

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

November 16, 2020

**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, November 16, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Members Present

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

Administrators Present

Dr. Paul Sally, Superintendent
Mr. Christopher Johnson, Associate 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

Members Present Via Phone

Dr. Marc Glucksman, Vice President
Mr. Brad McLane

Also Present

1. Ms. Niki Dizon, Director of Communications; Mr. Michael Marassa, Chief Technology Officer; Dr. Renee Zoladz, Director of Human Resources; Mr. Dan Licata, English Department Faculty; Ms. Jen McDonough, Applied Arts Department Faculty and New Trier High School Educational Association President; Mr. Tony Gudwien, English Department Faculty; Mr. Mike Hill, Technology Department; Mr. Eric Johnson, Technology Department; Ms. Lindsey Ruston, Board of Education Secretary; members of the press and community.

BUSINESS MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER – 5:30 p.m. – C234

Ms. Albrecht called the Regular Meeting of November 16, 2020 of the Board of Education to order at 5:31 p.m. in room C234 at the Northfield campus. 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.

Ms. Albrecht asked for a motion to move to Closed Session. Mr. Dronen moved that the Board adjourn to closed session for the purpose of 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; collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees; and litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular District has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the District finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the closed meeting minutes.

Ms. Ducommun seconded the motion. 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.

II. CLOSED SESSION – 5:30 p.m. – Staff Dining Room

III. BUSINESS MEETING – Open Session – 6:30 p.m. – C234

Ms. Albrecht called the Regular Meeting of November 16, 2020 of the Board of Education to order at 6:34 p.m. Ms. Albrecht confirmed that Dr. Glucksman and Mr. McLane, who were participating via telephone, could hear her. Roll call was taken, and all members were present.

IV. Minutes

Ms. Albrecht asked for any comments or adjustments on the minutes of the Special Meeting of October 13, 2020 (open session), the Regular Meeting of October 19, 2020 (open and closed session) and the Special Meeting of November 4, 2020 (open and closed session). There were no requests for changes. Mr. Robitaille moved, and Ms. Hahn seconded the motion, that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of October 13, 2020 (open session), Regular Meeting of October 19, 2020 (open and closed session) and Special Meeting of November 4, 2020 (open and closed session). 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.

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 and give it to Ms. Niki Dizon, Director of Communications. There were sixteen requests for public comment. Ms. Albrecht reminded commenters to keep to their remarks to three minutes each. Normally, thirty minutes is reserved for public comment, because there were more people wishing to speak, the allotment was extended to at least forty-five minutes.

1. Ms. Susan Halpin, parent, shared comments not as a New Trier parent but as a mental health professional and member of the community. Ms. Halpin shared she wanted to make a statement, raise awareness and ask for specific actions of the school board, to open school by January 4th for students.
2. Ms. Annie Kay Taylor, English Department Faculty, shared her concerns about a request for accommodations for an English Department faculty member that was denied and resulted in said member taking a leave of absence.
3. Mr. Steven Levin, parent, spoke in favor of having students back in school.
4. Mr. Scott Krone, parent, shared comments regarding issues due to lack of leadership.
5. Ms. Audrey Klein, parent, shared comments regarding in person learning and teachers.
6. Mr. Scott Hallermann, parent, spoke in support of in person school as well as mental health struggles for teenagers.
7. Mr. Caleb Albrecht, student, shared comments about the need to stay remote.
8. Mr. James Wright, Social Studies Department Faculty, spoke on a return to remote learning.
9. Ms. Izzy Hester, student, shared concerns with reopening.
10. Ms. Victoria Chan, student, shared a joint comment and spoke on behalf of Ms. Eva Roytburg, student. Ms. Chan shared their observations about student behavior and concerns about reopening.
11. Ms. Jen McDonough, Applied Arts Department Faculty and New Trier High School Educational Association President, spoke about struggling students and shared concerns of moving to 50% of students in-person. The school may exceed its capacity to prioritize struggling students. She shared that not only should the saliva screening be one possible path to safe, in-person instruction, but that additional metrics and thresholds should also be weighed equally. Ms. McDonough shared that the school should consider an adaptive pause for students who are not struggling at this time. She also shared comments about accommodations.
12. Mr. Rusty Magner, parent, spoke in support of daily, in-person learning as well as mental health struggles of students.
13. Ms. Lisa Kinsella, parent, shared that students need to be in school and questioned if students do not return now, when would they.
14. Ms. Hannah Sussman, student, shared her experience as a student noting that teachers should not be required to go back to school.
15. Mr. Ted Dabrowski, parent, shared comments not as a New Trier parent, but as a member of Wirepoints, which has done much analysis on Covid. He shared facts from that analysis, noting that it supports reopening New Trier.
16. Mr. Mark Anderson, parent, echoed the earlier comments of Ms. Klein and Mr. Levin. He spoke in support of reopening New Trier by modeling what other area schools have done whose students are in-person.

VI. Special Orders of Business

A. Update from Campus Principals and FOIA Report

Mr. Paul Waechtler, Principal for the Northfield Campus, shared the following student events and program updates from that campus:

- A highlight of last week was having the last two groups on campus. About 21-23% of freshmen attended each day. He shared feedback that he received from students, parents and teachers about students being on campus.
- Quarter Grades were available for parents last Tuesday.
- Parent-Teacher Conferences occurred today and will also take place on Monday, November 23rd and Tuesday, November 24th. He thanked teachers for their work on them.
- Veterans Day was last week, and the day started with a PA announcement about its history. Student Council worked with the choir program to put together a presentation that advisers could use to go over the day's history, it also included performances.
- The Northfield Girls Club raised about \$5,000 for scholarships.
- The Tri-Ship Food Drive, for both campuses, benefitting the Greater Chicago Food Depository has already raised \$54,000 which is 164,000 meals.

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

- Mrs. Dubravec shared how proud and appreciative she was of those students who chose to share public comments at the Board meeting this evening.
- She also mentioned that it has been a highlight to have students on campus this week. She also noted that if she is having a bad day, she will stop in the Educational and Life Skills (ELS) and Transition classrooms and the students there always brighten her day.
- Mrs. Dubravec thanked Mr. Waechtler for sharing the feedback from students, parents and teachers and has heard similar comments as well.
- Lagniappe Potpourri has concluded, and 33 student leaders were involved in it. It was also the first digital version of Lagniappe and the success from that is being used for other productions. There was a total of 140 students involved. Ms. Nina Lynn, Music and Theatre Department Faculty, along with her staff oversaw the production.
- The Winter Play is *Its a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* and will be a digital performance.
- The musical workshop, *Emma*, is also taking place now.
- Choir, orchestra, band and jazz are all rehearsing and will be doing virtual or in-person formats.
- Mrs. Dubravec was contacted by USA Weightlifting, they launched their third annual High School Throwdown, which was virtual this year. She then contacted Mr. Jim Davis, Staff and Student Wellness Coordinator and who leads the Strength and Performance program, about the opportunity. New Trier participated and placed first in the country.
- Recently, the Semper Fidelis All American Program, which features stories of All Americans and their mentors. Mr. Davis, along with Mr. Jackson Bridge, student, were highlighted. A video series was done called the "Good Athlete Project" and they will be featured in it.
- Speech and Debate took third place in the Final Four. They also participated in the University of Michigan's National Tournament and advanced to the Sweet Sixteen. Mr. Dave Weston, Social Studies Faculty – Speech and Debate, and Mr. Aaron Vinson, Social Studies Faculty – Speech and Debate, continue to try and find virtual competitions for students to compete in.
- The signs are up for the Tri-Ship tree sales.
- The NUSH Project through Northwestern will be virtual this year. This project assists families in getting them what they need for the holidays.
- The New Trier Newbies Club will meet on campus on Wednesday with Mrs. Dubravec and Student Council to check in on how the quarter is going.
- She also thanked those parents who volunteered in assembling and distributing the Covid Saliva Screening kits. The school appreciates their support.
- Finally, Parent-Teacher Conferences are taking place like Mr. Waechtler mentioned. She thanked everyone for their patience and work on conferences.

Mr. Johnson gave the FOIA report noting that there were six requests since the last Board meeting, four are closed while two remain open. Requests included information on:

1. Faculty attendance
2. Special Education enrollments
3. A contract

4. Copy of records related to a contract
5. Student directory information
6. Bullying policies

***B. FY 2020 Audit**

Mr. Johnson introduced Ms. Katie Barry, senior manager with RSM, who joined via phone and presented the FY2020 audit. In addition to Ms. Barry, the audit team included Mr. Erik Ginter, manager, Mr. Chuang Chen, senior associate, and Mr. Jordan Schiff, senior associate and New Trier alum. The audit process began in early July with the team designing their audit plan. Final field work began the week of August 24th and is when the audit plan is put into play. At tonight's meeting Ms. Barry would go through the audit results. She noted that most of the audit was performed remotely due to Covid. Three reports were provided, they include the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), the Single Audit Report and finally, the Report to the Board. Ms. Barry shared highlights from the sets of financial statements, the estimates and the upcoming standards in the CAFR. She also discussed information on several different pages within the CAFR. She shared detailed information on the retirement systems as well as property taxes. Ms. Barry shared about the upcoming standards due to the impact of Covid, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) delayed the implementation of the majority of the outstanding standards. There were no new GASB statements implemented this year, but she noted two that are on the horizon, one being GASB 84 for Fiduciary Activities, the other is the Lease Standard.

Ms. Barry then went through the Single Audit Report, which is required when an organization spends more than \$750,000 in federal awards. The team audited the Special Education cluster, which comprised 92% of the District's federal dollars. They did not identify any compliance findings when they performed their testing. Ms. Barry noted that they did disclose the finding over the capital leases which pertains to year-end financial reporting. She went on to further explain this piece.

The final report was the one to the Board, which Ms. Barry briefly highlighted. She went on to thank Mr. Johnson, Mr. Myron Spiwak, Director of Business Services, and the Business Office for all their efforts during this challenging year.

Mr. Robitaille inquired about the capital lease issue, noting that there is not a cashflow impact to the District from this issue, to which Ms. Barry replied that was correct. He went on to ask that the impact to the District on its surplus or deficit at the end of the year and cash balances at the end of the year are unaffected by the potential for classification of these capital leases on the balance sheet. Ms. Barry responded that was correct in the fund financial statement, on the governmental activities, there was depreciation that would not have been captured last year. On those governmental activities, the net income would have decreased by the depreciation, which was about \$500,000. Mr. Robitaille noted that it would not be a cash impact, which Ms. Barry confirmed.

Second, Mr. Robitaille noted his surprise in seeing this in draft form. He asked to be walked through when it will be finalized and if the Board will see it again, to which Ms. Barry responded. He then inquired that if there are any changes, if they will be brought back to the Board. Ms. Barry responded that there is no anticipation of changes between now and issuance. Mr. Robitaille then noted that the communications letter references Exhibit A several times, but the exhibit is blank. Ms. Barry then explained the process for the inclusion of that piece. Mr. Robitaille then asked if the final approval could be part of the Consent Agenda at next month's Board meeting as a way to say that the Board approved the absolute final report. Mr. Johnson then inquired of Ms. Barry what the typical practice is for a Board, noting that the District wanted to comply with the policy of having the draft so she could speak to the Board about it and then issue the final statement. Ms. Barry shared information on how other districts handle this. Mr. Robitaille shared that he preferred to wait and approve at next month's meeting once the final report is issued. Mr. Johnson inquired of Ms. Barry if it impacts the District's ability to submit the final report to the state by the November 30th deadline, to which Ms. Barry replied that it would not, but that the state did extend the deadline to December 15th. This item was not voted on this evening and will be deferred to the December Board of Education meeting and placed on the Consent Agenda.

C. Report on New Trier Reopening and Operational Plan for 2020-2021

Dr. Sally reported on the New Trier Reopening and Operational Plan Update for 2020-2021. He shared the agenda for the presentation which included a return to campus, teaching and learning, saliva screener program update, saliva screener and the ladder and finally, discussion, questions and next steps. Dr. Sally expressed his appreciation for the staff, both those on campus and those not. This has not been easy, but people are working very hard to make learning possible for students. He also made clear that there is no perfect solution and the school is trying to forge its path. It

important to find the balance and the goal has been to find the path for students, families and staff in what is a world of uncertainty. He echoed sentiments that were expressed earlier which was that New Trier teachers are not replaceable. The District spends an incredible amount of time hiring and training its teachers. Dr. Sally stated that a balance is needed, and the District is working towards that.

Next, Dr. Sally presented on the return to campus by highlighting attendance data for each track, A through E, by last name, with Track E consisting of those students with identified needs. Dr. Sally provided a summary of attendance data for the days that students have been in school, October 6 – 9 and November 10 – 13. At Northfield, attendance was between 22-23%, with Winnetka's attendance at 18-19%. These percentages include each track and those students with identified needs who are in daily.

Mr. Peter Tragos, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, presented on teaching and learning in the hybrid environment. He thanked everyone for their work on this from the Board to parents to faculty and staff. Mr. Tragos also shared appreciation for the work done on parent-teacher conferences as those took place via Zoom. His presentation was divided into four areas: hybrid, curriculum, technology and innovation and effort and commitment. He defined hybrid learning as students learning simultaneously when students and teachers may be in different locations. Mr. Tragos noted that the classroom now does not look like it did in pre-pandemic times, and it cannot be replicated given the circumstances. The District is trying to create the best possible learning environment to meet students academic and social emotional needs. Mr. Tragos also noted that this is a continuous improvement process. Survey feedback has been helpful, with insight from teachers also being crucial.

He then went on to discuss curriculum during Covid, both remote and hybrid. This year should not be compared to a typical school year. While teachers may not be covering the same exact curriculum as previous years, the curriculum, content and experience will be just as rich as it has been in previous years. He spoke of adjustments to curriculum by teachers and course committees to meet students' academic and social emotional needs in this environment. He also noted that more content does not equal more learning and shared comments around this topic. Course committees have also been working on course sequencing and vertical articulation, as a student moves through their high school experience.

Mr. Tragos spoke about technology and innovation, noting that the District has invested in in-class cameras, microphones and speakers for simultaneous instruction. This is the first phase of hybrid learning and currently, work is being done on improving the technology and being innovative. The school is learning fast and adapting faster. Teachers are driving the innovation in this area. Collaboration is taking place with Mr. Michael Marassa's, Chief Technology Officer, team.

Finally, Mr. Tragos spoke of commitment and effort. The commitment to learning and well being has been at the core of this work. As the school has adapted to remote/hybrid learning, it has made modifications to relationships, instruction, support and technology. All teachers and staff, either remote or on-campus, have committed to doing these, which is no easy task. Mr. Tragos shared research, noting that it agrees that teachers make about 1,500 decisions daily or about four decisions per minute. This is in the most ideal of circumstances that are familiar, add to the environment that teachers are currently in, and teaching, in and of itself, is a very cognitively complex task. Add to that the other items that are being done and that complex task is just a part of the effort going into the experience with students.

Next, Mr. Johnson spoke on the Covid Saliva Screening. He first thanked those who have helped to get this off the ground. He noted that it is has been a huge amount of work, from first hearing about this from Mr. McLane in the last week of September, and then getting a pilot going, to last week, when close to 2,000 people participated in the screener. He thanked Mrs. Dubravec, Mr. Waechtler, Mr. Marassa, parents and staff who have helped in getting this up and running. The high participation rate helps the District understand what the risk is in the building. Students are in-person within two to three days of participating in the screener. Staff test early each week. It was a successful first week. Mr. Johnson noted that it is a RT-LAMP test which is a well-developed and well-researched RNA amplification process. It is not a rapid antigen test. The method is used world-wide and there are many applications of the process in identifying people who have contracted a virus. Ms. Ducommun shared research she did on this type of process. Mr. Johnson shared a chart from the FDA website that talks about the types of classifications of the tests. The screener that the District is using is a molecular one and not antigen or antibody tests. The District is looking for those with an active case of Covid so they can be screened out before they enter the building. Mr. Johnson shared data on the screening, noting that 74% of staff participated and 86% of students. In order to be transparent, the District will publish data at the end of every week about who has participated in the Runva screening

and who has participated in the saliva screening to determine a coverage percentage. The District will monitor this data and if the percentage starts to dip it will determine what communication may be needed to families and staff to increase it. The overall presumptive positivity rate last week was under one percent at 0.76%. The doctors on the Reopening Advisory Board (RAB) say the best measure to look at is colleges doing regular screening. Those are places that are screening otherwise healthy people every day. Right now, the University of Illinois is testing at about 0.5%, which is similar to what other schools are seeing too. To be in this range, even though the environments are different, it still provides comfort that the District is identifying cases. Last week, fifteen presumptive positives were identified. Mr. Johnson thanked the nurses and health service staff who worked with families and sent them to get a diagnostic test. The District is in the midst of week two and looks forward to continuing and strengthening the program over time, continuing to be transparent about the data, analyzing the data and then using it to think about how it can continue safe, in-person instruction.

With the saliva screener and reopening ladder, Dr. Sally shared what has been learned. He explained the external metrics or outside the building, the mitigation factors in the building and the internal metrics. He went on to explain the assumptions made that drove decision making in the summer. Dr. Sally shared that much has been learned by schools, that even in the context of substantial external metrics, internal metrics at schools, such as transmission and outbreaks, have been kept low with in-person learning. This is also New Trier's experience in the times that students have been in-person as well as with our extracurricular program.

Dr. Sally went on to discuss this more in-depth about internal metrics including what data the District should track and what actions should be taken. This will help to clarify for the community, staff and students what the District is watching, what it means to be in the building and keeping potential exposure to Covid in the school as low as possible, even in the midst of substantial external metrics. With the mitigation factors and the Covid surveillance, these are items that the District can look at and measure what is going on in the building with the internal metrics. Dr. Sally then posed discussion questions to the Board. The first was should in-person learning continue with the same schedule at a 25% level through December. The second was what guidance can the Reopening Advisory Board provide the Board of Education to help with the ongoing decision about the level of in-person learning. And finally, how does the District balance the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) guidance to work to keep the school open with the current challenges? Dr. Sally also invited questions from the Board.

Mr. Robitaille referenced Dr. Sally's first question, noting that at the last Board meeting, he laid out a plan, albeit contingent, that would consider an increase to 50% early in December. Mr. Robitaille asked for a refresher on the contingencies as the first question speaks to 25% through December versus the flexibility to go to 50% earlier. Dr. Sally responded that the calendar shared at the last Board meeting stated that two weeks before Thanksgiving would be at 25% of students in-person, one week after Thanksgiving at 25% and then the question of an assessment and if the school is ready to increase to 50% or stay at 25%. Dr. Sally shared this then led to the second question of what information the Board may need to determine if the school can bring in 50% of students. He shared other thoughts around this.

Mr. Robitaille then noted that at the last Board meeting, Dr. Sally had been asked to think about a set of conditions that he would recommend to the Board about going to 50% or not. He then asked for any follow-up thoughts on that piece. Dr. Sally shared that the Student Services staff continue to identify those students who are struggling through a variety of different paths. He explained those, noting that these students are on Track E, which will continue to be built up this week. Mr. Robitaille shared further thoughts and inquired if there might be a parent option, meaning that parents would notify the school that their child is struggling. He loves the idea of triaging the most vulnerable and most effected and wonders if the two safety nets of low grades or advisers catching it are enough. Ms. Ducommun noted that was why Dr. Sally initially got this started, by receiving letters from parents, to which Dr. Sally responded. He then answered Mr. Robitaille's question about the metrics and what is being looked at internally such as capacity of classrooms, lunchrooms and free periods.

Ms. Ducommun noted that the way the Board is scheduled with monthly meetings does not work well to support the evolution of their understanding in the fast-moving situation. She believes metrics around this is great but would also like some qualitative understanding. She would like to hear weekly from Mrs. Dubravec, Mr. Waechtler, and Dr. Sally about what was learned and what the challenges might be. This would help to inform the Board's decisions, short of being in the building themselves. Ms. Ducommun noted that Ms. Albrecht has been in the building, with Ms. Albrecht noting that Mr. Dronen and Mr. Robitaille have as well and shared her observations of students. Ms. Ducommun shared final thoughts on this piece.

Ms. Ducommun then went on to note the percentages of students on each campus and then stated about reading the comments of parents on Facebook in terms of reporting how many of their child's teachers were in-person or how many students were in each class. She inquired if those numbers comport with the percentages on the chart. Dr. Sally responded that there are around six students per class if everyone is there. Dr. Sally then responded to Ms. Ducommun's comments about her reading there were only one to three students in a class, noting that some may have selected remote and others may be choosing to stay home for a variety of reasons.

Next, Ms. Ducommun referenced a letter from Ms. Tiffany Myers, Social Work Department Chair, Mr. Dan Paustian, Social Work Department Coordinator, and Ms. Kris Hummel, Student Assistance Program Coordinator. Ms. Ducommun noted that it was about transitioning from one model of 25% to another model at 50% and how that would pull the rug out from underneath many students in Track E. Dr. Sally responded that their concern is one of consistency, especially for these students and the services they receive. Their concern is that if more students are brought in, it will disrupt the schedules that these students have. He said that the department needs to work through how to change their schedule and model for working with the students. It is intricate and is a piece that Dr. Joanne Panopoulos, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education, is working on with them. Ms. Ducommun inquired what the percentage of students are on Track E compared to the rest of the student body, to which Dr. Sally noted it was 9% of students on that track. Ms. Ducommun noted that she would like to understand if there is a solution that allows for those students to transition as the District thinks about going to higher levels of participation and that the other 90% of students are not constrained. She noted that the District should try to make it work for everybody.

Ms. Ducommun inquired if the school is thinking about increasing the number of students, what it would do for logistics and procedures for testing. Mr. Johnson responded that samples are taken to the lab six days a week and the District is set from a collection perspective. The question would be working with the lab to understand capacity. The school has written in the contract that it can have up to 3,000 samples per week. The District would need to work with them to figure out when they could accommodate an increase in the number. Mr. Johnson noted that there was higher participation last week than expected, to which Ms. Ducommun inquired if that was driven by participation in extracurriculars, to which Mr. Johnson replied. She requested that this information be a part of the weekly update as well.

Ms. Hahn added her perspective about when the District should be thinking about moving to 50%. She shared that she has learned, as the Board liaison to the Reopening Advisory Board (RAB), that the school should continue to pursue the 25% hybrid model. Ms. Hahn does not believe the school can point to a date and say it is at 50%, though she does think there are dates that the school could start looking at or assessing it. Ms. Ducommun asked what Ms. Hahn's thoughts were around this and what might be limiting this. Ms. Ducommun also noted that the Board should think of a mechanism for better communicating the content of what happens at the RAB, such as listening in on the meetings in a non-participatory way. Discussion ensued between the two, with Ms. Hahn reminding the community who the RAB is comprised of and that the medical experts provide feedback on the reopening plan. The RAB serves in an advisory capacity with Dr. Sally and the Board. There has never been a vote taken or overridden. The RAB advises and provides perspectives to the Board. The medical professionals have advised to not throw open the doors for anyone who wants in-person learning, while also advising that the school should not stay fully remote until a vaccine is available. They have advised, on the approach that has been outlined, the 25% model with all the mitigation factors including the screener test, the District should be confident that it is pursuing an approach that it will be able to safely and carefully maintain this level of in-person learning. They have cautioned that there is a lot of uncertainty as no one has opened schools with the positivity rates where they are and stayed open, so this needs to go slowly and be monitored.

Ms. Hahn shared additional thoughts on what additional information she would like to see. Ms. Ducommun then inquired if the District takes any consolation from the surrounding schools that have operated at 50% and have not shown to be super spreaders, and shouldn't the school dip its toes in the water to see how it goes, to which Ms. Hahn responded that the 25%, with community transmission where it is, is that, per the medical professionals on the RAB. Ms. Hahn and Ms. Ducommun continued this conversation. Ms. Ducommun concluded that she thinks it is very difficult for some to be so slow about the reopening. Dr. Sally then shared his thoughts, noting that one does have to wait some time to look at the impact of what has happened. Mr. Robitaille shared his point of view, noting that post-Thanksgiving there will be a sufficient number of data points and unless there is a plan to go to 50% it will not happen as there will not be the opportunity to do so. Ms. Hahn added that she was not saying there should not be a plan but thought at tonight's meeting the Board could not determine a date. Mr. Robitaille disagreed slightly, noting that the Board could try and make a decision on a certain date based on the data it has, not that the school will go to

50% on that date, but that there will be enough data, practice within the building and enough assessment of what it means to go to 50% to make a decision on a certain date. He believed that date would be a week after Thanksgiving. Ms. Albrecht stated that is basically what is in the calendar and when the Board will reassess.

Mr. McLane added that the RAB is meeting on Wednesday and thought it was premature for the Board to weigh in too heavily when the RAB could give them more information later in the week. He also noted that it was helpful at the last special meeting when Dr. Sally reviewed what comparable neighboring high schools of similar size are doing. He shared additional thoughts around this. Next, he noted that there will be a lot of activity over Thanksgiving and to want to push ahead a week later would be premature when it is known that a safer path is to give at least a 14-day quarantine period. Dr. Sally then spoke to the area high schools, noting that their experiences have been that the number in attendance is less than 50%. It has been enlightening to talk with area superintendents weekly about how and why they are making their decisions and what they are doing. Each one, in their own individual context, is making the best decision they can. He shared what some area schools are doing, with Ms. Ducommun sharing her thoughts as well. Mr. Robitaille noted that one thing that New Trier has that other area schools do not is the screening and that the school should lean on that as it is working and providing good data. He inquired if the participation rate was for students and staff who are in the building, which Dr. Sally confirmed. Mr. Robitaille noted that it is shocking that there is not 100% participation with students and staff. Students and families desperately want to be back in the building, but 14% refuse to take the test. Staff is desperate to be protected while in the building and yet, 26% refuse to take the screening. Ms. Albrecht noted that that was the first week with Dr. Sally adding that he was not sure that all refused. Dr. Sally shared an example and noted that he wants to see the participation rate this week to determine how the District should move on that. Ms. Albrecht and Mr. Robitaille also shared additional comments.

Mr. Dronen inquired if Track E includes Transition and Educational Life Skills (ELS) students, which Dr. Sally confirmed. When one backs out those students, he inquired what the number is, as well as the same for those students with mental health needs. Dr. Sally approximated that 60 students could be taken out of the total, noting that this Track includes Transition and ELS students, students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) and 504s, as well as students who have been identified as having difficulty. Dr. Panopoulos confirmed this number. Mr. Dronen continued that Dr. Sally had said earlier that if the District ramps up to 50%, it would look at identified needs first. He also noted Ms. McDonough's comments earlier that if it is ramped up to 50%, the District may lose the ability to prioritize those students. Dr. Sally responded that he will make this part of the weekly report given to the Board as more time is needed to determine an answer. Mr. Dronen noted it would be nice to know this information prior to considering a ramp up to 50%.

Mr. Dronen commented that Glenbrook was going to close this Wednesday through Martin Luther King Jr. Day and part of their reasoning was that CCDPH strongly recommends remote learning. He asked how it is different at New Trier, inquiring if it was due to the surveillance testing that Glenbrook does not have. Mr. Dronen noted that Dr. Sally raised the question of how the school should balance guidance from the health departments and if that should be part of the metrics or not, how much importance is placed on that, among other thoughts. He suggested that this is something that the RAB will have to look at, to which Dr. Sally agreed and shared further thoughts including that CCDPH has not mandated anything about schools being remote. Mr. Dronen did note that it was a good concept to get those students with identified needs in as the District works up to 50%, but his concern is the school looks at the big picture before hastily deciding. He shared additional thoughts on this. Ms. Ducommun then noted that Glenbrook was also going to do the saliva screening, but apparently, they abandoned that. Mr. Johnson shared that it changes frequently, but believes they are starting testing with extracurriculars. Conversation continued between Ms. Ducommun, Mr. Dronen and Mr. Johnson with Mr. Johnson explaining his understanding of the status of screening at Glenbrook.

Ms. Albrecht stated that there should be a date when the school measures again with the information it has. One of the most important items, to her, is sustainability of a plan that the school can stick to with the right parameters to be able to continue that plan. She also noted that at 25%, it allows the school continued training with students in this new environment. She reiterated that the 50% model would not mean that many students are in, but rather, a lesser number in the building. Ms. Albrecht also shared information on testing and numbers of cases at the University of Illinois with Ms. Ducommun shared the same information from Cornell University. Ms. Albrecht noted that this informs the school about what is going on inside the buildings when it is trying to extrapolate that from positivity rates in the zip codes. She also agrees that everyone should be taking the saliva screening and noted its benefits. Ms. Albrecht and Ms. Ducommun conversed about colleges mandating testing. Mr. Dronen inquired if the District would be able to do another communication to the 14% of students who are not participating. Dr. Sally and Mr. Johnson

shared that about 95% of students opted in with the consent form with Mr. Johnson noting that 86% participated. He went on to share additional thoughts about the plan going forward to track those who are participating and those who may not be.

Mr. Robitaille inquired if the District was not offering salvia tests to substitutes, to which Mr. Johnson stated that it will be available beginning this week. He also shared that the school is identifying those subs who are in the building on a regular basis and are getting them enrolled in the program.

Ms. Albrecht noted that the other mitigations matter too and for some schools, that is all they have, and the understanding is that transmission within schools has been extremely low. For Ms. Albrecht to look at a 50% model, it is valuing the testing that is going on as students are doing so just prior to being in the buildings. She shared additional thoughts around this. Mr. Johnson reiterated that as cases have come up during the summer and early with students and staff through athletics, when the nurses have traced those cases, the school did not identify anyone who had contracted Covid through the school. When close contacts of those people were quarantined, his understanding, is that none of those people came down with Covid. All of this was prior to the saliva screening and also shows that students and staff are following the rules and the mitigation strategies are working.

Ms. Ducommun asked Dr. Renee Zoladz, Director of Human Resources, to walk the Board through the different accommodations that have been given to staff and the current status of substitutes. Dr. Zoladz noted that the goal was to keep as many New Trier teachers teaching New Trier students as possible. Those with medical conditions are working remotely and teaching their classes daily. When students in those classes are on campus, there is a supervisor in the classroom while the teacher teaches remotely. A small second group of people have family members with significant health issues that are living in their home. They are also teaching remotely daily. The largest group is working parents who are juggling their children who may be in a hybrid situation or if the children are younger, finding care for them as their schools are closed, while at the same time balancing their desire to be in-school with New Trier students. This group is working hard to get on campus. For most, they are in one blue and one green day and then work remotely from home on a blue day and a green day. The District has also partnered with Bright Horizons, the on-site daycare to offer employee rates, which has been extended to the sender schools to offer to their teachers the employee rate. The District is also offering a supervised Zoom Room and is for those children that can work independently, but are too young to be left home alone, but too old for daycare.

Today, Dr. Zoladz met with members of the Teachers' Association to figure out other options that the District can put in place for working parents as area schools take an adaptive pause from November 30th through Martin Luther King Jr. Day. This is a new group of people who now have childcare issues that have been on campus. Ms. Ducommun inquired how many that is, to which Dr. Zoladz replied anywhere from 25 to 40 people. Ms. Ducommun then inquired as to the options for accommodating those parents. Dr. Zoladz shared her thoughts about trying to keep those faculty teaching as there is not many highly qualified people to replace them. There are people who can replace them physically, but those people do not have their knowledge of the curriculum, New Trier culture or students. Ms. Ducommun inquired if there is an opportunity to hire long-term subs, to which Dr. Zoladz replied. Ms. Ducommun noted that this is short-term issue as Martin Luther King Jr. Day is around January 19th. She and Dr. Zoladz continued their conversation. Ms. Ducommun asked if Dr. Zoladz had a recommendation for the Board, to which Dr. Zoladz recommended that the District explore ideas shared by the Teachers' Association and try to keep New Trier teachers teaching as much as possible. Ms. Ducommun noted the different amounts of people with accommodations. There are 53 with a medical accommodation and 17 have accommodations because of a family member's significant health issues. Dr. Zoladz noted that the childcare group accounts for about half of the District's accommodations. Dr. Zoladz reiterated how much this group wants to be at school and are trying to do so. She noted that each day there is about 77% of teaching staff on campus. It is likely that those with a medical accommodation will be out all school year, while those with childcare ones will be able to come back once their child's school opens or returns from an adaptive pause. Ms. Albrecht shared comments on this as well. Dr. Zoladz also added comments and recommended that the Board and the District continue to explore the options with the Teachers' Association and let the District try to implement some of those. Ms. Ducommun asked for an update from Dr. Zoladz on her progress with the Teachers' Association in two weeks.

Ms. Hahn shared her appreciation for the work Dr. Zoladz has done to accommodate staff and the value of keeping New Trier teachers teaching New Trier students. She also shared comments about the students and their passion for their teachers and their eloquent speaking, with much of that attributed to the staff. Ms. Hahn also hopes that the community can remain flexible as this will not look like old New Trier or be perfect, but if the school can get its students in the building in some form for the social emotional benefits and having teachers teaching in any format, to

her, should be a very important value. Dr. Zoladz shared that the teachers, especially the working parents, are appreciative of the Board providing options.

Ms. Albrecht shared that this is not a normal time, but everyone wants a path back to normal and to have the wonderful teachers back when life is back to normal and preserved for the school. Mr. Robitaille agreed with what was shared, noting however, that the Board is hearing increasingly the voice of the community, in particular, the voice of families and students who are really struggling. Now, it is essentially a three-week decision point and what is known today is that the mitigants that have been put in place work and it has been overlaid by a more significant screening test. Mr. Robitaille noted that he feels a sense of urgency to figure this out. He is not suggesting increasing to 50% tomorrow, but he would like to see a clear plan and decision date to consider being at 50%. This would be where the District is headed unless data and information changes that says the school cannot go to that percentage. Ms. Albrecht responded that it has been carved out to get to four weeks at 25% in order to have more data on the campus usage with that fourth week being the week after Thanksgiving. Ms. Ducommun noted that what she thought Mr. Robitaille was speaking about was a mindset, not that one gets there and gets extra comfortable, but that the District has a plan along with reasons not to impact the plan as opposed to a developing plan that can slide. She said that she would like to advocate for what Mr. Robitaille is speaking about. Ms. Albrecht commented that she thought everyone was agreeing on the same thing, that a date is needed and to obtain the necessary data. Ms. Hahn added that operational metrics will also come into this and plays into the concern of if the school can maintain its ELS and Transition students and the services they need, as well as the Track E students with 50%. She noted that this is the work of the RAB to generate this for the Board when they look review information in December to determine if the school can move to 50% or perhaps it is not ready. Ms. Hahn noted her issue was that the Board could not select a date and that is when the school would move to 50%, but rather a date could be selected as to when the Board could review this. Mr. Robitaille responded that he would go further and use intention instead of mindset and that intent is to get to 50%.

Discussion continued with Ms. Ducommun inquiring of Dr. Sally of how the Board figures out that date that they should be aspiring to. Dr. Sally responded that the weeks of December 7th and 14th as the time to assess and decide where the District is, and that that decision needs to be made in advance. Mr. Robitaille shared his thoughts on a date. Dr. Sally thought that there needs to be two significant updates and discussions with the Board. In a week, that special meeting would gather what holes there are and what information the Board might need. Discussion ensued about a date with Dr. Sally stating that a special meeting would take place the following Monday or Tuesday within a second meeting on November 30th. This will allow for a more substantive discussion about the data that the Board is looking for. Discussion continued amongst Board members. Ms. Ruston, Board of Education secretary, will poll members about their availability.

Ms. Hahn noted that she would like to hear from the RAB this week and from the medical experts about how long they would like to see the school gauge the 25% and what is the District looking for as lagging indicators have been discussed. Ms. Ducommun noted that she would like to listen in on the RAB meeting. Dr. Sally noted that the members of the RAB are dedicated to it and if an additional meeting needed to be called, they would do their best to attend. Conversation continued and Mr. McLane shared his concerns about post-Thanksgiving.

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

Mr. Robitaille requested that this agenda be tabled until a future meeting. Mr. Dronen suggested it be presented at an upcoming Special Meeting as waiting until the Regular Meeting in December was too far off to share this information. The Board agreed to table this agenda item and discuss it at a Special Meeting.

VII. Administrative Items

A. Treasurer's Report for October 2020

Mr. Johnson presented the Treasurer's Report for October 2020. This represents the first quarter of the year and gives a sense of the direction that the finances are going. The weighted portfolio yield for short term invests is 0.41%. These continue to dip as short-term investments roll off and are replaced by others. Long term investments or three-year ladders are at 1.39%. Mr. Johnson is please to report that there are continued local distributions from property taxes as well as state distributions, allowing some catch up from prior months. The fund balance for all accounts is \$126,552,267.

B. Financial Reports for October 2020

Operating revenue was \$51,216,737 for the first four months of the year, or 0.25% lower compared to last year. Property tax receipts have been timely and now compare favorably as expected to last year. This piece was being

monitored carefully with the grace period that property owners were offered this year. Other Local sources are substantially lower, primarily due to funds received for pupil transportation, student fees, and interest income. The adopted budget for operating revenue is slightly higher than last year. Operating expenditures were \$33,216,413 through October, or about a half percentage point lower than last year. Mr. Johnson noted that one will see that some areas are underspending while others are trending ahead of last year, for example with supplies. There are different spending patterns this year compared to previous years, but overall, the District is trending where it is expected to be at this point in the school year.

***C. Public Hearing: 2020 Tax Levy**

Ms. Albrecht called to order the public hearing on the 2020 Tax Levy and Mr. Johnson presented on it. The levy was reviewed at the October 19th Board meeting and then placed on display and approval will take place on the final levy this evening. The 2020 levy is based on the extension from the previous year times the 2019 CPI of 2.3% plus the value of new property. The levy funds the second half of the 2020-2021 school year and the first half of the 2021-2022 school year. The Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL) limits the increase to the lesser of 5% or the prior year's CPI, whichever is lower. The December 31, 2019 CPI was 2.3%. The value of new property is unknown at the time of the levy and must be estimated. If tax revenue from new property is underestimated, the law does not allow the District to modify its levy to capture it for this year. The result is that the levy is higher than the actual taxes collected to ensure the District is properly taxing any new property which may come on its rolls but is not known until June 2021. This year, the projected increase in the levy for operating funds is 2.57%. The final amount will be determined once the county has new property numbers in June. The Debt Service levy will also be updated based on the bonds the District is issuing in February. Due to the PTELL laws, the average homeowner should experience an increase of less than 2.3%, on average, for the New Trier portion of their property tax bill. In the winter, Cook County will send a bill to taxpayers for 55% of the previous year tax bill. The remainder of the 2021 tax bill is due in the fall. It is important to remember that while the value of one's home may increase, particularly in reassessment years, the District levy does not increase by that amount and the District's tax rate will fall as the value of property rises.

The levy dollars support the District's ability to continue to offer an excellence in education to current and future New Trier students. The District continues to have top standardized test scores for open enrollment schools, high college enrollment and is recognized as a lighthouse District in many areas of the student experience. The levy allows the District to support a deep and broad curriculum tailored to individual student interests and needs, a robust student services program as well as extracurricular programming and competitive salaries to attract and retain top faculty and staff. The District is also proud of its strong history of balanced budgets. After the 2003 referendum, the District committed to no operating rate referendum for five years, that commitment has been extended to seventeen years. The District carefully manages its costs and has no plans for a referendum currently.

The District also maintains appropriate reserves to fund operations between tax payments. It also allows the District to maintain its Aaa bond rating. The Aaa bond rating allows the District to borrow at a lower rate to maximize the value for the community and taxpayers. It also prepares the District for any future funding changes. The annual levy increase also helps to fund areas where expenditures have increased and plays a key part in presenting a balanced budget next year. The District's goal is to continue to provide the excellent education, extracurricular programs, support, and services for current and future students, while maintaining a balanced budget and acting as strong stewards of taxpayer dollars.

Mr. Johnson thanked the Board of Education as well as the community for their support in this process. It takes the whole community to sustain the level of excellence that previous generations of New Trier students have experienced. The school is committed to providing the excellence that the community expects and is its tradition while continuing to be faithful stewards of these funds. Mr. Johnson then invited questions and comments from the Board, noting there were no changes from last month.

Ms. Ducommun mentioned that she got a letter from the Cook County Tax Assessor talking about the impact of Covid and believes it was meant to say that there would be a decline in one's home value based on that. She did not want people to be misled by that, within the residential property category, everybody's property declines commensurately. Everyone will have the same share of the District's and others' tax levies. She asked Mr. Johnson to speak to this piece. He stated that New Trier's levy will increase by 2.3% next year plus the value of new property. So, if one's property rises or falls in proportion to your neighbors, one should see a 2.3% increase on their New Trier portion of their tax bill. If one's property goes through a Covid reassessment and the assessed value goes down ten percent and that is the same percentage that everyone's goes down, one will see a 2.3% increase. If one's value goes

down less than their neighbor's, there may be a little larger increase in one's New Trier tax bill. If it goes up more than one's neighbor's, one may see a different value. The District calculates the levy and is capped by the 2.3% and then it is how the pie is divided up. Ms. Ducommun commented that people may read the letter and think it may reduce their property taxes, but it is unlikely to do that. While Mr. Johnson agrees, he believes what the assessor is trying to do, as many people go through an appeal process for their taxes, is say that he will adjust the value of one's property so that a person receives a value that is more fairly based on the current circumstances. This way, a person does not have to go through some of the steps to get a reassessment. Mr. Johnson shared some final thoughts on this topic.

Ms. Albrecht looked at the new property historical numbers, using the \$30 million for budgeting, she inquired if the District was confident it will not be under that as last year it was around \$35 million. Mr. Johnson thought it was about that number, noting it is difficult and the District talks with the villages to see what might happen and is the best information at this time. Discussion continued between the two.

Ms. Ducommun moved, and Ms. Hahn seconded the motion, that the Board move to adjourn the Public Hearing on the 2020 Tax Levy.

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.

***D. 2020 Tax Levy Approval**

Ms. Ducommun moved, and Dr. Glucksman seconded the motion, that the Board of Education adopt the resolution approving the 2020 Levy in the amount of \$111,371,502 to be distributed as follows:

Fund	Amount
Educational	\$97,951,235
Operations and Maintenance	\$8,074,434
Transportation	\$1,447,830
Municipal Retirement	\$1,626,024
Social Security	\$2,271,979
Total Extension:	\$111,371,502

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

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

NAY: none

The motion passed.

***E. Conduct a Public Hearing concerning the intent of the Board of Education to sell Working Cash Fund Bonds for the purpose of increasing the District's Working Cash Fund**

Ms. Albrecht called to order a public hearing concerning the intent of the Board of Education to sell Working Cash Fund Bonds for the purpose of increasing the District's Working Cash Fund and Mr. Johnson presented on this. It is the second step in a three-month process to issue \$4.2 million in working cash fund bonds to fund summer 2021 construction. This is for the second year of the District's 15-year plan and Mr. Johnson looks forward to sharing more at the special meeting. Projects include completing the third floor of the Winnetka Campus, updates to classrooms in the D Building at the Northfield Campus, along with various other maintenance projects. He invited questions and comments from the Board, noting this is what has been discussed at the Finance Committee and previous Board meetings.

Mr. Robitaille moved, and Dr. Glucksman seconded the motion, that the Board move to adjourn the Public Hearing concerning the intent of the Board of Education to sell Working Cash Fund Bonds for the purpose of increasing the District's Working Cash Fund.

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.

***F. Resolution Abating Debt Service**

Mr. Johnson presented on the resolution abating debt service. This is the last part of the 2020 Levy that was just approved. Each year, the District abates a portion of its debt service. These are bonds that the District issues on behalf of NSSD for its commitment to the NSSD facilities. There are three additional years of debt service which is about \$200,000. By acting to abate these, it means they are not levied to the District's taxpayers.

Mr. Robitaille clarified that it is covered out of operating funds, to which Mr. Johnson confirmed it is paid by taxpayers in another way, but additional funds beyond the normal levy are not levied to them.

Mr. Robitaille moved, and Ms. Hahn seconded the motion, that the Board adopt the resolution abating the tax levied for the year 2020 to pay debt service on general obligation bonds Series 2016B.

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.

VIII. Consent Agenda

- Bill List for the Period, October 1 – 31, 2020
- Personnel Report (Appointments, Retirements, Stipends – Appointments, Stipends – Separation and Termination)
- New Course Proposals
- Resolution Authorizing Commencement of Vaping Litigation
- Contract with Pepper Construction for construction management services for summer 2021 projects
- Contract with Cashman Stahler group for architectural services for 2021 projects

Ms. Albrecht inquired if any members wanted to pull an item off the Consent Agenda, 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, October 1 – 31, 2020, Personnel Report (Appointments, Retirements, Stipends – Appointments, Stipends – Separation and Termination), New Course Proposals, Resolution Authorizing Commencement of Vaping Litigation, Approve a construction management services contract for Pepper Construction for construction and authorize the Associate Superintendent to execute the contract subject to final attorney review, and Approve an architect services contract for the Cashman Stahler Group and authorize the Associate Superintendent to execute the contract subject to final attorney review. Ms. Ducommun seconded the motion. 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.

IX. Board Member Reports

Mr. Dronen reported that NSSD met on November 4th, which he was not able to attend due to New Trier holding its Special Board of Education meeting that same evening. The leadership approved the articles of agreement to change the organization's name to True North Educational Cooperative 804 which will be effective July 1, 2021.

Mr. Dronen reported that the **Facilities Steering Committee** met on November 5th. There was a presentation by Wight and Company on the 15-year facility plan, the Gates Gym and how the space inside the gym would support the Kinetic Wellness program, the impact of additional classrooms, as well as both interior and exterior design. Mr. Johnson will go into further detail with his presentation at the special meeting.

Ms. Ducommun shared from the **New Trier Fine Arts Association** that on December 3rd, the Book Stall in Winnetka has agreed to donate 20% of each identified sale to the NTFAA.

Mr. Dronen shared an article from the Sunday's *Chicago Tribune* and encouraged his fellow Board members to read it. The article spoke about how all school districts are working hard to make school happen.

Mr. Robitaille noted that the **Finance Committee** met on November 9th and the primary topic was starting to look at the five-year forecast. As part of that there was consideration of the capacity of the District to fund a project on the Winnetka campus. That will come before the Board in either January or February.

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

Dr. Sally highlighted the following:

- Parent-Teacher conferences were today. They will also take place on Monday, November 23rd and Tuesday, November 24th.
- He reminded the community that the District is encouraging only essential travel to keep the community healthy and the school open. Small gatherings of less than ten are recommended as well as masks and social distancing.
- On December 7th, 8th and 9th, the Frosh/Soph musical workshop will present "Emma – A Pop Musical."
- On December 16th, 17th, and 18th, performing arts will present "It's a Wonderful Life – Live Radio Show."

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

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Hahn moved, and Mr. Robitaille seconded the motion, to adjourn. 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.

The meeting adjourned at 10:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsey Ruston, Secretary

Cathleen Albrecht, President