

**NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**October 21, 2019**

**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, October 21, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

**Members Present**

Ms. Cathy Albrecht, President  
Mr. Keith Dronen  
Ms. Carol Ducommun  
Dr. Marc Glucksman, Vice President  
Ms. Jean Hahn  
Mr. Brad McLane  
Mr. Greg Robitaille

**Administrators Present**

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

**Also Present**

Mr. Scott Williams, Assistant Principal for Student Services; Mr. Mike Lee, Assistant Principal of Administrative Services; Dr. Chimille Dillard, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Dr. Renee Zoladz, Director of Human Resources; Ms. Niki Dizon, Director of Communications; Ms. Athena Arvanitis, Assistant Principal for Student Programs and Operations; Ms. Gail Gamrath, Assistant Principal, Northfield Campus; Mr. Spiro Bolos, Social Studies Faculty and New Trier Educational Association President; Mr. Myron Spiwak, Director of Business Services; Ms. Jen Karakosta, Applied Art Department Faculty and New Trier Educational Association President-Elect; Ms. Katherine Kapustiak, Application Support Specialist; Ms. Katherine Linsenmeier, Mathematics Department Faculty; Mr. John Miller, Science Department Faculty; Ms. Sara Chao, Modern and Classical Language Faculty; Mr. Bill Loris, Science Department Faculty; Ms. Megan Zajac, Special Education Department Chair; Mr. James Wright, Social Studies Department Faculty; Ms. Susie Paunan, Senior Girls Adviser Chair; Mr. Robert Zigmund, Post-High School Counseling Department Faculty; Ms. Mona Kolososki, Modern and Classical Languages Department Faculty; Ms. Kari Nakayama, Special Education Department Faculty; Ms. Barbara Hayes, English Department Faculty; Ms. Kerry Brennan, Social Studies Department Faculty; Mr. Pete Collins, Kinetic Wellness Department Coordinator; Ms. Aileen Geary, Social Studies Department Faculty; Ms. Liz Mayer, Executive Director, New Trier Educational Foundation; Ms. Jennifer Lind, community member; Ms. Lindsey Ruston, Board of Education Secretary; Mr. Mike Hill, Technology Department; Mr. Eric Johnson, Technology Department; and members of the press and community.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

**I. CALL TO ORDER – 6:15 p.m. – Rm. C234**

Ms. Albrecht called the Regular Meeting of October 21, 2019 of the Board of Education to order at 6:15 p.m. in Room C234. Roll call was taken and all members were present. Ms. Albrecht asked for a motion to move to Closed Session. Dr. Glucksman moved that the Board of Education 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. Ms. Ducommun seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

A YE: Ms. Ducommun, Dr. Glucksman, Ms. Hahn, Mr. McLane, Mr. Robitaille, Mr. Dronen, Ms. Albrecht

NAY: none

ABSTAIN: none

The motion passed.

**II. CLOSED SESSION – 6:15 p.m. – Rm. A201A**

### **III. BUSINESS MEETING**

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

Ms. Albrecht called to order the Open Session, Regular Business Meeting of the New Trier High School Board of Education of October 21, 2019, at 7:04 p.m. All members were present.

### **IV. Minutes**

Ms. Albrecht asked for any comments or adjustments on the Minutes for the Regular Meeting of September 16, 2019 (open session), the Special Meeting of September 30, 2019 (open and closed sessions) and the Special Meeting of October 14, 2019 (open session). There were no requests for changes. Ms. Ducommun moved, and Ms. Hahn seconded, the motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 16, 2019 (open session), the Special Meeting of September 30, 2019 (open and closed sessions) and the Special Meeting of October 14, 2019 (open session). Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Ms. Ducommun, Dr. Glucksman, Ms. Hahn, Mr. McLane, Mr. Robitaille, Mr. Dronen, Ms. Albrecht

NAY: none

The motion passed.

### **V. Communications**

Ms. Albrecht 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. One person came forward to address the Board: Ms. Nancy Hoying of Wilmette. Ms. Hoying is a New Trier parent and President of the League of Women Voters of Wilmette. She spoke on behalf of the League of Women Voters for Wilmette, Winnetka, Northfield and Kenilworth and on behalf of 300 community members who live in the Township. She shared the organization's concerns regarding Resolutions One and Three and urged the Board to send a delegate to the IASB Joint Annual Conference to oppose each of those resolutions.

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

#### **A. Report from Campus Principals**

Mr. Paul Waechtler, Principal of the Northfield Campus, shared the following information about events and programs at that campus:

- Freshman Go-To-School Night went well.
- The Homecoming Pep Rally went well with performances by the cheerleaders and dance team. The rally also included student versus staff events. Mr. Waechtler thanked Mr. Dan Paustian, Social Work Department Coordinator, for his work on the event.
- Interim Progress Reports were sent out and Quarter grades are coming up.
- Two events recently took place. The first was EKG testing with 783 students tested. Fifteen of those students received a free limited echocardiogram, while ten students were asked to speak with their doctors. Mr. Waechtler thanked the New Trier Parents' Association who had 56 parent volunteers assisting with the day. He went on to also thank Ms. Gail Gamrath, Assistant Principal for the Northfield Campus, Ms. Doreen Clough, Nurse and Mr. Pete Collins, Kinetic Wellness Department Coordinator, for their leadership on this event that took place during KW classes and did not interrupt the rest of a student's day.
- The second event was the Freshman Mixer that around 800 freshman attended. There was additional gym space available where students could play a variety of games and activities.

Mrs. Denise Dubravec, Principal for the Winnetka Campus, shared the following student events and program updates from that campus:

- The theme for this year's Homecoming was "Sweet Home Chicago" and over 1,800 tickets were sold. This was also the third year that the Winnetka campus did a double pep rally. Ms. Lucy Riner, Kinetic Wellness Department Faculty, was the emcee. Mrs. Dubravec also noted that Ms. Stacy Kolack, Activities Coordinator at the Winnetka Campus, and Student Council did a wonderful job.
- This past weekend, Boys and Girls Golf both won their respective Sectionals and went on to State. The boys placed third, while the girls placed eighth.
- There was an event to raise money for Habitat for Humanity. The students did a wonderful job organizing the event with food trucks and music.

- Over the past few weeks, there have been several class reunions that have toured the Winnetka campus. They included the classes of 1962, 1974, 1984, and 1999. Ms. Liz Mayer, New Trier Educational Foundation Executive Director, also attended the tours. Mrs. Dubravec noted that the student ambassadors have done a nice job assisting on the tours as well.
- Kinetic Wellness dance faculty, Ms. Katie Kritek, was honored with the Northeastern District Dance Teacher of the Year Award. Ms. Kritek will also be honored as the Illinois Dance Teacher of the Year. She will also be honored at the Board Recognition Program in December. This speaks volumes about our Kinetic Wellness (KW) faculty as last year, Ms. Johannah Wininsky, KW dance teacher was honored. At the upcoming conference in November, many KW teachers will also be presenting.
- Strategic Planning work has begun with the student advisory group. Dr. Sally ran the first meeting and there are forty students ranging from different grades and from different areas of the school who are on the committee that will offer feedback. Mrs. Dubravec thanked Dr. Sally for the plan and this venue is one good way to reach students.
- Finally, the Choices Fair will be held Tuesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Northfield campus.

Dr. Sally commented that it is always fantastic to have the opportunity to work with students again. He appreciated the chance to hear their concerns and their input on what the District should be focused on. Dr. Sally thanked Mrs. Dubravec and Mr. Waechtler for their work. He went on to introduce Mr. Peter Tragos, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, and Dr. Tim Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, who reported on the 2032 Benchmarking Consortium that New Trier hosted in September.

Mr. Tragos began by noting the schools who participated and gave a brief background on the consortium itself noting how beneficial it is to administrators and their professional development. Topics discussed at the Consortium visit included:

- A student panel where students discussed their different pathways through New Trier. Students shared about their connection with teachers, resources, and support available to them, their learning environment, the pressure and stressors they face.
- Social emotional learning – each school presented on their best practices. The Family Institute at Northwestern also presented and shared background about the work they engage in. Four topics were presented: neurobiology, tools for parents and teachers, screen time and emerging adults. Direct and indirect stressors were also discussed and The Family Institute helped the attendees to understand the nature of that problem and suggested helpful responses. Mr. Tragos noted that there will be future collaboration with The Family Institute.
- Former CEO of Baxter International and current Clinical Professor of Leadership at Kellogg School of Business, Mr. Harry Kraemer, also presented to the group four principles that he believes are necessary for value-based leadership: self-reflection, balance and perspective, true self-confidence and genuine humility. Finally,
- Work-alike groups to discuss topics that are of importance to their respective positions.

Dr. Sally noted that Ms. Albrecht was invited to meet the group as well and she shared about her time with the group.

Mr. Tragos then shared about the PSAT/NMSQT assessment on October 16<sup>th</sup>. This is the test used to determine National Merit recognition. Mr. Tragos noted that Mrs. Dubravec fielded many phone calls from parents as well as visited with parent groups. This report was shared as a way to discuss how the test went and the lessons learned from it. He went on to give a brief background on the test noting that several years ago juniors had a choice to take one of two different tests – either the PLAN/practice ACT test or the PSAT/NMSQT, and classes were cancelled for the administration of the test. Recently, juniors took only the PSAT/NMSQT and again classes were cancelled to accommodate their test taking.

This year, for the first time, the decision was made to make the PSAT optional and it would be administered in the morning from adviser room through fourth period, students would then return to class upon completion of the test. About half of the junior class would be tested in the same setting as the Advanced Placement (AP) tests. The decision to make the test optional was out of concern for over-testing and loss of instructional time. Juniors have four standardized tests during the school day, they include the PSAT, ACT, SAT, Illinois Science Assessment, while also taking AP tests, the seal of bi-literacy along with college entrance exams they have selected to take. Despite communicating with parents via email three times, feedback from parents told administrators that that communication was not effective or clear enough in the rationale for making the test optional so parents could make an informed decision. Communication with the teachers was also not clear about expectations for class assignments

and tests, especially in classes with mixed year groups. Mr. Tragos noted the lesson learned is that the communication plan that administrators thought was clearly articulated was not. The plan moving forward is to regroup as an administrative team and determine how to best administer the test. One option may be to return to a Saturday test date. The concern is that this is a group where the number of standardized tests will only increase with the State of Illinois' administration of the College Board's suite of assessments. No matter the day that the District decides to administer the test, it will communicate more effectively.

Dr. Sally followed up with a couple of comments. One being that the District used to test sophomores and juniors in the past on this test day, however, sophomores are now on the SAT track which occurs during the spring and the District did not want to over-test them. Dr. Sally thanked Mr. Tragos and noted that when things do not go well, it is a team effort when it comes to communication, and all administrators needed to make sure parents and teachers were better informed. Mr. Dronen inquired if students and parents are more comfortable with students taking the PSAT on a Saturday to which Dr. Sally responded that the feedback received so far is very positive.

### **FOIA Report**

Mr. Chris Johnson, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, noted that there were four FOIA requests received since the last Board of Education Regular Meeting. Two are closed, while two remain open.

1. One is related to employee information, which is closed.
2. One is related to construction payroll, which is closed.
3. One is related to construction payroll, which is still open.
4. One related to a student incident, which is still open.

### **\*B. FY 2019 Audit**

Mr. Johnson introduced the Fiscal Year 2019 Audit. The District has received the Fiscal Year 19 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and audit from its auditor, RSM. Once again, the District is pleased to have an audit with no significant findings. Mr. Johnson went on to thank Mr. Myron Spiwak, Director of Business Services, and the Business Office for their work and leadership of this process. Mr. Johnson then introduced Mr. Erik Gitner, Assurance Manager, who presented the audit. Mr. Gitner went on to briefly summarize the audit noting there were no issues this year and that Mr. Johnson's and Mr. Spiwak's team did a great job of assisting the auditors in a timely manner. The report was produced in a timely manner thanks to no issues this year with the State like last year. Next year, reporting on student activity funds will be impacted by new laws. RSM is working with the Illinois State Board of Education to help with the transition and how it will be reported. Mr. Gitner noted that there were no significant deficiencies, no issues or control items and does not see any issues going forward. He then invited questions and comments from the Board.

Mr. Johnson provided a brief reminder about the issue with the State that delayed last year's audit report noting that it was RSM partner, Ms. Katie Berry, who had discovered a miscalculation on the State's part.

Mr. Robitaille inquired if Mr. Gitner was the new manager on the account as Mr. John George presented last year on the audit. He also inquired if, similar to the private sector policy, managers roll off accounts every three to five years. Mr. Gitner replied that Mr. George had taken on a more administrative role within the firm. He also commented that the decision to have a manager roll off was firm by firm.

Ms. Albrecht thanked Mr. Johnson and Mr. Spiwak for their work.

Ms. Ducommun moved, and Mr. Robitaille seconded, the motion to accept the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and other related reports for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2019. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Dr. Glucksman, Ms. Hahn, Mr. McLane, Mr. Robitaille, Mr. Dronen, Ms. Ducommun, Ms. Albrecht

NAY: none

The motion passed.

### **C. Summer School Report**

Mr. Scott Williams, Assistant Principal for Student Services and Dr. Chimille Dillard, Director of Curriculum and

Instruction, along with Dr. Tim Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, presented the Summer School Report. Dr. Dillard began by highlighting the expanded course offerings that were available during summer school. Mr. Williams highlighted some figures such as an increase in total enrollment. Mr. Williams clarified that while there was an increase in number of students, total enrollment is the total number of classes that students took. Mr. Williams noted that numbers had returned to what the District saw in 2017 as there was a dip in 2018 due to several factors. There were student increases seen in the science, social studies and math departments, with sports classes also seeing a rise in students. There were some decreases in elective courses, specifically art, as a couple of those classes did not run like they did last year.

Mr. Williams then discussed the summer school financials. One item he noted was a decrease in the overall salary of \$35,000 that was paid out as well as a decrease in sub pay.

Dr. Hayes then shared about the Summer School Survey that Hanover Research conducted. He shared the number of those parents, students and teachers who completed the survey as well as the focus of it. The results and recommendations from the survey will be reviewed by the Summer School Side Letter Committee, which will also address the questions that were outlined in the side letter from the most recent contract negotiations for consideration for summer school 2021. Overall, satisfaction was very high among all of the group surveyed. The main factor that impacted the decision to enroll was in regards to scheduling, such as the length of summer school and when classes were offered. Students and parents would like to see more single semester offerings. About half of all students responded that they were interested in having an online summer school option available. The committee will review this feedback, discuss any issues and then make recommendations to Dr. Sally. Assuming those recommendations move forward, they would then be reviewed by the Board for implementation in the summer of 2021. Dr. Hayes then invited comments and questions from the Board.

Dr. Glucksman thanked the administrators for adding the level two science courses to the offerings, he then inquired if they included level appropriate labs. Dr. Dillard replied that they did, similar to the class that is offered during the school year. He then noted that although there was a dip in enrollment last year, due to the new State requirement of a semester of Civics, there were a lot of students who took Civics, and inquired if that was reflected this summer as well, which Mr. Williams confirmed.

Ms. Hahn noted that, in looking ahead to the New Course Proposals part of the agenda, many of those seemed to be geared toward incorporating Civics into social studies classes and/or offering more semester options, she inquired if it was anticipated if that would impact summer school enrollment for Civics to which Dr. Dillard responded that there could possibly be a dip.

Ms. Ducommun noted that last year there were some last-minute cancellations, which did not happen this year, thus the better financial results. She inquired about the reason for these cancellations and how they were avoided this year. Mr. Williams explained that last year, summer school ran a number of classes that were boarder-line break even. This year, fuller classes were run with some classes combining levels and running at capacity. Ms. Ducommun thanked Mr. Williams and Dr. Dillard for their work to maintain this balance. Ms. Ducommun also noted that the freshmen participation this summer was lower than it has been in the past five years. She mentioned that this year, 42% of freshmen participated, compared to a couple years ago where that percentage was over fifty. She wondered if there was any overwhelming trend with incoming freshmen participating. Mr. Williams responded that he was not aware of any reasons for this, though he did mention that the enrollment numbers with the English enrichment classes did not work out well this year therefore they did not run. Discussion continued around this topic. Ms. Ducommun also noted that the junior class participation was also down a bit this year, which also surprised Mr. Williams and he attributed that to the graduation requirement of Civics, with juniors taking that class a year earlier.

Mr. McLane shared his appreciation for Mr. Williams' and Dr. Dillard's incisive presentation that covered the important pieces. He noted that he has a better understanding now and was impressed with how closely the program is ran to break even.

Ms. Albrecht inquired about the desire from students to have more online courses and if Consumer Education was the only online course, to which Dr. Sally confirmed. She also asked if New Trier knew what other area high schools were doing, to which Dr. Hayes noted that this is one of the tasks of the Side Letter Committee. Ms. Albrecht then inquired if the online course is a package or if the District creates their own online course. Mr. Tragos responded that Consumer Education is created in-house. There are opportunities to buy curriculum or to enroll in curriculum through certain organizations. Dr. Hayes noted that if it is going to receive New Trier credit, the school will want to

make certain about the content.

Finally, Dr. Sally noted that a decision about tuition will be recommended at the November Board Meeting. This will be in response to last year's request to better understand the indirect expenses instead of just increasing tuition by two percent like past practice.

#### **D. New Course Proposals**

Mr. Tragos presented the New Course Proposals (NCPs). He first thanked Ms. Lisa Brown, Administrative Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, for her work in organizing the many moving parts of the process. He also thanked Dr. Dillard for her collaboration with teachers and department leadership to refine their proposals. This is a non-voting item; approval will take place at the November Board Meeting. Mr. Tragos noted that there are four new courses and one course revision along with a number of other curricular changes and opportunities. The submitted proposals are the final product of good, thoughtful collaborative work among teachers and department leaders coupled with a desire to provide the best opportunities for students to deepen their learning experiences or explore new opportunities. The strategic plan, New Trier 2030, influenced each of the new courses proposed. Mr. Tragos then went on to note the new courses and revision and provided details on each. He highlighted other changes as well, noting that three courses will change from yearlong courses to one-semester courses to offer more options and flexibility in scheduling. Another change involves a name change and the inclusion of civics education to two already established courses. Mr. Tragos then invited comments and questions from the Board.

Dr. Glucksman stated that not only does the school look to the future with the strategic plan, but looks to the past with the motto. He noted that bringing in STEM for special education is wonderful and commits minds to inquiry. In terms of the Leadership in Social Justice, that is applicable to hearts to compassion and lives to the service of humanity, so it gets to the core of what the school stands for and gives students more opportunities for what their next steps will be.

Ms. Hahn noted her appreciation for the evidence of continuous improvement in all the programs for all students, particularly the offerings for the special education students. She also mentioned her appreciation for how the school is incorporating civics into various disciplines for students. That a requirement of the state could be a dry class for some students, but by combining it with something that they are actually interested in might lead to a richer learning experience. Finally, Ms. Hahn inquired, once approved, how these new offerings are communicated to students and parents. Mr. Tragos responded that they are in the Program of Studies in their own section and that work is done with advisers, department leadership and teachers to inform them of the new courses. He noted that perhaps highlighting some of them is possible in the Program of Studies. Dr. Sally also mentioned that in the November edition of Board Briefs, which is sent to all parents, that these items will be included. Ms. Hahn noted the density of the Program of Studies.

Mr. Robitaille inquired if all of these additions and changes are budget neutral, meaning it is contemplated within the budget. Mr. Tragos responded that the special education science class will require an increase of one fifth of a special education teacher assignment.

Mr. Dronen commented that he liked the new social studies course, Leadership in Social Justice and suggested that perhaps Mr. Harry Kramer might speak to that class similar to him speaking at the Consortium that New Trier hosted.

Ms. Albrecht noted that she liked the idea of adding more one semester courses to pair up with Civics or Consumer Education. She inquired if one semester courses were set out in the Program of Studies, to which Dr. Sally confirmed that there is a section in it for these particular courses.

Mr. McLane noted the reference to NT 2030 in Mr. Tragos' presentation. He suggested that the NCP template should elevate NT 2030 explicitly into the proposal. Mr. Tragos responded that perhaps that was seen in the institutional need portion of the proposal application, but noted that NT 2030 should be an explicit category.

#### **E. Class Size Report**

Next, Mr. Tragos presented the annual Class Size Report. He thanked Mr. Mike Lee, Assistant Principal for Administrative Services, and Ms. Katherine Kapustiak, Application Support Specialist, for their work on the report. The report provides a perspective on class size and the allocation of resources. Staffing and sectioning for this year was based on targeting a reduction in class size from the previous year, staying within budget, making strategic

increases in Special Education and Student Services, and using the Kasarda B projections of 4047 students. In reality, there were an additional 29 students enrolled for a total of 4076 students. This was no easy task, but these goals were accomplished along with some secondary ones as well.

Mr. Tragos went on to highlight a few numbers noting that the percentage of small class size equal to or less than 14 students compared to the previous years had decreased to 3.7%. The percentage of large class size, 30 or more students, increased over the last several years to 2.1%. The average class size decreased to 22.4 from the previous year, which was an important need. The variations in class size points to New Trier's student centered approach of providing specialized opportunities to students. Mr. Tragos noted that in collaboration with department leaders, choices are made in specific courses or levels to strategically allocate resources, which may result in different sized sections.

Overall, the master schedule is pretty well balanced and is an important part of the District's spring and summer work through the Assistant Principals' offices. Mr. Tragos shared next steps of how this data will be used with department leaders, in discussions with Dr. Sally and Mr. Johnson, as well as, with the Teachers' Association. There is also a Class Size Side Letter to the new collective bargaining agreement, so this report will be used for that work. He noted that the school's highest priority is the quality of the student learning experience and this report is one of the many data points that helps the District to understand the student experience. Finally, collaboration will continue with Mr. Lee and Ms. Kapustiak to track requests, drops and historical data to improve the process. Mr. Tragos then invited questions and comments from the Board.

Mr. Robitaille inquired as to what Mr. Tragos' concerns might be in regards to this data. Mr. Tragos responded that he would use the trends of the historical data to inform potential fluctuations in class size and account for that while still meeting student needs. Dr. Sally added that it mainly shows up when the larger class sizes are seen. This is an issue for a variety of reasons, but it does not allow for student movement and reduces the flexibility of the system. Ms. Ducommun added that in some of the classes, it is known that they will not have thirty students in them in a month from now or in January, to which Mr. Tragos agreed.

Ms. Ducommun then noted that the number of adviser rooms went from 40 for freshmen, sophomores and juniors to 42 senior adviser rooms, to which Dr. Sally explained the reasoning for that change, noting that for adviser rooms, the school wants to keep the class size at 25 students.

Mr. Dronen noted that he liked the distribution across various disciplines on teacher load on page five of the report. He inquired if the special education personnel support load could be broken out for the different classes. He also wanted to confirm that there has been no change in campus social work full-time equivalents (FTEs) from the 18-19 school year to the current school year. Mr. Tragos responded that an increase was made last year and kept the same for this school year. As the District focuses more on social emotional learning, Mr. Dronen inquired if the anticipation for the head count for social workers will increase or remain the same. Dr. Sally responded that there could be a decrease due to an increase efficacy of students due to the work being done as well as an increased recognition or identification. Dr. Hayes added that the District is taking a close look this year at its service delivery model to really understand if the services that are being provided in the Social Work department are happening in the most effective and efficient manner. He added that there is a lot to think about in terms of the kinds of ways that the school intervenes with students. Social work is a specific kind of intervention, however, there is a lot written about the kind of work that schools can do to benefit all students and that work can actually help decrease the number of students that may be referred to social work if done well. Mr. Dronen noted that this is important to both the Board and the Administration that the District is focused on that, to which Dr. Hayes agreed. Mr. Tragos noted that while there was not an increase from 18-19 to 19-20 in social work, there was an increase of 1.4 FTEs in student services that is also support for students outside of special education.

Dr. Glucksman shared his observations on the large classes that in some subjects these large sizes cannot be avoided. He also noted that with the large classes, many tend to trend down or shift towards the smaller classes like Mr. Tragos noted one would see if the report was presented in April.

Ms. Albrecht noted that smaller class sizes are beneficial for classes such as a level 2 English class. She went on to note that over the past three years, the percentage of students in the math classes has been going up and while there are a lot of level 4 classes, it may need some attention to not have it grow or to even decrease the size as some of the increases percentage-wise are fairly significant. Mr. Tragos reviewed each of the courses in math and provided an

example of analytic geometry where there are seven sections and the average class size is 24, the one class at 30 students is a bulge and it could be the students' schedules in that course that caused this to happen. Mr. Tragos did agree that Ms. Albrecht's observation was correct and some classes need to be targeted to bring them within range. Further discussion continued on this topic.

Dr. Sally thanked Mr. Tragos for the work needed to create an effective master schedule in a school as complex as New Trier.

## **VII. Administrative Items**

### **A. Treasurer's Report for September 2019**

Mr. Johnson presented the September 2019 Treasurer's Report. The investment income continued to average above 2%, with the weighted portfolio yield at 2.04% for PMA and 2.47% for the District's Fifth Third investments, meaning significant interest income is being earned. There were lower local receipts in September, as the bulk of taxes are received in July and August and is typical for this time of year. There is the continuation of regular state payments, which began the previous month, so it is good to see some consistency from the state in terms of their disbursement of funds. Cash balances are tracking slightly ahead of last year as noted in the historical cash balances chart.

### **B. Financial Reports for September 2019**

Mr. Johnson reviewed the Financial Reports for September 2019. This month begins typical activity for the school year, as faculty salaries resumed and significant supplies and services expenses occurred. Operating revenue was \$48,512,409 for the first three months of the fiscal year, or 1.03% higher compared to last year. There were not any unexpected results for the first quarter. The budget that was adopted had an increase in operating revenue of 2.26% for the school year and Mr. Johnson expects that to smooth out as the year progresses. Operating expenditures were \$16,601,894 through September, or 7.46% higher than last year. This is typical in early months as the District sees purchases of capital and other supplies. Sometimes the timing is different from year to year and there is a smaller measurement period, which the District believes is happening. The budget for operating expenditures is expected to be 2.10% higher than last year. Fund balances for all accounts were \$135,030,764 as of September 30, 2019.

Mr. Robitaille confirmed that the Board is looking at actuals for 2019 and is incorporating the audited financials, to which Mr. Johnson confirmed and shared additional details. Discussion then continued between Mr. Robitaille and Mr. Johnson.

### **\*C. New Trier Educational Foundation Greenhouse Project**

Dr. Sally presented on the New Trier Educational Foundation (NTEF) Greenhouse Project. This would be a partnership with the NTEF and the family of Ms. Sofi Troglia, who passed away in December of 2017, to build a greenhouse. Dr. Sally noted the curricular connections to the Educational and Life Skills (ELS) and Transitions Program. He also mentioned the funding that the District will need to add to the project. The Facilities Steering Committee questioned why this project was being prioritized, to which Dr. Sally shared the reasoning, such as taking timely advantage of donations from the NTEF to allow them to move forward on fundraising efforts as well as the ties to the Strategic Plan which he highlighted. The dollar amount that the District believes it will have to contribute fits well within the capital projects budget that the Board will see in the spring. Given all that, Dr. Sally was looking for direction and to pursue the partnership as well as call the Naming Committee together to review that part of the proposal. Dr. Sally then invited comments and questions.

Mr. Dronen shared several thoughts. He noted that he and Mr. McLane attended the Facilities Steering Committee meeting last week and he thought that it was a positive endorsement by the Committee for the project, noting that it will be a great partnership amongst the Foundation, the family and the District. Mr. McLane added that he was most interested in tying it back in so there is context and Dr. Sally sufficiently supplied that.

Ms. Hahn commented that it is a beautiful testament to the legacy of Sofi, noting that it is perfect and very touching.

Mr. Robitaille inquired the date by which the Board has to commit. Dr. Sally noted that the vote is to move forward with the District's understanding of what funds will have to be put forward, it will work within its capital projects and it would be prioritized as well as so the Foundation can move forward. It is a commitment for the District to give the funds to the project, with Dr. Sally noting he would not bring this forward if he did not think that it fit within the budget. He also believes that the NTEF has already put things in place to exceed their target. Mr. Robitaille noted that previously the District would enter into an agreement about the participants' respective obligations along with



the District's risk. Dr. Sally responded to Mr. Robitaille's comments with additional information and discussion continued between the two. Mr. McLane then inquired if the motion should include "not to exceed" as a way to mitigate some of the risk and concern. Dr. Sally noted that it will come back in capital projects, and if the Foundation has done their work, the District does not want to say no. He also noted that some details would soon be out to help clarify that the Foundation will exceed its target. Mr. Robitaille inquired why not wait until that occurs to vote, to which Dr. Sally replied. After further discussion, Mr. Robitaille encouraged the creation of a process for when the District enters into an agreement, specifying what is required of the donor before the District commits. Ms. Albrecht noted that there is an interim step of the Naming Committee. Dr. Sally agreed noting that that committee will talk about what the agreements should look like. Mr. Johnson suggested that one option could be approval at this meeting contingent on having the Naming Committee come back in November with an agreement about the fundraising. This would maintain the momentum in terms of the construction and fundraising. Board members agreed with Mr. Johnson's suggestion.

Ms. Albrecht inquired if the greenhouse can be used all year, to which Mr. Johnson replied that it would be a three-season greenhouse with other discussion taking place around this topic. Ms. Albrecht was the previous NTEF liaison and noted that it was great to see a project this size, that had been thought about for a long time, fit the parameters and test the new fundraising expertise. Mrs. Dubravec commented that New Trier students have also done fundraising for this project. The cross country team has raised \$8,000, Ms. Teri Rodgers (head coach of the girls' basketball team and Social Studies Department faculty) and her girls' basketball team will also fundraise, and Mr. Brian Doll, football head coach and Kinetic Wellness Department faculty, has also done some fundraising. Trevapoolooza will also donate funds along with Triship Boys from trees sales; it is a wonderful joint effort with students.

Mr. Johnson mentioned that Mr. Dave Conway, Director of Physical Plant Services, stated that the bids, which are the bulk of the cost, will be approved in February. Similar to the Blackbox Theatre, there will be a period of time where the District approves but before the bids are actually approved, the District will have spent about \$15,000, so in the unlikely circumstance that the commitments the District has or will have do not come through, there would be an out at that point.

Ms. Ducommun moved, and Mr. Robitaille seconded, the motion to direct the Superintendent to proceed with the greenhouse project in partnership with the New Trier Educational Foundation contingent upon the recommendation of the Naming Committee and evidence of financial commitments. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Ms. Hahn, Mr. McLane, Mr. Robitaille, Mr. Dronen, Ms. Ducommun, Dr. Glucksman, Ms. Albrecht

NAY: none

The motion passed.

#### **\*D. 2019 Preliminary Tax Levy**

Mr. Johnson presented the 2019 Preliminary Tax Levy, which is filed in November and is for taxes collected by the District in 2019. The levy process is a two-step process, with the approval of a preliminary or tentative levy at this meeting and approval of the final levy in November. The levy is based on the extension from the previous year times the 2018 CPI of 1.9%, plus the value of tax revenue from new property. This levy primarily funds the 2020-21 school year. The District's levy complies with the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL), which limits the increase to the lesser of 5% or CPI, which was 1.9% plus new property. The value of new property is unknown until June and must be estimated. The result is the proposed levy is higher than the actual levy to ensure that new property can be taxed. This year, the projected increase in the levy is 2.05%. The final amount will be determined by the county once new property is known this June. The average homeowner should see an increase of less than 1.9% for the New Trier portion of their tax bill. It is important to remember that while the value of one's home may increase, particularly in re-assessment years, the District's levy does not increase by that amount, and the District's tax rate will fall as the value of property rises. Once the levy is completed, the clerk extends the taxes, with 55% of the previous year billed in January, and the balance in July.

The District's levy supports its ability to continue to offer an excellent education to current and future students. New Trier continues to have top standardized test scores for open enrollment schools, high college enrollment, and is recognized for being a lighthouse school district in many areas of the student experience. The levy allows the school

to support a deep, broad curriculum tailored to individual student interests and needs. The District offers a robust student services program, meeting the needs of every student ranging from the adviser program to more specialized services. The levy also supports a robust extracurricular program with high participation in activities, performing arts and athletics, allowing every student to find their place in the school. It also supports competitive salaries to attract and retain top faculty and staff, which surveys have identified as a community priority, with 95% of teachers holding advanced degrees, and many participating in a peer reviewed merit pay system. The District is proud of its history of balanced budgets. After the 2003 referendum, the District committed to five years of no referendum and that original commitment has been extended to more than 16 years. The District carefully manages costs on an annual basis, and has no plans for a referendum at this time.

The District also maintains appropriate reserves to allow it to fund operations between tax payments. This balance also allows the District to maintain our AAA bond rating and to be prepared for any future funding changes. The annual levy increase also helps fund areas where expenditures have increased. This levy will play a key part in allowing the District to present a balanced budget next year that will continue to provide an excellent education, extracurricular program, support and services for current and future students as the District maintains this balanced budget and acts as strong stewards of taxpayer dollars. Mr. Johnson thanked the Board and the community for their support. It takes the support of the entire community to sustain the level of excellence that previous generations of New Trier students have experienced. New Trier is committed to providing the excellence that the community expects and that is its tradition while being faithful stewards of these resources. Mr. Johnson then invited any questions or comments.

Ms. Ducommun noted that by the time this information is presented at the Board meeting, it has been discussed at previous Board meetings as well as at various Finance Committee meetings, the lack of comments or questions is not due to disinterest, but rather a continuance down the path that has been worked on. Mr. Johnson noted his appreciation for the robust feedback and discussion from the Finance Committee.

Ms. Albrecht inquired when new property goes on the tax rolls, to which Mr. Johnson noted that it takes a while. Discussion continued around this topic between by Ms. Albrecht and Mr. Johnson.

Mr. Robitaille moved, and Dr. Glucksman seconded, the motion to approve the 2019 Tentative Levy in the amount of \$108,252,654 and that a Public Hearing be held at the November 18, 2019 regularly scheduled Board Meeting.

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

AYE: Mr. McLane, Mr. Robitaille, Mr. Dronen, Ms. Ducommun, Dr. Glucksman, Ms. Hahn, Ms. Albrecht

NAY: none

The motion passed.

**\*E. Public Hearing: Resolution Authorizing Transfer of Funds from the Education Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund**

Ms. Albrecht called to order the Public Hearing on the Resolution Authorizing Transfer of Funds from the Education Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund and Mr. Johnson presented it for approval. The 2019-20 budget, approved in September, includes several transfers between funds which must be acted on separately from the adoption of the budget. These transfers were reviewed by the Finance Committee as part of the development of the budget and are detailed on page twelve of the budget that was adopted in September. The first transfer, \$7,150,000 from the Education to the Operations and Maintenance Fund, requires a public hearing. After the public hearing is completed, the Board can vote on this and the other transfers as part of the Consent Agenda. The remaining transfers are summarized in the memo Mr. Johnson provided. He then invited any questions or comments.

Ms. Albrecht 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. No one came forward to address the Board.

Ms. Ducommun moved, and Dr. Glucksman seconded, the motion to Adjourn the Public Hearing on the Resolution Authorizing Transfer of Funds from the Education Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund.

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

AYE: Mr. Robitaille, Mr. Dronen, Ms. Ducommun, Dr. Glucksman, Ms. Hahn, Mr. McLane, Ms. Albrecht

NAY: none

The motion passed.

Ms. Albrecht noted that the actual transfers will be subject to resolutions that are in the Consent Agenda.

**\*F. IASB Resolution Positions for Delegate Assembly**

Dr. Sally presented on the IASB resolutions. He noted that the Board had a robust discussion at the Special October 14<sup>th</sup> Board meeting about the resolutions and the positions that the Board might want to take on them. Based on those discussions, the resolutions have been grouped together for further discussion at this meeting followed by a vote. He did note that if a Board member did not want to vote on a resolution as part of a group, it could be pulled from the group similar to pulling an item from the Consent Agenda.

Dr. Sally briefly summarized the first grouping of resolutions, which included numbers one (Student Safety) and three (School Safety Grant Program) and stated that the recommended position for these was oppose. Mr. Robitaille inquired if the color that Dr. Sally provided around alternatives, if the Board opposes, if those recommendations go to IASB to be considered. Dr. Sally responded that either the delegate can make those comments at the assembly or comments from the Board can be submitted through written testimony to IASB. The same would be true of the reverse or in support of the resolutions.

Ms. Albrecht inquired if people generally make comments prior to a vote to which Mr. Dronen and Ms. Hahn replied.

Mr. Robitaille went on to share his thoughts about guns, noting that he vehemently opposes arming teachers at New Trier. Having said that, being a wealthy district with significant resources, as well as, the proximity on both campuses of police forces where response times are in the single minutes, puts the school at an advantageous position versus other districts in the state. Based on that, Mr. Robitaille does not think New Trier should be telling those districts that they cannot decide what is best for them. He will vote against opposing the resolutions. He would like to vocalize that there are better ways to go about this.

Mr. McLane shared his thoughts noting that New Trier owes it to itself to hold itself to the higher standard for the rest of the state. He acknowledged that there are differences, but will vote in support of opposing these resolutions as he feels that New Trier sets the standard.

Mr. Dronen then shared his thoughts noting that while some things are best left to local control, which he wants for school, there are some issues, especially on the issue of gun control, where it is best not left to local control. Many things are regulated such as automobiles, and those are not left up to individual communities or districts. He, too, believes that it is important to weigh in.

Ms. Ducommun then shared her thoughts, noting that ultimately she supports opposing this resolution. What convinced her of this was the amount of training needed by Student Resource Officers (SROs) as New Trier has a diverse student population and there are many ways that a student relates to authority or may not relate to authority. It is important that a well-trained SRO knows the proper way to de-escalate any sort of situation. She believes that it should be well-trained SROs that continue to be supported with training and dollars and hopes other districts have similar access to do the right thing in the way that law enforcement officers know how.

Ms. Hahn noted that when it comes to issues of local control, there are certain state and federal thresholds, it is then up to local communities to go beyond those thresholds if they so choose. Her concerns lie when a community goes below those thresholds and this is an instance of going below the threshold of no concealed weapons on school grounds, which gives her pause.

Ms. Albrecht commented that at the Special Board meeting last week, it was mentioned that New Trier's students travel to other schools for a variety of reasons. Her concern is those who are not properly trained in dealing with adolescents yet are able to conceal carry which could cause a confrontation of sorts. Ms. Albrecht does not want this for New Trier students or any student in the state. She also spoke to Ms. Ducommun's point about SROs being law

enforcement officers, noting that as of January 2020, Illinois will increase their training requirements to include knowledge on teen development, de-escalation, and how to spot and address mental health issues.

Dr. Glucksman commented that he was elected by the people of New Trier Township to represent District 203 and to represent the interests of the students as well as the faculty and staff. Hard work has been done on a solution that works for the District and that is what he represents.

Ms. Ducommun moved, and Ms. Hahn seconded, the motion to direct its delegate to IASB's delegate assembly to oppose Resolution #1 and Resolution #3.

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

AYE: Mr. Dronen, Ms. Ducommun, Dr. Glucksman, Ms. Hahn, Mr. McLane, Ms. Albrecht

NAY: Mr. Robitaille

The motion passed.

Resolution #2 (Business Enterprises – Minority Owned) was briefly summarized with a position to abstain encouraged.

Ms. Ducommun moved, and Mr. Robitaille seconded, the motion to direct its delegate to IASB's delegate assembly to abstain from Resolution #2.

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

AYE: Ms. Ducommun, Dr. Glucksman, Ms. Hahn, Mr. McLane, Mr. Robitaille, Mr. Dronen, Ms. Albrecht

NAY: none

The motion passed.

Resolution #13 (Amended Position 5.05 – Prevailing Wage Act) was discussed at the previous Special Meeting and currently, it has a proposed position of support as the Board never moved off that position during the conversation. Dr. Sally noted that he learned from IASB that it takes the district rationale portion very seriously as it works to determine its advocacy position. Following a brief summary, Dr. Sally encouraged the Board to work towards a consensus vote on this matter and then Ms. Albrecht will ask for a motion on the position. Ms. Albrecht added further thoughts based on research that she conducted after the Special Meeting. Her findings showed that most people found the change moving prevailing wage to the Illinois Labor Relations Board was good for local governments as it simplified a procedure that is perfunctory. The added language based on the district rationale provided seemed to be a local control issue, but research shows that, if anything, it was streamlining a process that was more of a burden to local districts. If the IASB relies on the district rationale for their next steps, Ms. Albrecht found that troubling. She went on to share a conversation that she had with Mr. Johnson about New Trier's process which does use the department of labor calculation of prevailing wage as do most people, to which Mr. Johnson noted that he has not heard of any districts doing this on their own. In fact, Dr. Sally noted that the district who put forth this amended position accepted the Illinois Department of Labor rates, so it is confusing as to their motivation. Ms. Albrecht went on to discuss the procedural role in regards to this as well as streamlining the keeping of certified payroll records for public projects, which she furthered explained. For each public project, New Trier spends about twenty to thirty hours maintaining these payroll records. Ultimately, Ms. Albrecht noted that it was hard to get at what the local control was about in this resolution.

Mr. Robitaille noted that he no longer understood what IASB was recommending. Ms. Albrecht explained the resolution process and how a committee made up of other school board members determine what position they are going to take. It is unknown how well this was researched by the committee, particularly all of the nuances. Dr. Sally followed up with a couple of thoughts. Some of the feedback provided to IASB will include a need to better understand about how these are vetted and what the implications are of supporting, opposing or abstaining. In talking with IASB, Dr. Sally concluded that the district rationale matters in how they direct their advocacy once it is voted on. In this case, the district rationale is absent in the specific words that were chosen for this position and its

modification. It seems to be a compromise that this committee came to, but those deliberations are unknown. It is a relatively confused position that the New Trier Board is in and it is not clear what any vote might mean, therefore, Dr. Sally recommends a vote of abstain. Discussion then continued around IASB's current position. Ms. Albrecht noted that this was a good example of the unintended consequences that were discussed at the previous meeting.

Ms. Ducommun moved, and Mr. McLane seconded, the motion to direct its delegate to IASB's delegate assembly to abstain on Resolution #13.

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

AYE: Dr. Glucksman, Ms. Hahn, Mr. McLane, Mr. Robitaille, Mr. Dronen, Ms. Ducommun, Ms. Albrecht

NAY: none

The motion passed.

The last motion is to concur with the position stated in the memo on each of the remaining resolutions. Dr. Sally reminded the Board members that this would be the time, that if a member felt differently than the position that was proposed in the memo, the resolution could be pulled and voted on separately. Mr. McLane commented that Dr. Sally accurately captured the Board's discussion during the committee of the whole.

Mr. McLane moved, and Mr. Robitaille seconded, the motion to direct its delegate to IASB's delegate assembly to vote as stated in the memo on Resolutions #4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18.

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

AYE: Ms. Hahn, Mr. McLane, Mr. Robitaille, Mr. Dronen, Ms. Ducommun, Dr. Glucksman, Ms. Albrecht

NAY: none

The motion passed.

Dr. Sally noted that Ms. Albrecht will discuss with Board members who will represent them at the IASB delegate assembly. Ms. Albrecht noted that two members are interested and Ms. Ducommun thanked them for their interest in attending.

Ms. Albrecht also confirmed that if the delegate were to share the points of why the Board voted the way it did, all members are fine with that, to which they all agreed, particularly as it pertains to resolutions one and three. Mr. McLane noted that he would like the testimony in writing as well as in presentation.

#### **\*G. Second Reading – Resolution in Support of Economic Development in Partnership with Schools**

Mr. Johnson presented the second reading of the Resolution in Support of Economic Development in Partnership with Schools. At the September meeting, the Board of Education had the first reading of a resolution in support of economic development in collaboration with school districts. New Trier is part of a vibrant community that thrives when there are strong residential, retail and business opportunities, all of which contribute to healthy schools. Last month, the Board of Education considered a resolution prepared by the Policy Committee that encourages that collaboration with municipalities within the district related to economic development and discourages the use of mechanisms that can impact funding for the school district, such as a TIF. The resolution has been revised by the Policy Committee to provide a clearer focus. TIFs can constrain new property revenue, a key part of the District avoiding an operating rate referendum for the past fifteen years. They can also raise New Trier's tax rate on property outside the TIF zone. Mr. Johnson then invited questions or comments as well as encouraged those Board members who sit on the Policy Committee to add their thoughts.

Mr. Robitaille noted that he was happy with the changes and both he and Ms. Ducommun thanked the committee for their work.

Ms. Hahn moved, and Dr. Glucksman seconded, the motion to approve the Resolution in Support of Economic Development in Partnership with Schools, as presented.

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

AYE: Ms. Ducommun, Dr. Glucksman, Ms. Hahn, Mr. McLane, Mr. Robitaille, Mr. Dronen, Ms. Albrecht

NAY: none

The motion passed.

**\*H. Consideration and action on a resolution calling a Public Hearing regarding the Issuance of not to exceed \$3,335,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds**

Mr. Johnson presented the Consideration and action on a resolution calling a Public Hearing regarding the Issuance of not to exceed \$3,335,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds. Last month, the Board approved the summer 2020 construction projects. As part of that project, the District presented a finance plan that was reviewed by the Finance Committee over the course of the summer. That plan was developed to include the issuance of debt this winter. This is the first step in the process to issue Working Cash Fund Bonds as a partial funding mechanism for these projects. This first resolution calls for a public hearing to be held on November 18, 2019 to discuss the issuance of the bonds.

Ms. Ducommun moved, and Dr. Glucksman seconded, the motion to adopt the resolution calling a public hearing concerning the intent of the Board of Education of Township High School District Number 203, Cook County, Illinois, to sell \$3,335,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds for the purpose of increasing the working cash fund of said School District.

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

AYE: Dr. Glucksman, Ms. Hahn, Mr. McLane, Mr. Robitaille, Mr. Dronen, Ms. Ducommun, Ms. Albrecht

NAY: none

The motion passed.

**\*I. Consideration and action on a resolution of intent to issue not to exceed \$3,335,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds to increase the District's working cash fund**

Mr. Johnson then presented on the consideration and action on a resolution of intent to issue not to exceed \$3,335,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds to increase the District's working cash fund. This action approves an intent to issue the bonds, which will be discussed at the November Board of Education meeting during the public hearing. The final action to approve the issuance will then occur at the December Board of Education meeting when the Board is asked to consider a parameters resolution. It is a three-step process with the first step being the approval of the resolution to issuing the intent to issue the bonds, then calling a public hearing to discuss those bonds in November, once the public hearing is closed, in December, there will be the need to approve the parameters resolution for those bonds. This is the same three-month process that the District has used for previous bond issuances over the past several years.

Ms. Ducommun moved, and Mr. Robitaille seconded, the motion to adopt the resolution declaring the intention to issue \$3,335,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds of Township High School District Number 203, Cook County, Illinois, for the purpose of increasing the Working Cash Fund of said School District, and directing that notice of such intention be published in the manner provided by law.

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

AYE: Ms. Hahn, Mr. McLane, Mr. Robitaille, Mr. Dronen, Ms. Ducommun, Dr. Glucksman, Ms. Albrecht

NAY: none

The motion passed.

**VIII. Consent Agenda**

Bill List for the Period, September 1 – 30, 2019

- Personnel Report (Appointments, Resignations, Retirements and Stipends)
- Resolution Authorizing Transfer of Funds from the Education Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund
- Resolution Authorizing Transfer of Funds from the Operations and Maintenance Fund to the Capital Project Fund
- Resolution Authorizing Transfer of Funds from the Operations and Maintenance Fund to the Debt Services Fund
- Approval of Paper Bid

- Resolution of the Board of Education transferring moneys between line items within the Education fund for the FY 20 budget
- Contract with Cashman Stahler Group for Summer 2020 Renovations
- Contract with Pepper Construction for Summer 2020 Renovations

Ms. Albrecht asked if any Board Members would like to remove items from the Consent Agenda for separate discussion. No one chose to do so. Dr. Glucksman moved that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda, which includes: Bill List for the Period, September 1 – 30, 2019; Personnel Report (Appointments, Resignations, Retirements and Stipends); Resolution Authorizing Transfer of Funds from the Education Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund; Resolution Authorizing Transfer of Funds from the Operations and Maintenance Fund to the Capital Project Fund; Resolution Authorizing Transfer of Funds from the Operations and Maintenance Fund to the Debt Services Fund; It is recommended that the Multipurpose Paper Bid be awarded to Midland Paper in accordance with the bid specifications and subject to terms and conditions of the contract developed by legal counsel. We have used Midland Paper in the past and we were extremely satisfied with their services. We recommend that the Board of Education authorize the Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations to execute the contract with final attorney review; Resolution of the Board of Education transferring moneys between line items within the Education fund for the FY 20 budget; Contract with Cashman Stahler Group for Summer 2020 Renovations and Contract with Pepper Construction for Summer 2020 Renovations. Mr. Robitaille seconded the amended motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Mr. McLane, Mr. Robitaille, Mr. Dronen, Ms. Ducommun, Dr. Glucksman, Ms. Hahn, Ms. Albrecht

NAY: none

The motion passed.

## IX. Board Member Reports

Mr. McLane noted that the **Facilities Steering Committee** met and had an update on the summer of 2020 work which has now been incorporated with the bond issuance that was just approved in the Consent Agenda. In regards to the summer of 2019 construction work, all work will be completed by November 7<sup>th</sup>. The greenhouse was also discussed. Finally, the committee received an update on the long-term planning for the Gates Gym and Kinetic Wellness space at the Winnetka campus.

Mr. Robitaille noted that the **Finance Committee** met and many of the items were discussed during the evening's meeting. They continue to iterate on the funding resources of the District for future capital projects, both near-term and long-term. The committee reviewed holistically all the funding sources including debt sources, cash sources and private sources along with creative bond funding mechanisms that have been used at peer districts. In addition, the Gates Gym renovations were discussed in connection with the work that the Facilities Steering Committee is doing and will take the input from that committee to determine how to fund the various options and ultimately determine what is possible. This will occupy much of the Finance Committee's time between now and the spring.

Ms. Ducommun noted that the **Fine Arts Association** met and will have a fundraiser at the Book Stall in Winnetka on November 7<sup>th</sup>. The Book Stall will donate 20% of all the purchases that are designated for the New Trier Fine Arts Association back to the organization, which is very generous of them.

Dr. Glucksman noted that he, along with Ms. Hahn, met as part of the **Policy Committee** which put together the TIF Resolution that was passed earlier in the meeting.

Mr. Dronen met with the **NSSSED Leadership Council** on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. As mentioned at the last Board Meeting, NSSSED is working on a new financial model. They have hired outside facilitators and are looking for input from all stakeholders. Mr. Dronen has scheduled a meeting with Mr. Johnson and Ms. Joanne Panopoulos, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education, on November 7<sup>th</sup> regarding what recommendations the District would like to make to NSSSED as well as the outcomes that the District would like addressed in the financial model. The next meeting is on November 13<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Dronen shared that the **New Trier Educational Foundation** had their golf outing on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. It was a great outing and Mr. Dronen, along with Ms. Hahn, attended dinner. Many administrators attended and it was a great

turnout. He went on to thank the community for their support of the event, as well as, the committee members who worked at the event noting it was a financial success. The next Foundation meeting is scheduled for early November.

The **Special Education Parents Group** met on September 25<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Dan Bruzdinski, the new Vocational Coordinator, was introduced. The group was very happy with Mr. Bruzdinski as well as the Administration for the adding more resources to serve New Trier's transition students. Vocational opportunities and transition into the community is these students' college and these additional resources will have a big impact on the success of these students. Parents also continued to praise the PAES system and expressed interest in coding skills. The next meeting is October 30<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Hahn met with the **Environmental Committee**. The committee is made up of Mr. Conway, several members of New Trier's Physical Plant Services staff, faculty and community members. They were appreciative of having a Board member attend the meeting, especially given that sustainability issues are part of New Trier 2030. This will help to ensure alignment between the committee and the Strategic Plan. There was a report from the student Environmental Club, which has a robust membership of thirty to forty students. They would like the committee to support their club's efforts such as with tours of the school by PPS staff to discuss efforts being made on behalf of the environment. Committee goals for the year were discussed, one being the expansion and improvement of the composting and recycling programs throughout the school. A composting option is now part of the order form for all after-hours events. There are also more permanent composting receptacles around the school. The LED project is also a goal for this year. At the Northfield campus, all lights have been upgraded to LED bulbs aside from the Cornog Auditorium. At the Winnetka campus, pricing is being worked on and hope to have bulbs installed by winter break with the exception of those areas slated for facilities work over the next two years. Their third goal for the year is to continue to integrate cost efficient sustainability considerations into the fifteen-year facilities plan. Solar panels will be installed on some of the new roofs at the Northfield Campus in 2021, followed by parts of the new roofs at the Winnetka Campus in 2022, which are all part of the facilities plan. There was some concern that the presentation to the Parents' Association did not have an emphasis on sustainability or mention it and they would like to see that. The community members shared that zero waste guidelines were shared with the Parents' Association who, in turn, are sharing it with their various committees such as the graduation committee or coffee committees, with the hopes that these events can be zero waste or approaching zero waste. The graduation committee is already working with PPS staff to reduce single use items and aim for zero waste.

The **Booster Club** met last week, which had a small group, and Ms. Hahn was also not able to attend due to Fall Break. Mr. Augie Fontanetta, Athletic Director, gave a report on the performance of New Trier's fall athletic teams as well as on the improvements to the athletic facilities that are part of the fifteen-year facilities plan. They also continue with their membership push and Ms. Hahn noted some incentives at the all-star membership level. They are preparing for fall sports banquets and winter sport team meetings.

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

Calendar of Events: Dr. Sally highlighted the following dates:

- There are four weeks before the next Board meeting on November 18<sup>th</sup>.
- There are many fall music concerts, both vocal and instrumental, that will take place during late October and November. He referenced checking the Performing Arts calendar for more details.
- It is also State playoffs season. Mrs. Dubravec mentioned the golf state tournament was last weekend. Girls tennis is coming up, with more playoffs taking place through November.

There were no requests for Staff Research and Future Agenda Items.

#### **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Ducommun moved and Ms. Hahn seconded the motion to adjourn. Upon a voice vote being taken, all members indicated they were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Lindsey Ruston, Secretary

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Cathleen Albrecht, President