

**NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
December 18, 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, December 18, 2017 at 5:15 p.m.

Members Present

Ms. Lori Goldstein, Vice President
Ms. Cathy Albrecht
Mr. Keith Dronen
Ms. Carol Ducommun
Dr. Marc Glucksman
Mr. Patrick O’Donoghue

Administrators Present

Dr. Paul Sally, Superintendent
Dr. Timothy Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for
Student Services
Mr. Christopher Johnson, Assistant Superintendent
for Finance & Operations
Mr. Peter Tragos, Assistant Superintendent for
for Curriculum & Instruction
Ms. Denise Dubravec, Principal – Winnetka Campus
Mr. Paul Waechtler, Principal – Northfield Campus

Members Absent

Mr. Greg Robitaille, President
Mr. Patrick O’Donoghue (*left after Closed Session*)

Also Present

Mr. Myron Spiwak, Business Services Director; Mr. Gerry Munley, Assistant Principal, Winnetka Campus; Mr. George Sanders, Director of Human Resources; Ms. Niki Dizon, Director of Communications; Mr. Dave Conway, Northfield Campus Facilities Manager; Mr. Steve Linke, Winnetka Campus Facilities Manager; Mr. Jason Dane, Kinetic Wellness Department, New Trier Education Association President; Mr. Scott Williams, Assistant Principal for Student Services; Ms. Gail Gamrath, Assistant Principal of the Northfield Campus; Ms. Athena Arvanitis, Director of Student Life; Mr. Augie Fontanetta, Director of Athletics; Ms. Stephanie Helfand, Chief Technology Officer; Mr. Colby Vargas, Social Studies Department; Mr. Brian Van Mersbergen, Kinetic Wellness Department; Mr. Robert Guy, English Department; Mr. Kerry Hall, Social Studies Department, Mr. Dean Pinos, Social Studies Department Chair; Mr. Bill Loris, Science Department; Ms. Katie Kritek, Kinetic Wellness Department; Mr. Christopher Rutt, Kinetic Wellness Department; Ms. Johannah Wininsky, Kinetic Wellness Department; Ms. Jennifer Karakosta, Applied Arts Department Coordinator; Mr. Matt Sloan, Science Department; Ms. Sarah Kropski, NTESPA Co-President, Music Department & Media Speech & Theatre Department; Mr. Mike Hill, Technology Department; Mr. Eric Johnson, Technology Department; Mr. Rob Martinelli, Pepper Construction Co.; and members of the press and community.

BUSINESS MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER – 5:15 p.m. – Rm. C234

Ms. Goldstein called the Regular Meeting of December 18, 2017 of the Board of Education to order at 5:25 p.m. in Room C234. Roll call was taken and all members were present except Mr. Robitaille. Ms. Goldstein asked for a motion to move to Closed Session. Ms. Ducommun moved 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; And for the purpose of discussing the placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students. Mr. O’Donoghue seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Mr. Dronen, Ms. Ducommun, Dr. Glucksman, Ms. Goldstein, Mr. O’Donoghue, Ms. Albrecht,

NAY: none.

The motion passed.

II. CLOSED SESSION – Rm. A201A

BUSINESS MEETING

III. **Open Session – 7:00 p.m. – C234**

Ms. Goldstein re-called to Order the Open Session, Business Meeting of the New Trier High School Board of Education of December 18, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. All members were present except Mr. Robitaille and Mr. O'Donoghue.

Dr. Sally requested a moment of silence to honor the memory of Sophie Troglia, a sophomore student who passed away this weekend after a medical emergency.

IV. Minutes

Ms. Goldstein asked for any comments or questions on the Minutes of November 20, 2017 and November 30, 2017. She asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Ducommun moved and Dr. Glucksman seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 20, 2017 and the minutes of the Special Meeting on November 30, 2017. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Dr. Glucksman, Ms. Albrecht, Mr. Dronen, Ms. Ducommun, Ms. Goldstein,

NAY: none

The motion passed.

V. Communications

Ms. Goldstein invited anyone from the audience who wished to address the Board to come forward and fill out a yellow communications request form from the back table. Mr. Brian Van Mersbergen shared his gratitude with the Board for the many opportunities of professional development afforded to all faculty in all departments at New Trier. As President of the Illinois Association for Health, Physical Education Recreation and Dance, Mr. Van Mersbergen honored Dr. Sally for his assistance and support of professional opportunities for New Trier teachers.

VI. Special Orders of Business

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

Mr. Paul Waechtler, Principal of the Northfield Campus, highlighted the recent Identity Project in which all freshman students participated in this program on bias education, empathy and community building. Other activities included:

- The Canned Food Drive, for the Greater Chicago Food Depository, brought in 6,000 meals on the Northfield Campus, 16,000 meals on the Winnetka Campus and 32,000 meals from online. New Trier is one of the largest donors of the Food Depository.
- The Northfield Campus Art Exhibit is on display in the B-Lounge.
- The Frosh/Soph musical *Urinetown* played to a packed house with stellar performances by the students
- First Semester final exams will take place after Winter Break
- Farewell to Senior Helpers took place with a Staff vs. Senior Helpers Basketball game.
- January 10, 11 and 16 are the dates for Academic Life, where the Class of 2022 is welcomed.

Ms. Denise Dubravec, Principal of the Winnetka Campus, noted the many events and activities at the Winnetka Campus that exemplify a common theme of service, in which so many of our students participate, such as:

- The NUSH Family Project provides food, gifts and toys for 78 families over the Holidays. Sixty-six Adviseries participated in the program.
- The Canned Food Drive provided a total of 54,311 meals to the Greater Chicago Food Depository.
- The Ann & Robert Lurie Children's Hospital thanked the 125 New Trier students who participated in the 3 Annual Bridges Dance Marathon. The raised \$65,000 for the Children's Hospital.
- Senior students continue to help Habitat for Humanity with benefit events like the Tom DeLuca show.

- Tri-Ship Tree Sales have done well with only 50 trees out of 500 left to sell.

The Metropolitan Community Project which is part of our Social Service Board provided intra-school visits for our students and the students of Kelvyn Park School. Faculty sponsors Spiro Bolos, Dan Lawler and Anne Twadell organized these opportunities for students to understand each other and their high school experiences. Ms. Dubravec shared some of their conversations and impressions of the two schools.

Other events taking place at the Winnetka Campus included:

- The ELS Basketball Tournament was held last weekend, with four schools competing. Ms. Dubravec thanked Kay Pothast, Mary Beth Barrett, Marty Laffey and Lisa Devereux for organizing this.
- *Wolves* was the first play to be held in the Hayes-McCausland Theatre last Thursday night. Both families of the honored girls were there to attend the opening performance in the theater.
- The 100th Annual Music Festival took place yesterday, December 17 in the Gates Gym and the High Five Choir will perform on Friday, December 22 at 11am in the rotunda.
- Isabelle Tragos, instructs students of our Life Skills and In-Transitions programs, in a class called Dance in Motion.

Dr. Timothy Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, noted he will be providing multiple reports later in the meeting. He wished all a Happy Holiday and Winter Break.

Mr. Peter Tragos, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, shared three activities of our students and teachers whose work is beyond the classroom at New Trier.

- Melissa Duffy's "Fashion, Merchandising & Marketing Class has created a display at the Old Orchard shopping mall, called *Holiday Soiree*.
- The Introduction to Engineering Design is working on a project called "Enabling the Future" Work is focused around human centered design and their task is to design a prosthetic hand.
- Four Social Studies teachers were selected to present at the National Conference for History Educators Council in San Antonio, Texas. They will speak on "Myth, Memory and Monuments".

Mr. Chris Johnson, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations reported that three FOIA requests were received since the last Regular meeting of the Board of Education. He noted that all three are completed. The requests were for details on school residency cases, a list of employees who worked the third shift and information on them and the last was an itemized list of expenses for any New Trier personnel who attended the annual Triple I Conference here in Chicago.

B. Profile of the Class of 2017

Mr. Peter Tragos and Dr. Timothy Hayes presented information of the Profile Report for the Class of 2017. Mr. Tragos began by noting how important this report is for the community to see all of the achievements of our students and to dispel some of the myths surrounding large high schools. He reviewed highlights of the report which included:

- the very high ACT scores in their subject test areas;
- 124 students of the Class of 2017 were honored with seals of award from the Illinois State Board of Education in Bi-Literacy in two languages acknowledging their proficiency and fluency. This honorary seal is affixed to their diploma;
- course selection patterns showing an increase in the number of students taking one or more AP course; and a decrease in the number of students taking all 4 level or all 2 level classes;
- the Alumni Survey which shares data on earlier graduating classes as with the Class of 2016, who are now sophomores in college, to show how well they were prepared for college, academically as well as socially.

Mr. Tragos emphasized the alumni survey showed 98% of our students cited a connection with one or more adults that supported them in their high school years. He underscored this high percentage as how important it is for students to have a connection with teachers and adults and its impact on student success.

Mr. Hayes added reflection on the area of the Profile as it relates to students and the use of support services. He noted a spike for this class in use of guided assistance in their sophomore year and equally of

interest is their consistency in all four of their years in their use of assistance in the social work department. He reported that 2017 was the last class to do social service with the India Project. Dr. Hayes looked for improvement in two areas. The first is to increase opportunities for students to work collaboratively with students of other schools on a common project and develop leadership skills. The second area is to make greater efforts to understanding stress and better ways to address it.

Mr. Tragos added it is their intent on producing an abbreviated version of the Profile Report to use as a guide to this important data. Board discussion followed with Mr. Tragos, Dr. Hayes and Dr. Sally responding to members' comments and questions.

C. Extracurricular Participation Report

Dr. Timothy Hayes presented the 2016-2017 Report on Student Participation in Extracurricular Activities and noted the overall numbers have been very stable over the past five years. The program of activities offered is also very large. The report provides information in both the total participations and the total number of individual students participating. Dr. Hayes noted that 86% of the total student population participated in some activity be it sports, performing arts or clubs and intramural competition. He also noted the participation level increases to 95% when after school jobs are included. New to the report this year is data on race, ethnicity and I.E.P. status, as well as gender. Dr. Hayes also shared information on those students (208) who are not participating in any extracurricular activities. He said more examination of this group of students is needed to be able to understand what if any obstacles prevent these students from participating. Board discussion followed as Dr. Hayes and Dr. Sally responded to questions and comments on school-life balance and the connections that extracurricular activities provide.

D. Monthly Construction Report

Mr. Chris Johnson provided the Construction Report on the Winnetka Facility Project, in which he highlighted the activities taking place as the project wraps up. Pepper Construction has worked with the District Physical Plant Services Department to minimize the noise levels from equipment to reduce any impact for the neighbors on Woodland Avenue. He noted the District applied for and received a building efficiency energy credit in the amount of \$226,149. This credit will be used to offset project costs. The Budget Change Order #28 totals \$205,516; the projected Contingency usage dropped to \$513,172 and the total project cost decreased to \$104.8M. The process of analyzing the change orders continues and an update will be provided in January. Mr. Rob Martinelli of Pepper Construction, Dave Conway and Steve Linke were included in reporting and responded to any questions on the Construction Report and the Change Order. Issues of Board interest were the LEED certification, the building exterior noise, and the remaining punch list items. Dr. Sally is hopeful that a final accounting report of the Project will be ready for the Board in February.

E. Martin Luther King Day Update

Dr. Timothy Hayes provided an update report on plans for Martin Luther King Day – 2018. He noted it is the 89th anniversary of Dr. King's birth and the 50th anniversary of his death. It is also the last of our construction calendars in which Martin Luther King Day is an attendance day. Dr. Hayes reported that given the significance of Dr. King's work, teachers and students are planning to recognize and honor Dr. King in various ways during the day. Students will experience lessons in some of their classes that are connected to the curriculum of the course, examining Dr. King's contributions to Civil Rights and the legacy he left behind and the impact he has made on our history. Dr. Sally commended the work of the faculty in making the connections to Dr. King in the various departments. Mr. Dronen reminded all that Dr. King visited and spoke in Winnetka in 1965 on the Village Green to crowds of approximately 8,000 people. Dr. Hayes commented that a few Social Studies classes will be talking about that home town event.

VII. Administrative Items

A. Treasurer's Report for November 2017

Mr. Chris Johnson highlighted the Treasurer Report in showing a lower cash balance due to the school revenue cycle at this time of year. Revenues are typically down in November, December, and January as the District is between the two tax payment times of the late summer and February. Also during this time, the District continues its' usual expenditures, which combined with the low revenue results in a low cash balance.

B. Financial Reports for November 2017

Mr. Johnson reviewed the Financial Reports for November 2017. He noted the Operating revenues were down at 0.71% lower than last year. The District Budget shows a 1.98% increase in Operating revenue for the year and at this time, he stated we expect to meet the budget. Operating expenditures through November were 17.65% higher than last year. He noted that this variance is due to earlier in the year inter-fund transfers and exclusive of this, the Operating expenditures are 7.01% higher than last year. Mr. Johnson invited comments or questions from the Board. He responded on vacation payouts, large purchases due to the construction project, PowerSchool implementation, paving at the Fox Meadow and Duke Childs Fields, utility costs, and increased interest in the District's Investment Portfolio.

C. 2018 Summer Project Update

Mr. Johnson provided a brief PowerPoint presentation on the 2018 Summer Projects, to which Athletic Director, Augie Fontanetta narrated, reviewed the details and responded to Board members' questions. The design for the tennis courts has been updated to a new location at the south end of the parking lot. This change will not impact the existing parking lot and will thus simplify its repaving. The number of courts increases by two which provides a total of six tennis courts to meet curriculum and tournament needs. Additionally, the Theodore Eckart Foundation has agreed to increase their donation to include the two new courts. The discussion of adding new bleachers, which began at the November Regular meeting and requested further research on the topic, provided compelling reasons to go forward with their inclusion with the 2018 Projects. Mr. Johnson noted the cost has come down by \$12,300; the equipment and installation would be bid as part of a cooperative purchasing agreement and therefore does not have to be bid separately; and the timing to install for the 2018-19 school year is critical and cannot wait to determine if the costs would be covered by the contingency. Mr. Fontanetta noted the need for additional bleachers was significant and he highlighted that New Trier was the largest school in the conference with the smallest amount of seating capacity. Dr. Sally agreed that the potential benefits of providing more space and seating for more of the student body outweighed the cost at this time. The Press Box is included and can be purchased through the same cooperative purchasing agreement. Board discussion followed. Ms. Albrecht pointed out that the District is embarking on an all campus facilities study which will take into account all facility needs and resources. She advocated waiting a year to determine where the bleachers fits into a comprehensive plan in a prioritized list of projects. Ms. Ducommun noted her support for the bleachers may be difficult to quantify, however the commitment for students, to help engage them and provide opportunities for participation and sharing school spirit is persuasive.

D. Consideration and action on a resolution providing for the issue of not to exceed \$7,000,000 General Obligation Limited Tax School Bonds, Series 2018, for the purpose of increasing the District's working cash fund, providing for the levy of taxes to pay said bonds, and authorizing the sale of said Bonds to the purchaser thereof.

Mr. Chris Johnson reported that this resolution is the final step to assist the District in funding the 2018 Summer Projects. The Board's Finance Committee has met with Liz Hennessey, the District's financial consultant and recommends going forward with the process. The next step is for the sale of the bonds in either a private or public sale. Mr. Johnson noted they are continuing to monitor the market for the best sales option. There were no further questions. Ms. Ducommun moved and Dr. Glucksman seconded the motion that the Board of Education approves the Resolution providing for the issue of not to exceed \$7,000,000 General Obligation Limited Tax School Bonds, Series 2018 for the purpose of increasing the District's working cash fund, providing for the levy of taxes to pay said bonds, and authorizing the sale of said Bond to the purchaser thereof. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Ms. Albrecht, Mr. Dronen, Ms. Ducommun, Dr. Glucksman, Ms. Goldstein,

NAY: none

The motion passed.

E. Pepper Construction Management Contract

Mr. Chris Johnson reported that the planning for the 2018 Summer Projects included how the construction work would be managed. The Facilities Staff and the Administration considered three possible options, which included using a general construction manager, a prime trade agreement or a construction management company. Mr. Johnson reviewed the benefits of each option. The Facilities Staff and the Administration in considering all three processes is recommending the construction management model

as the complexity and sequencing of the summer projects presents unique challenges. The District has used Nicholas & Associates for the 2014 ADA projects and Pepper Construction is providing management services for the Winnetka Campus Project. It is their recommendation to use the construction management firm of Pepper Construction. Mr. Johnson commended Pepper for their fine work on the Winnetka Project and their ease and collaborative style with the Administration. Ms. Ducommun moved that the Board of Education approves a contract management contract with Pepper Construction and authorize the Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations to execute the contract subject to final attorney review. Dr. Glucksman seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Mr. Dronen, Ms. Ducommun, Dr. Glucksman, Ms. Albrecht, Ms. Goldstein,

NAY: none

The motion passed.

VIII. Consent Agenda

- Bill List for the Period November 1-30, 2017
- Personnel Report
- Ratification of Change Order #28
- Cashman Stahler Group Facilities Assessment Contract
- Authorization to Purchase Press Box
- Authorization to Purchase Bleachers

Ms. Goldstein asked if any Board member would like to remove items from the Consent Agenda for separate discussion. Ms. Albrecht requested the authorization for the bleachers be removed for separate discussion. Ms. Ducommun moved and Ms. Albrecht seconded the motion that the Board of Education approves the Consent Agenda which includes the Bill List for the Period, November 1-30, 2017; the Personnel Report; the Board of Education of New Trier Township High School District 203 ratifies Budge Change Order #28 to the contracts managed by Pepper Construction Company; and furthermore, deducts the amount of \$205,517 from the West Side Project Owner's Contingency line item. The Board of Education also approves the Capital Expenditures of \$54,264; that the Board of Education approves the contract with Cashman Stahler as presented and authorize the Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations to execute the agreement subject to final attorney review; and that the Board of Education authorizes the purchase of the Press Box as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Ms. Ducommun, Dr. Glucksman, Ms. Albrecht, Mr. Dronen, Ms. Goldstein

NAY: none

The motion passed.

Discussion on the bleachers began with comments on the numbers of students attending the football games. Ms. Albrecht again noted that the Facility Study was soon to begin and the bleacher request should be considered with the Facility Study. Ms. Ducommun spoke of the benefits of the additional bleacher seating. Board discussion followed as Dr. Sally pointed out the question is, if the money is well spent. The bleachers may or may not fare well when compared to other facility needs. He stated it is a priority because it directly impacts the students. Ms. Goldstein asked for a motion. Ms. Ducommun moved that the Board of Education authorizes the purchase of the Bleachers as presented. Mr. Dronen seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Dr. Glucksman, Mr. Dronen, Ms. Ducommun, Ms. Goldstein

NAY: Ms. Albrecht

The motion passed.

IX. Board Member Reports

Ms. Ducommun reported for the *New Trier Fine Arts Association* which continues its strong fundraising Activities with creative new ideas at Old Orchard shopping center where merchants and restaurants post signs noting, they are collecting for the NTFAA. The Association is also implementing a new online system

for students to apply for summer scholarships. The Association also provided a luncheon for the Fine Arts faculty before the holidays.

The *New Trier Parents Association* is planning for book discussions in March. *The Gift of Failure* and *How to Raise an Adult* are the titles of the books and there will be discussion in the daytime and the evening. She also noted the programming the Association provides for parents which includes one on college admissions for juniors and for seniors a presentation on the book *The College Students' Guide to the Law* by C.L. Lindsay, III. In the spring the Association is planning a program for 8th grade parents. The last point that was discussed was asking the teachers to not assign any new projects for homework over the holidays, in the hope that the time will provide rest and stress relief.

Ms. Albrecht reported for the *New Trier Education Foundation* which met last week. Their discussions continue on possible future projects to support, new ways to fund raise and to improve. The full board will meet tomorrow. Ms. Albrecht also noted there are still open positions to fill on the board.

Ms. Goldstein noted the NSSSED met last week and their fund balance is 18.9% which exceeds their target range of 15-18%. Discussions will continue on the best use of the funds. Ms. Goldstein also reported the FY19 Budget is planning on a growth in enrollment.

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

- Calendar of Events

Dr. Sally reviewed the events of the coming weeks which highlighted Winter Break, beginning on Saturday, December 23 through Sunday, January 7. Classes resume on January 8. Mr. Sally wished all to enjoy happy, restful family time over the two weeks. The High Five Choir will perform at the Winnetka Campus on Friday, December 22 at 11:00 a.m. January brings the Academic Life nights to the Northfield Campus on January 10, 11 and 16. The girls and boys Varsity Basketball teams will play home games against Evanston Township on January 12. Students will be in attendance on January 15, Martin Luther King Day. First semester exams will take place on January 22, 23 and 24.

-Requests for Staff Research & Future Agenda Items

There were no requests made by the Board members for research or future agenda items.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Ducommun moved that the Board adjourn the Regular Meeting. Dr. Glucksman seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote being taken, all members indicated they were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

Gregory Robitaille, President