Dr. Yonke mentioned and was impressed with the very real connections that adults and kids make during the high school years. The Student Services Department is preparing the Adviser room lists for next year. The ECGC Parent group will present a discussion on Stress, Good and Bad on April 26 from 1:00pm-3:00pm in Northfield, room C234.

Dr. Paul Sally, Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, was pleased to announce that the new Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction will be Mr. Peter Tragos. Mr. Tragos is currently the Assistant Principal at the Northfield Campus. Dr. Sally provided information on Mr. Tragos' background and qualifications. He and the Board extended congratulations to Mr. Tragos and both are looking forward to working with him in this new capacity.

Mr. Christopher Johnson, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations reported that there were seventeen FOIA requests received since the last Regular Board of Education meeting. He noted that all but two were regarding the All School Seminar Day topic. Only one request remains open at this time.

#### **B. All School Seminar Preliminary Report**

Dr. Tim Hayes presented an update report on the All School Seminar Day planned for February 28, 2017. This preliminary report is a quick look at the feedback surveys and anecdotal comments made about the day. Fifteen hundred fifty-nine surveys have been received in total, so clearly there is more work to do to mine the data and details of the responses. Dr. Hayes noted the attendance for the day was more than last year's Martin Luther King Jr. Seminar Day, with 76.69% of students attending. Attendance was higher at the freshman campus at 81.54%. He shared some of the reasons students listed for not attending which included 'wanting the day off,' illness, catch-up on school work, objection to the content, and difficulty with transportation. Reviews of the reactions to the keynote speakers show very positive feedback to Andrew Aydin's presentation at the freshman campus. Mr. Aydin noted the freshmen were engaged in the discussion and he was very energized by the day. He is the co-author with Congressman John Lewis of *March*. Mixed reviews came back regarding Colson Whitehead at the Winnetka Campus. His presentation was more of a book talk, with background about himself as a writer with a reading of passages from the book, followed by time for Questions & Answers. Dr. Hayes noted adviser comments on the Common Lesson portion of the day highlighted the "most amazing conversations" brought forward. Goals for the Seminar Day Planning Committee are to review all the survey results, determine any themes and issue a recommendation to the Board for future work in the area of racial civil rights. Board discussion followed on attendance, scheduling, the diversity of opinion, and future seminar days. Mr. Myefski noted his disappointment in the letter issued by the Board President after the last Board meeting, and noted that he did not support the Board making statements about the Seminar Day. Mr. Harris stated that the Seminar Day is the type of learning that is important and meaningful. He notes that there will always be controversial issues in the "real world" and students will soon have to deal with them. Ms. Albrecht was appreciative of the day and very positively impressed with the speakers, the workshops, and the student presenters. Dr. Hayes noted that while New Trier has a culture of constant improvement, he felt it is important also to celebrate successes. Seminar Day was a success and it was very meaningful to receive the many responses of support. He is grateful for the Board's support. Mr. Robitaille was proud of the day, the lessons learned, the student debate and discourse, as well as all of the planning and engagement of staff and students. He thanked Dr. Hayes for the All School Seminar Day and his work for its success.

#### **C. Board Policies – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

Dr. Yonke presented a report from the recent Policy Committee Meeting on March 14. She noted the inclusion of the meeting minutes and highlighted the discussions of the meeting. A parent requested a review of Policy 7-40 Non Public School Students, Including Parochial and Home Schooled Students. The request was to include non-public school students in New Trier extracurricular activities, including interscholastic sports. Committee discussion included policy background, relevant laws, and IHSA regulations. The Committee agreed to review practices of surrounding schools and monitor course

programs online for compatibility with New Trier graduation requirements. No policy change was recommended at this time. Board Policies 8-30, 8-40 and 8-50 were also under consideration by the Committee. These are regarding Visitors to and Conduct on School Property. Upon Committee discussion, it is recommended that the three policies be combined into one, Policy 8-30. The Administration also received parent phone calls regarding Board Policies 7-10 and 7-20, Equal Educational Opportunities and Gender Equity. Parent and community members were concerned over the recent directives from the White House to cancel the prior administration's instructions about transgender students. District counsel indicated their opinion that transgender students are covered by our current policies. The Committee did not have time to complete their discussions of this policy and tabled any decision or recommendation to the next Policy Committee meeting. Board discussion followed as Dr. Yonke responded to Board members' comments and questions. Clarity on the document changes for Policy 8-30 was discussed as well as the determination of visitors conduct during school hours and after school hours. Dr. Hayes also responded on visitor check in procedures. Mr. Robitaille requested the inclusion of both "gender" and "gender identity" for Policies 7-10 and 7-20. Dr. Yonke noted that the Section 7 Policies will be considered as a 1<sup>st</sup> Reading next month, as full discussion and debate were cut short at the prior meeting.

#### **D. Monthly Construction Report**

Mr. Chris Johnson provided the monthly Construction Report for March. He noted the Facilities Steering Committee reviewed the Winnetka Project budget and schedule, went over the Change Order #19 and continued the discussion regarding future facility planning. The Project Summary for Phase II included the concrete slab placement is substantially complete for floors 1-4; the Building is temporarily enclosed and heated; Fireproofing continues and is complete on levels 1-2; underground duct installation is 80% complete; exterior masonry work has begun; the ramp to the lower level is to be removed and the service yard is starting to be construction in April. Mr. Johnson reviewed the budget for Change Order #19, highlighting the amount for \$483,970. He summarized the updated Projected Contingency Usage which was reduced by \$346,066, from \$1,883,911 to \$1,537,845. The estimate of future obligations decreased to \$486,805 which is more than the actual change order amount of \$483,970. An updated Project budget will be prepared for the Facilities Steering Committee and the Board of Education for the May Regular meeting. Project photos including aerial shots were provided, with narration by Marty Platten of Pepper Construction.

#### **E. Ratification of Change Order #19**

Mr. Johnson invited Marty Platten from Pepper Construction; Scott Flanagan, from Wight & Co.; Sudesh Saraf from Wight & Com.; Dave Conway and Steve Linke to assist in responding to Board member questions about the Change Order #19. Mr. O'Donoghue noted the change order was reviewed at the last Facilities Steering Committee meeting. He and Mr. Myefski asked for further explanation on the dumpster change order as well as the YMI mechanical changes and the louver changes. Mr. Platten and Mr. Flanagan responded noting the details that necessitated these Change Orders. The dumpster adjustment is a reconciliation of fees not added earlier on. The YMI mechanical change order includes the extra work involved in re-routing the ductwork due to consideration of the overhead space needs of the scene shop. Mr. Johnson noted there will be further negotiations regarding this change and liability responsibilities. Mr. Flanagan reported on the re-design of the air intake and exhaust provided by the louvers on the north face of the Gaffney Auditorium and noted the new construction would block these louvers. New ductwork was designed to redirect the intake and exhaust to the roof. Board discussion followed on the duct work and other line items. Ms. Albrecht requested that future change orders show the cumulative percentage of difference from the initial contracted amount. Mr. Johnson agreed this can be added to future budget summaries. Mr. Platten responded to Mr. Robitaille's query on the Project completion and noted he was confident that the project is still on schedule. Ms. Goldstein moved and Ms. Albrecht seconded the motion that the Board of Education of New Trier Township High School District 203 ratifies Budget Change Order #19 to the contracts managed by Pepper Construction Company; and furthermore, deducts the amount of \$483,970.00 from the West Side Project Owner's Contingency line item, all in the best interest of the District. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

## **VI. Administrative Items**

**A. Treasurer’s Report for February 2017**

Mr. Christopher Johnson presented the February 2017 monthly Treasurer’s Report which includes three years of Cash Flow Statements, the February Financial Statement, the Cash and Investment Report, and the February Investment Statements. Mr. Johnson noted that receipts are showing \$17M due to the first installment payments of property taxes. The State has delayed payments and is issuing vouchers instead. To date the State owes the District \$1M. Mr. Robitaille inquired about the line item “Journal Entry Adjustment.” Mr. Johnson and Mr. Spiwak noted it is showing the transfer of moneys between funds.

**B. Financial Reports for February 2017**

Mr. Johnson reviewed the Financial Report for February which shows a slight surplus. Both revenues and expenditures are slightly lower than this time last year.

**C. Bid Awards for Summer 2017 Renovation and Maintenance Projects**

Mr. Johnson presented four of the bid packages for Summer2017 Renovation and Maintenance Projects. These projects were approved by the Board at the November 2016 Regular Board meeting and are part of the normal Five-Year Facility Plan. The four bid packages are for track resurfacing; Winnetka renovations to classrooms, activity rooms, and meeting spaces; mechanical conversions in the North and Tower Buildings at Winnetka to hot water boilers; and Asbestos Abatement. He noted the bidding process was competitive and many bids came in under budget. The total under-budget cost for the four areas shows a net savings of \$1.1M. The remaining two bids for the Summer 2017 projects will be presented to the Board at the May Regular Board meeting. Board discussion followed as Mr. Johnson reviewed the remaining items to be bid in May that included Northfield concrete work, the Briery Gallery glass wall, miscellaneous mechanical items such as pumps, and the annual roof repair work. Energy Conservation projects will be reimbursed by the State at a rate of half the cost; this project needs to be undertaken before the program is ended by the State. Discussion also included the added value of air conditioning in the Gaffney Auditorium, the remainder on the Health Life Safety Bond, and the expected life of the track resurfacing project. Mr. O’Donoghue moved and Mr. Myefski seconded the motion that the Board of Education approves the bid packages as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

**D. Resolution Adopting a Disclosure Compliance Policy of Township High School District Number 203, Cook County, Illinois**

Mr. Johnson presented a Resolution recommended by District bond counsel, Chapman and Cutler, to be adopted by the Board. The Resolution establishes a policy requiring that for all bond issuances, the District must document compliance through the development of preliminary and official statements for those who may be interested in the purchase of a bond, issue an annual financial information disclosure to the purchaser, and provide notice of material events that may occur during the life of the bond. The District has eight active bond issuances at this time and each is presented to and approved by the Board of Education. Mr. Johnson noted that the District’s current practice is already providing this information and monitoring systems, and that adoption of a policy of this kind is only formalizing our present procedures. He noted that the Board will be asked in May to certify that the bonds were used for the Summer 2017 Projects work, and then will be asked again in December to approve a resolution affirming post-issuance tax compliance, documenting and certifying that the bonds continue to meet the requirements to maintain tax exempt status. Board discussion followed noting possibly the burdensome nature of these annual resolutions; the benefits of compiling a record of compliance for all State and Federal laws regarding District Bonds; the legal obligations involved; and information inclusion in the Annual Audit; and the benefits of a policy vs. a Board resolution. Board consensus was reached to table the adoption of the resolution and ask the District’s auditors how much of these practices are already part of the scope of their services to the District as well as consideration of compliance practices by the Assistant Superintendent for Finance. .

**VIII. Consent Agenda**

- Bill List for the Period February 1-28, 2017
- Personnel Report (Appointments, Change of Status, Resignations, Retirements, Stipends, Scale

- Transfers)
- Resolution to Honorably Dismiss Educational Support Personnel
- IHSA Renewal 201-2018

Mr. Robitaille asked if any Board member would like to remove any items from the Consent Agenda for separate discussion. No one requested any Consent Agenda items needing further discussion. Mr. O'Donoghue moved and Mr. Myefski seconded the motion that the Board of Education approves the Consent Agenda which includes the Bill List for the Period of February 1-28, 2017; the Personnel Report, which includes Appointments, Changes of Status, Resignations/Retirements, Stipends, and Scale Transfers; the Resolution to Honorably Dismiss Educational Support Personnel; and the IHSA Renewal for 2017-2018, as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

## IX. Board Member Reports

Ms. Albrecht reported on the *New Trier Education Foundation's* biennial Alumni Achievement Awards Dinner on Thursday, March 16. She highlighted anecdotes on honored guests Ann Compton and Walter McDougal. The Foundation is also reviewing by-laws amendments as well as governance and committee issues.

Ms. Goldstein noted that Paul Sally was the guest speaker at the last *Parent's Association* meeting. He spoke of his plans to support the whole child and connect with the whole community. The *Association* is planning to partner again with ECGC on the Parent University program. The *NSSSED* meeting included a skype call with Madeleine Will, the retired US Assistant Secretary of Education for Special Education during the Reagan Administration. She was a pioneer of special education and spoke of its history and future. The *NSSSED* Board approved the articles of agreement showing clarification of procedures for withdrawal from the Co-Op. The annual audit for *NSSSED* was reviewed, showing a surplus that generated discussion on giving funds back to the member districts.

Mr. Myefski attended the *New Trier Fine Arts Association* meeting at which grant recipients shared their experiences. Discussions also focused on the All School Seminar Day.

Mr. O'Donoghue noted most of the items for the *Facilities Steering Committee* had already been discussed earlier in the meeting. He added there was discussion on the general use of the facilities throughout the District. The *All School Forum* meeting also focused on the All School Seminar Day.

## X. Calendar of Events & Board Members' Requests for Staff Research and Future Agenda Items

- Calendar of Events

Dr. Linda Yonke reviewed the upcoming calendar which included the end of the Third Quarter on Friday, March 24; Spring Break beginning on Saturday, March 25; and utility work on the Winnetka Project continuing through Spring Break. Classes will resume on Monday, April 3. Board elections are on Tuesday, April 4, and the next Regular Meeting for the Board is Monday, April 17. The newly elected Board members will be seated at a Special Meeting of the Board of Education on Monday, May 1.

-Requests for Staff Research & Future Agenda Items

Ms. Albrecht requested looking at the school year calendar with the construction calendar to see if there may be a way to add some holidays back into the school year calendar. Discussion followed on the already-approved calendars for 2017-18 and 2018-19 as well as the impact of changes to the construction calendar. Dr. Yonke will explore the possibility of beginning school two days early next year in order to add back in Rosh Hashanah and Martin Luther King Day into next year's calendar. Discussions will take place with Pepper Construction and she will bring the topic back for discussion at the April Regular meeting.

## XI. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

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Gregory Robitaille, President