

**NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
February 8, 2021  
New Trier Township High School  
7 Happ Road  
Room C234  
Northfield, IL 60093**

A **Committee of the Whole Meeting** of the Board of Education of New Trier Township High School District 203, Cook County, Illinois was held on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

**Members Present**

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

**Administrators Present**

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

**Members Present Via Phone**

Dr. Marc Glucksman, Vice President

**Also Present**

Ms. Niki Dizon, Director of Communications; Mr. Michael Marassa, Chief Technology Officer; Mr. Augie Fontanetta, Athletic Director; Mr. Andy Butler, Kinetic Wellness Department Chair; Mr. Dave Conway, Director of Physical Plant Services; Ms. Mary Lappan, Mathematics Department Chair; Mr. Kevin Havens, Wight & Co.; Mr. Jason Dwyer, Wight & Co.; Ms. Lindsey Ruston, Board of Education Secretary; Mr. Mike Hill, Technology Department; Mr. Eric Johnson, Technology Department; other administrators, faculty and staff, members of the press and community.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

**\*I. CALL TO ORDER – 6:03 p.m. – C234**

Ms. Albrecht called the Committee of the Whole Meeting of February 8, 2021 of the Board of Education to order at 6:03 p.m. Ms. Albrecht then stated that a full in-person meeting is not practical or prudent due to the Governor's declared disaster.

Roll call was taken, and all members were present.

**II. 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 and give it to Ms. Niki Dizon, Director of Communications. There were four requests for public comment. All comments were to be made in accordance with Board Policy 2-230, including keeping to a three minute or less time limit. Ms. Albrecht noted that public comments would be kept to the thirty-minute time limit as well.

1. Ms. Mary Lappan, Mathematics Department Chair and member of the Facilities Steering Committee, shared her support for the Winnetka Campus East Side project. She also encouraged the Board to fund the additional classrooms on the third floor as they would be beneficial to the math department.

Ms. Albrecht thanked Ms. Lappan for her comments.

**III. Special Orders of Business**

**A. 15-year Plan Update: Winnetka Campus East Side Academic and Athletic Study**

Mr. Johnson began the presentation on the 15-year plan update: Winnetka Campus East Side Academic and Athletic Study. The purpose of the meeting was to hear a summary of the project as well as answer questions that Board members may have prior to their formal vote at the February Regular Board of Education meeting next Tuesday. He introduced the architects attending from Wight and Co., Mr. Jason Dwyer, President of Design and Construction and Mr. Kevin Havens, Executive Vice President of Design. Ms. Liz Hennessey, the District's financial expert from

Raymond James, would try to join later by phone. Also, in attendance was Mr. Augie Fontanetta, Athletic Director; Mr. Andy Butler, Kinetic Wellness Department Chair; Mr. Dave Conway, Director of Physical Plant Services.

Mr. Johnson then shared the agenda which included the project overview and benefits, cost estimate, financing plan, recommendation to proceed with the project and the timeline afterwards. First was the project overview, noting how these renovations will provide benefits to students and invest in the campus. The District has embarked on the 15-year plan to continue to invest in the buildings for the benefit of the community and students. It will strengthen the District's academic, athletic and Kinetic Wellness (KW) programs. The project will also address significant underinvestment over many years in this part of the campus as every dollar spent on the space now does not benefit students but rather is only for basic maintenance. It also allows the District to continue to invest taxpayer funds to improve the student experience, rather than on escalating maintenance costs, without needing a referendum. Mr. Johnson shared the key benefits of the project such as the competition, auxiliary gyms, and indoor track. The barrel roof in the competition gym is an item that has been discussed as to if the District had the money within the stated budget to accomplish it. Mr. Johnson shared that the District does, in fact, have the money thanks to finalizing the contract details with the architect and construction manager. New Trier will be able to preserve the tradition that gave the Gates Gym its distinctive look. Other key benefits include strength and conditioning facilities, new academic spaces, improved security, and accessibility as well as improved maintenance and energy efficiency.

Next, Mr. Johnson shared the project's cost estimate which contain direct, indirect and owner's costs. The direct costs are items such as demolition, construction, among others and that estimate is around \$55 million. Indirect costs are construction management, insurance, design, and construction contingencies, totaling around \$8.7 million. Owner's costs consist of architectural fees, furniture, fixtures, and owner's contingency. That estimate totals about \$11.5 million. Mr. Johnson confirmed with Mr. Conway that there is about \$8 million in total contingency. There is four percent contingency in design, five percent in construction and about \$3 million in owner's contingency. He also pointed out that when the Winnetka Campus West Side project began, there was about four percent in contingency. This time there is a longer period for the District's due diligence as well as having a pathway for unexpected expenses. He also shared that the project includes a six-lane indoor track and that there will be eight additional classrooms in addition to the four on the second floor. A financial relief valve, the eight classrooms on the third floor could be deferred for a projected savings of \$3.1 million if budget conditions dictate. Mr. Johnson then went through the five key points of the financing plan followed by the three proposed funding sources. Mr. Johnson shared further details about the largest funding stream for the project – alternate revenue bonds along with the alternate revenue debt service.

It is the District's recommendation to proceed with the project to address a variety of needs in a purposeful manner. Mr. Johnson briefly summarized the reasoning for the recommendation while also noting that current freshmen will be able to utilize these new spaces as seniors. Next week's Board meeting will have several different actions if the decision is made to proceed. Actions include a notice of intent to issue bonds, a contract with Wight & Co for architectural services and a contract with Pepper Construction for construction management services. Mr. Johnson then shared the key highlights of the project's timeline for construction as well as the timeline for finance. He concluded by sharing next steps. Mr. Johnson then invited questions and comments from the Board.

Mr. Robitaille began by stating there are still many decisions to be made regarding glass such as how much and where it placed as there are potential impacts on the internal athletic activities as well as on the neighborhood with light. He also noted that after market work had to be done regarding the exterior lighting from the West Side project. His hope is that the lessons learned can be carried forward. Mr. Johnson reacted to both points that Mr. Robitaille made, noting that the lighting issue will be addressed at the beginning of the project. In fact, Wight & Co has already begun a light study. Mr. Dronen met with Mr. Tom Buck, a neighbor who had provided feedback on the lighting from the first project, who suggested that Mr. Dronen look at the lighting of the west parking lot at Northwestern University. Mr. Johnson also noted that neighbors have asked the District to minimize the amount of time that lights are on in building, which will be much easier to control with centralized lighting. Dr. Sally noted that there are a few categories, one is outdoor lighting and its impact on the neighborhood, indoor lighting and its impact on the neighborhood, indoor lighting and its impact on economics as well as outdoor light coming into the athletic space. Also included is visibility for security to see students as well as securing the building when it is needed. Ms. Albrecht noted that these types of details will be worked out in the design phase.

Mr. Robitaille went on to share comments about lessons learned from the West Side project, particularly around how to demolish a building while keeping other parts of the building running. There was a lot of noise connected to the demolition, and while some of that is unavoidable, Mr. Robitaille's hope is the Pepper team and the Wight team can debrief from the original project and embrace those learnings so as to correct the imperfections that happened last time.

Mr. Conway added that this meeting has already taken place and work is underway to alleviate some of these issues. Mr. Johnson also noted the District has committed to having a full athletic program available to students during construction. Mr. Robitaille, noting the neighbor meeting, encouraged Mr. Johnson to get neighbor buy-in and their input early on. Mr. Johnson replied that neighbors at the meeting shared that they had spoken with their neighbors and encouraged them to attend, but those neighbors did not feel like they had any concerns or needed to join the meeting. The District views that in a positive light. Mr. Robitaille heard the same thing, but encouraged the neighbors to stay involved, as did Dr. Sally. Dr. Sally also mentioned that the traffic flow that has been established will remain. Conversation continued between Mr. Johnson, Mr. Robitaille, and Dr. Sally, particularly about the benefits of Trevian Way.

Ms. Hahn noted her appreciation for Mr. Robitaille's comments about minimizing disruption to the student experience and shared further comments around that. Next, she asked to walk through the contingency fees inquiring if the design and the construction contingencies, respectively at four and five percent, are of the indirect costs or the total project costs. Mr. Conway explained that those two contingencies are based on the construction costs. Mr. Johnson explained that the design contingency is for items that are identified now through when the project is bid such as an unexpected design challenge and how it connects to the existing building. Construction contingency is used once the project starts. Any unused funds from the design contingency goes back into the project contingency bucket. If construction contingency goes over the five percent, there may remaining design contingency that can be used. If necessary, funds could be pulled from the owner's contingency, though typically those are for items within the owner's control. Essentially, all the contingency buckets go into one large pot of money. Mr. Robitaille confirmed this is how the contingencies worked with the West Side project. Ms. Hahn asked for clarification on the contingency percentage for the West Side project and whether it was a four percent contingency at the project's end or if the project began with that percentage. Mr. Conway noted that the project went down to a four percent contingency from nine percent, at the end of design development. Mr. Robitaille shared comments around that and discussion continued between him and Mr. Johnson, with Mr. Johnson noting it was tight from a contingency perspective.

Ms. Hahn noted that for the availability of resources for the \$3.1 million in Debt Service in 2023, the projected surplus is around \$1.5 million. She inquired as to why that was much lower than in other years, noting there would be a small shortfall and asked where it would come from. Mr. Johnson shared that Ms. Ducommun asked him to work on this as well. He noted that for that particular year, it is the CPI assumption that the District is using for property taxes. The actual is in for 2022 and then back to the average for 2023. Mr. Johnson shared other comments.

Mr. McLane asked the maturity dates for the bonds, which Mr. Johnson responded they are 21-year bonds and will mature 2042.

Dr. Glucksman shared that he has heard this information many times and when he hears it again, it is more polished, and he thanked those involved with this work. He inquired about a nine-month gap on the timeline. Mr. Conway responded that there is a lot of work that happens between when the structure is first built and when different trades begin their work. Dr. Glucksman confirmed that it is not nine straight months of noise, Mr. Conway concurred, noting the first 30 days when the building is being torn down is the loudest. Mr. Johnson shared additional comments noting that Pepper Construction was very responsive to discontinuing noise if needed. Mr. Conway also shared that with the last project there was a hotline for neighbors to call with any issues as well. Ms. Dizon was the neighbor liaison and would bring issues to the project manager, Mrs. Dubravec, Mr. Conway or Mr. Linke, Winnetka Campus Facilities Manager, and they would be resolved promptly. Mr. Robitaille noted that the density of classrooms near where the demolition will take place on the east side is less than it was on the west side, which Mr. Conway confirmed. Mr. Johnson shared additional comments, noting that students would not be required to do the same things that were asked of them during the west side project such as attending classes in trailers. Ms. Albrecht shared an anecdote about her children's experiences attending New Trier during the west side project. Discussion continued between Mr. Johnson and Ms. Albrecht. Dr. Sally acknowledged that there will be noise along with issues either in the neighborhood or internally, but that there are several people who will be managing this daily. Mr. Johnson thanked Mr. Linke for his work as he does much of the daily managing and contact with those working on the building.

Ms. Hahn wanted to confirm that the District is not anticipating schedule changes based on the construction. Dr. Sally confirmed that the District is not expecting any changes to the school calendar. Mr. Johnson shared additional comments around this.

Ms. Ducommun inquired how the construction equipment was going to interact with Trevian Way and the traffic flow of students and cars. Mr. Conway responded that logistics are being worked on for the location of the crane, but a

portion of Trevian Way will need to be removed, during the summer, for work. Trevian Way will still be accessible. Ms. Ducommun inquired if there will be construction trucks coming and going daily while others are trying to access Trevian Way. Mr. Johnson responded that hours will be established, similar to the west side project, when construction vehicles can arrive and there will be restrictions around the arrival and dismissal times of school. Dr. Sally noted that the intent is that the school knows well ahead of time if there will be any significant disruption. Mr. Johnson went on to share additional comments. He also noted that there will be a temporary construction lot, which Mr. Conway provided more details on these staging areas.

Mr. Robitaille inquired about the impact on KW programming, which Mr. Butler responded to, noting that different spaces such as G108, 109 and 110 will be used in a variety of ways. The weight room will move to the wrestling room as wrestling will move to the Northfield campus for the season.

Ms. Albrecht noted that since the Finance Committee meeting was moved to later in the week, she requested to review the cost containment numbers again during that time. She would like to further discuss how the \$1.5 million will be found over the next several years, as savings over the next couple of years will be easier to predict but become more difficult over time to forecast. Mr. Johnson noted it was a sustained \$1.5 million, not cumulative. Ms. Albrecht responded that it was still dependent on enrollment and retirements among other items, to which Mr. Johnson agreed. Ms. Ducommun shared that she and Mr. Johnson also had a conversation regarding this topic. He shared further information about retirements. Ms. Ducommun also shared additional comments.

Next, Ms. Albrecht spoke of the financing costs and noted that when the District first began to look at this project, it thought it would have to go out 25-26 years to keep the debt service steady. With today's low interest rates, the project can now be financed over 21 years which will save the District millions of dollars. Mr. Robitaille noted that the 3.1 debt service is based on 2.75% or 2.6% financing, with Ms. Albrecht noting it was 2.3%. Mr. Johnson shared that Ms. Hennessey noted that for every basis point difference in interest rate results in \$50,000 of savings over the life of the bonds. Mr. Dronen inquired if the cushion built-in was fifty basis points. Mr. Johnson responded with Mr. Robitaille also speaking to Mr. Dronen's point.

Mr. Robitaille then inquired if taxpayers would have to pay more in taxes on their property tax bill for the District to fund this project, to which Mr. Johnson replied they would not. This will not require a referendum. Mr. Johnson then walked through the funding differences between this project and the west side project.

Ms. Albrecht noted how helpful the chart was that was shared a couple of meetings ago that compared New Trier with its peer schools' facilities. Mr. Johnson thanked Mr. Fontanetta and Mr. Butler for creating this chart. He went on to share additional comments noting that these renovations are for New Trier students and the community and not to compare to other schools. However, when one looks at the difference, it is shocking in terms of the total student population of New Trier, which is larger than many peer schools, as well as the number of students who participate in these opportunities, is significant. New Trier has the most sports compared to any school and the highest participation in many of those sports. The fact this has been done in the current facility is impressive, but it is at the point now that the next step is needed. Mr. Fontanetta added comments, noting that New Trier has the highest volume of participants in the athletic program across the Central Suburban League. This facility would allow the school opportunities to enhance the student experience in athletics and KW. Mr. Dronen noted Ms. Lappan's comments about the additional classrooms, eight of them on the third floor, are important for curricular needs. He shared that the public appreciates that as well since the space is needed. Mr. Johnson shared comments in response to Mr. Dronen's remarks. Mr. Fontanetta followed up to Ms. Albrecht's earlier comments about peer schools particularly the track and its infield. Ms. Albrecht shared comments noting that track is a no cut sport and benefits a big part of the student population.

Mr. McLane inquired of Mr. Johnson, Mr. Dwyer, and Mr. Havens if there was anything that keeps them up at night as a potential derailer or if they are confident that this will work smoothly as predicted. Mr. Johnson commented that the District has very consciously looked at the lessons learned from the last project and have taken steps to address them. He went on to share additional comments. Mr. Dwyer shared that there are complexities with this project like with any other, however, Pepper Construction as well as Mr. Steve Cashman are partners once again and many of the people on these teams worked together on the west side project. The schedule is more beneficial as the last project was accelerated and this one has allowed for more time. Issues are anticipated, but Wight will do its best to communicate effectively and work with the District, the students, and the neighbors to make sure if a problem arises it is addressed. Ms. Albrecht shared comments around this as well. Ms. Ducommun added that the uncertainty if the referendum was going to pass for the west side project impacted the ability to have the luxury of planning time. She thinks it is an interesting distinction about how the District is financing this time and how it can plan its path with more certainty. Mr. Johnson

shared additional comments as well. Dr. Sally shared his appreciation for all the time that the teams spent on the west side project and are continuing to spend with this project and does not expect anything different if this project moves forward.

Ms. Albrecht wanted to confirm that the number of classrooms will fluctuate until the project is complete, to which Mr. Johnson agreed. He also shared that Mr. Mike Lee, Assistant Principal for Administrative Services and his team does a great job scheduling the Winnetka campus while still meeting student needs. Mr. Robitaille inquired, referencing Ms. Lappan's comments, as to where the third-floor renovations fall in the 15-year plan. Mr. Johnson explained that half of the work was done last summer, and the remaining half will be done this coming summer. Mr. Robitaille then asked if this was Ms. Lappan's question, to which she shared her understanding of the work being done this summer. Discussion continued between the two and Ms. Lappan further explained that her concern was that the smaller rooms cannot be consolidated into larger classrooms until additional rooms are built. This will also allow for more flexibility for the math department to make adaptations over the next few summers of the 15-year plan. Mr. Johnson shared that what Ms. Albrecht alluded to earlier connects to Ms. Lappan's point about classroom counts and expanded on that. Mr. Johnson noted that he will work on the following five years regarding the classroom numbers as he and Ms. Albrecht had previously discussed.

### **B. Brief Update on New Trier Reopening and Operational Plan for 2020-2021**

Dr. Sally presented a brief update on the New Trier Reopening and Operational Plan for 2020-2021. He shared the agenda which included the increase in cases and quarantine, saliva screening, attendance of students and staff on campus and travel guidance regarding spring break.

First, Dr. Sally shared the exclusion chart, noting that 33 students have tested positive for Covid, there are eight students who are being referred for PCR testing from the saliva screener, a few that are symptomatic with a negative test or seeking an alternative diagnosis. There are many who are close contacts of those confirmed students. This is the largest number of Covid cases (33) since the school last had 33 on November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020. This is also the largest number of students and staff on the exclusion chart at 192 since October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020, and the same number was seen on that date. The quarantine numbers can get large quickly as the District is being as conservative as it should be regarding close contacts from sports teams or the classroom. Dr. Sally shared the Township positivity rate and new cases per 100,000 people. The District has been watching this closely which requires work seven days a week. He went on to thank Dr. Tim Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, Ms. Anne Marie Ricchio, School Nurse, and her health services staff as well as Mrs. Dubravec, for their work contact tracing and determining the sources. A couple sources have been large gatherings that occurred about eight days ago that have generated many of these cases. Dr. Sally stressed the urgency to abide by the District's mitigation efforts, particularly the Ruvna screener. The administrative team is reviewing the screener questions to clarify them as needed. Dr. Sally also urged that if one has been exposed to Covid that they remain at home under quarantine. The administrative team is reviewing consequences for those that disregard mitigation efforts. These items are crucial to sustain in-person learning, extracurricular and athletic programming and take the efforts of students, parents, and the community.

Dr. Sally provided a brief update on saliva screening, noting that the student participation percentage has remained in the high 90s with staff percentage in the mid-80s. He shared the increase in participation in each employee group.

There will be a more complete analysis next week, but the attendance percentage at Northfield is around 40. At Winnetka, attendance has been around 30% and as low as 26% on February 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> due to an increase in quarantines because of the large gatherings Dr. Sally previously mentioned. He also shared a Trevians Caring for Trevians poster as a reminder for students at lunch time. Finally, Dr. Sally noted that staff attendance is increasing, some of which is due to the vaccine's availability. He shared additional comments around this topic.

Dr. Sally noted that the District is paying attention to the items that are changing regarding travel guidance. The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) continue to modify their guidance. The District studies this information and discusses it with peer districts. New Trier wants to implement guidance that keeps the building safe that is based on a recommendation from the local health department. With spring break approaching and the impact of that on extracurriculars and athletics, the District will continue to update families to inform their decision-making. Dr. Sally then invited questions and comments from the Board.

Mr. Dronen shared his concerns that one of the Ruvna questions regarding large gatherings is too broad and encouraged a more specific question. Dr. Sally responded that the tool the District selected has recently expanded the number of

questions that can be asked and that the District will make sure they are clear. He also noted that it is the parents who are answering this on behalf of their students. He emphasized the importance of communication between parents and students. Mr. McLane agreed with Mr. Dronen's point, noting that there needs to be clarity as well as parent responsibility. He went on to share additional comments. Discussion then continued between Dr. Sally, Mr. Dronen and Mr. McLane. Ms. Ducommun shared her thoughts regarding communication or lack thereof between parents and students. She noted that if there is a way to hold parents accountable for their Ruvna responses by pushing that conversation back to their students, however, it may always be a bit of a leaky system. Mr. Robitaille shared his frustrations, noting that there is a bad faith element to this. He noted there are many people from the administration to the staff to a large majority of the students who are doing what they should be and making sacrifices. The parents are complicit as they knew or should have known. He shared his frustration that a small group of people are putting everybody else at risk. After further comments, Mr. Robitaille emphasized that people need to be accountable, responsible, and honest about their behavior and take the appropriate action. He noted the seriousness of this, stating that this could lead to another pause if it gets out of control. Mr. Dronen noted his agreement with Mr. Robitaille's comments. Ms. Ducommun shared comments around this topic as well, noting that it is heartbreaking, as a lot of work has gone into making school a safe environment and it went out the window with the bad choices of a few students. Dr. Glucksman agreed to tightening up the Ruvna questions. He went on to state that the District can be certain that the mandatory saliva surveillance works. He encouraged everyone to remain vigilant.

After brief Board discussion, Ms. Hahn inquired if the District has been able to determine that there has been no in-building transmission. Dr. Sally responded that there is no final determination yet, but there are situations that the District is reviewing to understand what protocols were used and if any of them need to change. The District remains comfortable with the protocols it has and the way they keep staff and students safe.

Ms. Albrecht inquired if any positive peer pressure has been seen. Dr. Sally and Mr. Robitaille shared their thoughts in response, with Mr. Robitaille noting that people on affected sports teams are angry as they did what they were supposed to and now they cannot play their sport. Ms. Ducommun inquired as to the impact on the teams. Dr. Sally noted that 135 students are currently quarantined, and four teams are part of that with Mr. Fontanetta noting it was three levels of basketball along with dance. Ms. Ducommun inquired if that meant two weeks out of competition, to which Mr. Fontanetta responded, noting that quarantine is 10 to 14 days. Dr. Hayes added that two of the basketball teams are awaiting results as the saliva screener indicated that diagnostic testing was needed. He went on to share additional comments.

Ms. Ducommun inquired of Dr. Glucksman if there was any context in which the virus that was found through a PCR test is from any of the new variants. He noted that he received a question about the efficacy of the surveillance and the variants from the United Kingdom, Brazil, and South Africa. After further comments, noting the work he has done and then corroborated with Dr. Campbell from SafeGuard, the saliva screener company, as far as they know, as they are not looking at the spike protein, the surveillance will pick up the variants. Dr. Glucksman also noted that none of the variants have been seen in the New Trier community. Discussion continued between Dr. Glucksman and Ms. Ducommun.

Mr. Robitaille noted that at the last Board meeting there was discussion about having a conversation with the leaders of the associations regarding participation rates. Mr. Robitaille, Dr. Sally and Mr. Johnson met with the association leaders and it was a positive and constructive meeting. They pledged to continue to work with their membership to increase the percentage and make it a priority. The leaders are fully supportive of the saliva screener. Mr. Robitaille noted that they made a pledge to work harder at this and that was reflected in the numbers. He shared it is going in the right direction and progress has been made. He encouraged continued messaging. Ms. Albrecht inquired of Ms. Hahn if the Reopening Advisory Board (RAB) have seen these numbers and are comfortable with them, to which Ms. Hahn replied they are. Ms. Hahn also shared that RAB members have done their part to drum up support for the screener. Mr. Robitaille thanked the association leaders for being good partners as they are committed to it and are working hard.

Ms. Hahn commended families as well, although mandatory, the participation percentage is at 97.6. She shared additional comments noting that the news of the past weekend is disappointing, but she believes the school is rising to the occasion given the high percentage of participation. She noted that parenting an adolescent through this is challenging everyday in different ways and there is a balancing act between their mental health and their need for socialization and doing the right thing by one's community. Ms. Hahn then noted the flexibility that families have to opt to go remote and some families may choose to travel ahead of spring break in order to use that week as quarantine. It will be important for families to make sure they build the screener into their planning, so their students are not kept out of school. She also acknowledged that staff and faculty do not have this flexibility as essential workers and recognized

the sacrifice that staff has made throughout this difficult year and thanked them for that. Ms. Ducommun noted that a question among parents is if their student is quarantined due to travel, should they continue to submit a saliva sample. She urged the continuation of that message that everyone should submit every week no matter if one is doing a self-imposed quarantine. Dr. Sally concurred and Ms. Albrecht shared thoughts as well. Ms. Hahn encouraged adding the explanation of the timing of sports tryouts after spring break to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the website. Mr. Fontanetta noted it will be added to the FAQs.

Ms. Ducommun inquired if at next Tuesday's Board meeting the Board will receive information about the number of seats not being used, which Dr. Sally confirmed. She shared that there were comments from the RAB about concerns regarding reserving seats and that as the weather gets nicer and students, particularly seniors, may want their seats during fourth quarter. She asked that the District be thoughtful about using seats now, during third quarter. Dr. Sally noted that would also be part of the discussion next week.

Mr. Robitaille said he is hearing very positive reaction to the two-track opening in a way he did not with the one-track. Meaning that the two-track felt more like normal school and he encouraged a safe expansion if possible. Ms. Albrecht shared her experience of the tour she took of the Winnetka campus at the two-track level. Ms. Hahn noted the importance of having a routine, particularly attending in-person weekly versus every other week. Lastly, Ms. Albrecht shared one anecdote.

#### **\*IV. ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Ducommun moved, and Mr. McLane seconded the motion, to adjourn. 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

The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Lindsey Ruston, Secretary

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Cathleen Albrecht, President