

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

October 19, 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, October 19, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Members Present

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

Administrators Present

Dr. Paul Sally, Superintendent
Dr. Timothy Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services
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
Mr. Greg Robitaille

Also Present

Ms. Niki Dizon, Director of Communications; Mr. Michael Marassa, Chief Technology Officer; Dr. Renee Zoladz, Director of Human Resources; Ms. Pat Savage-Williams, Equity Team Co-Chair and Special Education Department Coordinator; Ms. Liz Mayer, Executive Director of the New Trier Educational Foundation; other administrators, faculty and staff; 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 October 19, 2020 of the Board of Education to order at 5:30 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, except for Dr. Glucksman and Mr. Robitaille.

Ms. Albrecht asked for a motion to move to Closed Session. Ms. Ducommun 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; security procedures and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public, or public property; the placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students; 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. Mr. Dronen seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: none

ABSENT: Dr. Glucksman, Mr. Robitaille

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 October 19, 2020 of the Board of Education to order at 6:32 p.m. Ms. Albrecht confirmed that Dr. Glucksman, Mr. McLane and Mr. Robitaille, 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 Regular Meeting of September 21, 2020 (open and closed session). Ms. Ducommun had one change to the open meeting minutes while Ms. Albrecht had one change to the closed session minutes. All requests for changes were incorporated. Ms. Ducommun moved, and Ms. Hahn seconded, the motion that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 21, 2020 (open and closed session), as amended. 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 Mr. Tragos, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction. There were no requests for public comment.

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:

- One highlight since the last Board meeting was having students return to campus from October 6th through October 9th. Students were divided by their last name; two of the four groups of students were able to come in and the hope is that the other two groups can come in soon. Mr. Waechtler received very positive feedback from teachers and students who were on campus. The District also learned a lot about how the campus operates, where students want to be and ways to improve. There were some minor adjustments, but overall, it went well.
- Interim Progress Reports were sent out and focused on the transition to high school, not necessarily just academic information. Mr. Waechtler noted that these are even more important this year than most to make sure that students are getting off to a good start and if not, the school can figure out how to support them. These reports were made available to parents on October 8th.
- Freshman Go-To-School Night was conducted virtually this year. On October 14th, teachers posted videos on Canvas that parents could access. The video included information about the teacher, the course and possible sequencing for future courses. While the format was not the same, it accomplished the main goals of the evening. Parents are encouraged to view these videos with their student to facilitate conversations about their courses and how the year is going so far.
- The lower level fall athletic season has finished that many freshmen participated in.
- Mr. Waechtler also looks forward to having students on campus again soon.

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

- It was nice having the students on campus for a short time. They did a wonderful job of following the guidelines and she noted her pride in them and the staff for helping students while they were on campus.
- The SAT was administered to seniors on Wednesday, October 14th. This past Saturday, the school administered the PSAT. Dr. Chimille Dillard, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Ms. Peg Stevens, Testing Coordinator, and Mr. Alan Pavlik, Testing Office Assistant, did a wonderful job. She also thanked the administrators for their help.
- Mrs. Dubravec noted that the past two Fridays, some of the Jazz students were playing outside in one of the tents at Winnetka. Mrs. Dubravec and Mr. Michael Marassa, Chief Technology Officer, gave a tour to Niles Township High School District 219 to show how New Trier has prepared to bring students in. Mrs. Dubravec noted how great it has been to have the tents available to students.

- Speech and Debate students have been participating in virtual competitions. New Trier hosted their annual tournament October 10th – 12th, virtually. Their next competition will be in November.
- Mrs. Dubravec is meeting with Student Council to find ways to continue to listen to students and gather student feedback. Student Council has initiated this with Mrs. Dubravec as a way to ensure an understanding of the student experience regarding hybrid and remote learning.
- Last week, there was a Post-High School Counseling (PHSC) webinar hosted by the department's chair, Ms. Jill Cervantes. It focused on helping parents to understand navigating Canvas. There were many parent participants who encouraged continued dissemination of information and a request to help them navigate key questions such as accessing colleges.
- Mrs. Dubravec then shared a sports update:
 - Girls Tennis: Central Suburban League (CSL) Conference Champs and Illinois High School Association (IHS) Sectional Champions.
 - Boys and Girls Cross Country: CSL Conference Champs. IHS Regional competition will be October 24th at Loyola with Sectionals on October 31st.
 - Girls Golf: CSL Conference Champs, IHS Regional Champions and one student who is a sectional champion and medaled.
 - Boys Golf: Second in the CSL Conference, IHS Regional Champions and second place IHS Sectional.
 - Girls Swimming and Diving: CSL Conference Champs and Sectionals will take place October 24th.
- Mr. Augie Fontanetta, Athletic Director, was elected to the Illinois High School Board of Directors and today was his first day serving. He is the first Athletic Director elected and was voted on by his peers throughout the state of Illinois. Mrs. Dubravec noted that he is a good example of how the school has been able to get students on campus. She is thankful that he is a colleague of hers and that he is here at New Trier. Mrs. Dubravec believes that Mr. Fontanetta will represent New Trier and other schools well in the state. Ms. Albrecht offered her congratulations to Mr. Fontanetta as well.

Mr. Peter Tragos, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, presented the Class Size Report. He provided highlights and an overview along with analysis of the current class sizes and allocations. Staffing and sectioning for the 2020-2021 school year was completed in early March, pre-Covid. When this process begins, strategic goals are set such as maintaining class size, meeting budget targets and making strategic allocations in different areas of the school, either academically or in student services. Mr. Tragos noted that using Kasarda B projections, 3,972 students were estimated for the 20-21 school year, which is a significant decrease from the 4,076 students that the school had during the 19-20 school year. In addition to Kasarda, the District had demographic information from the McKibben Report, which predicted a less dramatic decrease to 4,028 for this school year. The McKibben number is much closer to the District's October 1st number of 4,032.

Mr. Tragos noted that there are variations across courses and departments due to balancing as well as the student-centered nature of staffing and sectioning. He went on to highlight a few numbers in the report. The average class size this year was identical to last year at 22.4. The percentage of large classes, defined as 30 or more students, significantly decreased to 0.5% which is the lowest since 2017-2018. The percentage of small classes, defined as 14 or fewer students, increased to 6.5%. Mr. Tragos mentioned that in section four one would see a significant increase in special education enrollments compared to last school year. It is not a simple comparison and the difference in the increase from 1,025 courses to 1,370 is the way they are counted in the block schedule. There is about the same number of enrollments, but there is a difference in the counting based on the way the school needed to schedule. Mr. Tragos then provided context as to the reasoning for the increase in the number of small class sizes. There were a significant number of students who took summer school this year. Once it became clear that many students' and families' summer plans would not happen due to Covid, the District opened a second round of registration. By late spring, there was significant enrollment in U.S. History, Consumer Education, science classes and Civics. Due to students taking these classes over the summer, they then dropped them for the school year. There were also some balancing challenges due to the new block scheduling. Finally, some of it was due to student-centered approaches and how sections were allocated across a department. Mr. Tragos shared what is done next with the report, noting that he will work with department chairs, coordinators, and the administrative team to analyze the information to determine if allocations were decided correctly, what in the schedule is working or not working as expected. He then invited questions and comments from the Board.

Ms. Hahn noted that in social work, it appears as though the social work department has the same number of full-time employees and inquired if the school was looking to increase that. Mr. Tragos responded that there was an

increase at the campus level and a slight increase at the New Trier Learning Center (NTLC). There was an increase during the 19-20 school year on a contract basis, that was reallocated to NTLC this year. Student services is always a place where Mr. Tragos and Dr. Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, continue to look at and social work will be an area that is reviewed this year as well.

Mr. McLane noted that the report was concise and to the point and thanked Mr. Tragos for it.

Ms. Albrecht shared comments on the smaller class size charts noting that it makes sense to have those in level 2 classes, while larger sizes are found with level 4 classes. She noted that it is good to see that the overall number of classes with 30 or more students in them decreased. Mr. Tragos responded that in some cases it is due to a class being a singleton or capstone course. He went on to note that even though some classes have small numbers, it does not necessarily mean that every section in the department, or even within the course, at that level, is small. The two continued their conversation briefly.

Mr. Johnson gave the FOIA report noting that there were three requests since the last Board meeting. One was regarding building permits that was mistakenly sent to the District. One was regarding information on athletic officials, which is closed. The other was regarding faculty accommodations for this year and is pending.

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

Dr. Sally presented the report on the New Trier Reopening and Operational Plan for 2020-2021. The agenda included the current metrics, the status of in-person programs, the Covid-19 screening program as well as additional topics for discussion. Beginning with the metrics, Dr. Sally noted a positivity rate, as of October 19th, of 4.7% in the Township Zip Codes and a positivity rate of 5.7% in the New Trier staff catchment area. Those areas are reviewed in order to assess the risk of exposure of Covid in the building. Currently, the data is trending upwards and is available on the school's Covid dashboard. He shared the rolling new cases per 100,000 people: in the Township, the number is 122.4 and is starting to flatten out from a long spike that began around October 8th and 9th. This data began to spike not only in the Township, but the local area and state. In the Staff Zip Codes, the number is 179.3. This is an unweighted average and does not weight each zip code by the number of staff in it. Another important item to keep in mind is that as more tests are conducted, one would expect more positives. Dr. Sally shared a chart about the percentage of number tested and the percentage of number positive on October 1st compared to October 18th. In the Staff Zip Codes, there was a 36% increase in the number tested and in the Township Zip Codes, an increase of 37%. The percentage of positive cases has gone up significantly more than those tested, and that is the positivity rate that one sees increasing over that period, so there is more prevalence of the virus. These are trends that the school needs to continue to watch.

Next, Dr. Sally shared the status of in-person learning and that since metrics are rising, hybrid instruction has been paused at 25%. It is important to note that these metrics are the best proxy for the potential risk of exposure in the school. At this point, there is not a better measure and these are some of the measures that public health officials use in analyzing spread in various regions. There has been no in-person, in school transmission of the virus. Research is now suggesting that many have opened and had little spread. There were articles regarding this in The Atlantic and The New York Times. The District is trying to not miss one more day of safe, in-person instruction. The Covid Surveillance Program is an important part of the path to safe, sustained in-person learning. It is the metric that allows the school to know, in much better detail, what the risk of exposure is in the building. When the school implements the COVID surveillance, a known presumptive person will not come in the building. The District continues to do out-of-the-box thinking on different ways that students can be brought in. Several ideas have emerged, and some have been implemented such as bringing in those students who have struggled most significantly with their remote learning.

Mr. Johnson then shared the Covid Screening Framework, which was shared at last week's Special Board of Education meeting. It is a self-administered, saliva-based screening that is done at home. It is conducted weekly, is confidential and the costs are paid by the District. With this screener, the hope is to reduce school closures and quarantines and allow for more in-person instruction. It will allow the school to really know what is going on with its students and staff in the building. Potential Covid cases will be identified early, with the goal to reduce transmission and drive down the rates in the community by alerting those that may need to quarantine to further minimize risk on the campus. While there is a work benefit, there is also a personal and family benefit, as staff know their Covid status. The Covid Screening will supplement and does not take the place of any other mitigation measures such as social distancing, the use of plexiglass and wipes, among others. A high participation rate is needed for it to be effective. The District wants to communicate that the screening is safe, easy, fast and a good opportunity for

everyone. The District also wants to get the word out because it is exciting, and it puts New Trier on the cutting edge of doing this in the school environment and provide a great benefit to students, staff and community.

Mr. Johnson then went through the Screening's six step workflow: the student or employee opts in, the school provides the barcode and other materials, the sample is then dropped off weekly, the District then delivers the samples to the lab, and the results are delivered to the school within 24 hours, however, over the past couple of weeks, results were sent the same day. Finally, the school notifies the student or employee if there is a presumptive positive. The lab will let a designated person at the school know the number on the test tube that is presumed positive, the lab does not know who that number is associated with. The school then notifies the person and asks them to get a PCR test done at their doctor or state testing center to confirm and to follow quarantine and isolation procedures until the test results are complete.

The District has selected SafeGuard Screening to provide the screening services. The process was adapted by Dr. Ed Campbell and is used at his school district, La Grange 102. The weekly screening costs \$11 per sample, paid by the District. The provider reports no false positives to date. The District is looking for same day results to get the information to participants as soon as possible to prevent them from transmitting it to others at home or school.

Dr. Sally shared next steps, including when parent webinars and other communication will take place; a staff meeting will also occur. He stressed the importance of a high participation rate and how it can become the local metric that matters the most. Expanded testing can begin in mid-November as the pilot is already underway. The school is learning the logistics and how this is operating within its environment. Dr. Sally emphasized that not only will a high participation rate help the school, it will help the community in managing the pandemic. Dr. Sally then invited questions and comments from the Board, including a few topics that he thought might be of importance.

Mr. Robitaille noted that the designated day that a student would bring their sample in, in the 25% model, would ideally be the day before they are scheduled to be in. He then inquired if that was possible without suppressing participation rates as students have to make two trips to school, one to drop off their sample and the next day to attend school. This would then prevent students from coming into the building if the school knew in advance they were potentially compromised. Second, he inquired if it is possible to restrict students who opt out of the test from in-person learning. Mr. Johnson replied that he and Dr. Sally spoke with Dr. Campbell earlier today about Mr. Robitaille's first question. The District is looking at how to manage the logistics of collecting the samples with Dr. Campbell's lab capacity. It was determined that the lab can work with an uneven distribution of samples per day. The drop off would likely be the day before a person is scheduled to be on campus, that is when it is most effective, but it requires a trip to the school on a day the student is not here. Two weeks ago, there were 35 volunteers in the pilot and this past week doubled to 70 participants. Those in the pilot submit on Fridays, but as the screening gets up and running, the school will look to make it a more meaningful day for people. Dr. Sally mentioned that many logistics need to be worked out, but a Monday test day for those in on Tuesday/Wednesday and then a Wednesday test day before a Thursday/Friday attendance. The District has been working with Dr. Campbell and medical professionals on the RAB on the ideal timing and how the logistics can be managed. Regarding the second question, Mr. Johnson responded that they want people to participate because of the benefits that were shared. The District is researching that if a student wants to be in, they need to participate in the screener otherwise they need to learn from home or perhaps it is a requirement if a student wants to participate in extracurriculars on campus. The school, however, is leading with the message that this is beneficial to all, it provides information about one's own health, it benefits the community and helps for in-person learning.

Ms. Ducommun stressed that the screening is not diagnostic, but if a person is presumed positive, the school will treat that as a positive. That person will not be allowed in school until they have received results from a follow up test. Mr. Johnson responded that the school will support those who are presumed positive by speaking with them to see if they have a doctor and if not, make sure they know where the state testing sites are located. The District has spoken with a local pediatrician in the area and she is ready to expedite people who may have a presumptive positive. The District is also working with NorthShore Health System on follow-up testing.

Ms. Ducommun inquired where SafeGuard Screening LLC will be processing the results. Mr. Johnson replied that they are doing so at one of LaGrange 102's buildings. Once the District moves on to the formal program, SafeGuard will have a lab in Hinsdale. Mr. Johnson also shared that Glenbrook 225 is discussing this tonight at their Board meeting and there has been talk of sharing resources. The two continued their discussion around this piece.

Ms. Ducommun then asked about what kind of representations Dr. Campbell has made about the lab's capacity,

particularly as the school ramps up to 50%. Mr. Johnson responded that this has been part of ongoing conversations and is one element that has been added to the contract to document that the lab can take the increase. The District is in a fortunate position as it is a couple of weeks ahead of other schools in getting started with Dr. Campbell and the lead time is important in order to secure the number of tests on the days needed. Ms. Ducommun then noted that as the lab continues to gain clients, the District will want to ensure that the turnaround quality on the results does not suffer. She inquired as to the safeguards that the District has that the lab will not overcommit, and therefore, the results cannot be obtained quickly. Mr. Johnson responded that the contract has provisions in it regarding breach and the number of times the lab can exceed the 24-hour threshold before sending results. Mr. Johnson thanked Ms. Albrecht and Ms. Hahn for reviewing the contract extensively. He also thanked Dr. Glucksman for discussing the science of the assay with Dr. Campbell. Mr. Johnson noted that there are service level pieces in the contract and the District feels that it can hold SafeGuard accountable to the timelines set based on conversations and the documentation in the contract. Discussion continued between the two, with Mr. Johnson noting that he and Dr. Sally have a good, open dialogue with Dr. Campbell. Ms. Albrecht also shared comments pertaining to quality control.

Mr. Dronen inquired about testing capacity and how many tubes can be tested in an hour. Dr. Glucksman responded that, currently, the lab can run 96 samples in 30-35 minutes. SafeGuard plans to purchase two more machines that will increase capacity eight-fold. Each machine can run 384 samples in the same amount of time. In less than an hour, around 800 samples could be run. Dr. Sally noted that Dr. Campbell is committed to the process of getting schools their results the same day. He shared other comments, including that he feels confident that New Trier's capacity can and will be met.

Mr. Dronen noted that it was good news that the participation in the pilot group doubled last week. Mr. Johnson spoke to this along with noting how helpful the special education parents have been in the process. The hope is to double the participation this week. Mr. Johnson also noted that information has been added to the dashboard about the number of screening samples collected each week and the number of presumptive positives. Over the past two weeks, there have been zero presumptive positives. Dr. Sally emphasized that the pilot includes those special education students who are on campus and it is important to make sure the process works well. He again noted the importance of a high participation rate.

Mr. Dronen wanted to confirm that from week one to week two and as parents become more familiar with the process, that the school is finding any initial objection they may have had, they are now on board. Mr. Johnson responded there have been about ten to fifteen questions or concerns brought to the District. In turn, the District has used those to enhance communication materials to proactively answer those. Mr. Johnson shared further details.

Mr. Dronen noted that he inquired of Dr. Campbell at the special meeting about the participation rate at the LaGrange schools, which was about 90%. Dr. Sally responded that it varies by site, but some are over 90%. To the public, Mr. Dronen stated that he cannot agree more with Dr. Sally about a high participation rate and it is important to have this process to see what is happening within the building. This means less reliance on the Township and Staff Zip Codes. Mr. Dronen shared that his daughter was the first to sign up and the process is simple.

Ms. Ducommun inquired if there was an opportunity to have Mrs. Dubravec and Mr. Waechtler do a video for students and another for parents about this. All agreed it was a good idea, with Dr. Sally noting that the school needs to explore as many avenues as it can to ensure people are hearing about the screening, understand it and see the benefit of it.

Ms. Hahn commented that during the RAB meeting, the committee stressed the high participation rate as well as the integrity of the participation and that communication to families include the need to participate according to the protocols. Ms. Hahn inquired if there were to be a delay in the Monday testing, would the school still have students attend on Tuesday. Dr. Sally noted that this piece needs to be addressed. Mr. Johnson noted that there will be a week by week calendar looking at when students are scheduled to be in and when they should submit the tube which will be communicated to parents. He noted that the District will continue to work through the logistical issues.

Mr. McLane mentioned his concerns around reopening, including the dashboard, testing, and tracing. He would like a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) established. He shared thoughts about the screening, encouraging participation and noting that the choice to opt-out is a discussion for another day. He is pleased that the screening information will be included on the dashboard. Mr. McLane then inquired how tracing was working, if there is sufficient capacity, and any updates around digitizing these capabilities, including the legal ramifications of having a blue tooth enabled app.

Lastly, he stated there are many repeated questions, concerns and doubts from families and if these could exist in a FAQ, it would be another medium by which people can enhance their understanding, particularly around the Board's decision-making.

Dr. Hayes responded to Mr. McLane's contact tracing question, noting that there is a lot of information that one must gather to do contact tracing well. Additional help is needed, and the District is seeking that through a contract service agency for nurse support. When these calls are made to families, it is best done by someone with a medical background as families have many questions. In terms of a tracking app on the phone, while it something to consider, the school has not done so yet. Since New Trier is a public high school, there are a different set of legal issues that need to be dealt with compared to what a university might do. Mr. Johnson added that there will be some FAQs included on the website tomorrow and will be based on what has been heard in the pilot from parents. They should clearly and directly answer questions. Dr. Sally noted they will constantly be updated as well.

Dr. Sally then responded to Mr. McLane's question about contact tracing. He shared that when in conversation with Cook County Department of Public Health (CCPDH) around what the school is doing, where students are and how it is all being managed, they shared with Dr. Sally that they thought the District had an incredibly strong plan about classrooms, cafeteria and free spaces. Dr. Sally noted that the school has been referring to the Illinois Department of Public Health's (IDPH) hospitalizations and will make a change to New Trier's dashboard to include that information. Dr. Hayes thanked those who have been working in the evenings and on weekends to do contact tracing. They include Ms. Anne Marie Ricchio, School Nurse; Ms. Doreen Clough, School Nurse; and Mr. Dale Grooms, Head Athletic Trainer. There are a lot of questions that people have, which means long hours helping families get the answers they need in a timely manner.

Ms. Ducommun then asked to think through the model as testing becomes more proficient and what the Board's vision might be going forward. She would like to think that 50% of students in is not the maximum that can be obtained, however, until the state of Illinois goes to Phase 5, 50% is the best the school can do. Dr. Sally went on to explain this further, noting that one of the main constraints that the school is under is that of social distancing. He shared that social distancing has been done in all classrooms and lunchrooms. The school continues to think about ways to keep to social distancing but provide more opportunity for in-person learning. Dr. Sally noted that he has been asked why New Trier is not in if the elementary schools have students in-person. The sender schools have done a fantastic job getting students in, which Dr. Sally appreciates, however, they are completely different in terms of managing students. They can do so in a cohort or classroom, while a comprehensive high school like New Trier has a unique schedule for each of its students. The elementary schools have their own challenges, including the social distancing constraint. Ms. Ducommun reiterated that given the requirement by IDPH for six feet of social distancing, the District is comfortable having up to 50% of its students in the building at one time. She encouraged an understanding of the opportunities available, and thinking outside the box, regarding other spaces in the school. For example, a gym could house an English class on one side and a Math class on the other, instead of Kinetic Wellness. The thinking should continue to be pushed to get more than 50% of students back in. Ms. Ducommun stated that not only should the usage of specific classrooms be thought about, but prioritizing courses such as core over elective classes. She noted that the electives are amazing part of what kind of school New Trier is, but if students are falling behind in core courses, maybe those are prioritized over some of the electives. She envisions a model driving understanding of how the school can increase the number of students in the building at any given time.

She went on to share further comments, including the need for a continued push to get students back for fear much of the year will be gone if we do not prioritize these efforts. Similar to the push for testing, now there is a need to push to get students back. Dr. Sally thanked her for her comments and noted that the planning for all of these items takes a long time. The District is already looking into several the items that Ms. Ducommun noted. Another piece to look at is the percentage of families who want to stay remote. Mr. Waechter responded that currently about 12% at the Northfield campus want to stay remote while the percentage in in the low twenties at Winnetka. As those numbers stabilize, it gives the District different opportunities to make better decisions to get students into the classroom. He shared other comments, including that some of the electives require hands-on experiences, so a balance of priorities is needed.

Ms. Ducommun then commented that as students returned to school, there were several of them, along with their families, who were disappointed that more of their teachers were not in the building. As a result, she has heard from parents that their students have said that if their teachers are not going to be in, with few students in the classroom, they feel they do not need to go. She believes that the percentage at Winnetka is a fall out of the model execution, not

the desire to be at home. Ms. Ducommun noted that of 400 faculty members, accommodations were given to 100 of them, meaning 300 would be back in the building. She would like to know if there were 300 teachers in the building or if the number is something different and then understand how that has impacted students. To understand what happened, versus what the District thought, is important in order to know how the model is working.

Dr. Sally provided general numbers, noting that for a large majority of students almost all of their teachers are in, when looking at core academics. That would leave 25% of students who have two of their five core academic teachers out and 15% of students who might have more teachers out. With 4,000 students, there are about 100 that only have one teacher in. This issue is one the District continues to work on. Dr. Sally will also get more complete numbers to Ms. Ducommun. Ultimately, she would like to know if 300 teachers are in the building on a given day. Mr. Johnson replied that there were new personnel numbers today from Dr. Renee Zoladz, Director of Human Resources. Out of 407 faculty, 69 are working remotely full-time, 64 are in part-time or two of the four in-person days and 274 are working their assigned schedule, meaning they are here full-time. Some variability is caused by a person experiencing symptoms who needs to see their doctor or people who need to quarantine because they have been in contact with someone who has Covid symptoms either in the workplace or at home. The quarantine number goes up and down and is provided on the school's dashboard with many of those not related to anything at New Trier.

Ms. Ducommun then inquired if there were any impressions of the state testing results lately, for instance, previously antigen testing was not reported, but is now. Dr. Sally responded that understanding changes is one of the reasons that the medical professionals are on the RAB and this was discussed at last week's meeting and will be discussed again at this week's meeting. The medical professionals will share what they are seeing in lab results as well as the trends in the population. He went on to share additional comments around this topic.

Ms. Albrecht noted this is a huge puzzle to solve. She also mentioned that New Trier and Glenbrook high schools were the first, large public high schools on the North Shore to go to the hybrid model. She shared her observations from a tour that she and Mr. Dronen took while the school was in hybrid. She mentioned the mechanics of having students in and that it is a training exercise for them, which needs to be perfected in some way in order to bring more students in. Finally, she spoke to the metrics currently being used, noting that the saliva test gets New Trier much better data as it is limited to just the school community. She encouraged everyone to participate, including staff. Dr. Sally reiterated that the school will know specifically about students and staff coming into the building.

***C. 2020-2021 Annual Plan**

Dr. Sally began the presentation on the 2020-2021 Annual Plan. He noted that it is a process that was committed to when the Strategic Plan was implemented, and that was to create an Annual Plan each year of the District's goals. This clarifies the direction for the year, what the school thinks it might be able to accomplish and ensures that the District use its resources towards items that matter. Dr. Sally shared the six framework areas which is how the District talks about and divides its work. He then shared a review of the 2019-2020 Annual Plan, noting there is a deep connection between the work done last year and the work being proposed this year. Dr. Sally noted the work that has been completed and integrated into the school's regular ongoing work, the work that will be continued this year and the work that was completed with a shifting focus. There one important item to keep in mind regarding the 2020-2021 Annual Plan is the pandemic response will take much of the District's time and effort to focus on maximizing safe, in-person learning. Dr. Sally is calling this year's Annual Plan an aspirational and directional one as the District cannot lose focus on other items, however, no one knows the path of the pandemic and if these items will be able to be accomplished this year. Directionally, it is important to name the goals and talk about them to keep the momentum going. The Annual Plan is never meant to squelch inspiration and innovation throughout the school by students and staff. Bandwidth needs to be left for departments to think about updates to their curriculum or using different instructional methods or just experiment. Although there are many details in the memo, tonight would focus on two areas, intellectual engagement, growth and readiness and student personal growth, engagement and well-being.

Mr. Tragos began with intellectual engagement, growth and readiness. He shared the work that started last year in the development phase around the Characteristics of a New Trier Graduate. The committee was charged with defining the outcomes, which is the profile of a New Trier graduate, and the results of a four-year experience at New Trier. The outcomes defined were characteristics, competency, skills and dispositions that New Trier students should possess to flourish in a rapidly changing world. The committee, prior to Covid, was working on the characteristics around these ideas, "To Lead Meaningful and Impactful Lives New Trier Graduates are Becoming..." engaged, compassionate citizens, innovative collaborative problem solvers, creative critical thinkers, resilient healthy

individuals and effective courageous communicators. These became, for the committee, the unifying purpose of a New Trier education. There are central outcomes and ideas across all areas of the school, not just in the classroom, but all learning spaces. This was seen by all staff at the February Institute Day, with work beginning into March and then interrupted by Covid. Currently, the committee is re-engaging with this work to finalize the descriptors and indicators and build understanding with a fuller presentation to the Board in January 2021. Work will then take place in academics, athletics, performing arts and activities, to align curriculum and instruction programming in these areas to these outcomes. Then work will occur on how these outcomes are developed in practice as well as the creation of professional development to put these characteristics into practice.

Next, Mr. Tragos shared a Civil Discourse and Critical Thinking Statement. This is new to the plan and emerged through Mr. Tragos' collaboration with Dr. Sally and two Board members. It grows out of strategic planning, this year's Annual Plan, ongoing work in critical thinking, student experiences with politics and controversial issues in the classroom and recent discussions about teaching controversial issues, especially in this political climate and the constant presence of media and information. This statement went through multiple revisions with input from various groups and faculty. These collaborations will continue through the implementation phase. The purpose is to not only integrate it into the Annual Plan or preface it, but to take an institutional stand or statement on civil discourse and critical thinking. New Trier engages and challenges students to think, to listen, to discuss real and controversially issues of the world and develop the skills to navigate multiple perspectives and to think through one's own assumptions, beliefs and biases. It is aspirational as well as New Trier looks to set a standard for thinking and discourse at the high school level. Mr. Tragos considers this a companion piece to the "this is who we are" and "what we believe" statements that New Trier has already. The next step is to put the statement into practice by making it visible and tangible to students, staff and parents. He shared ways that this could happen.

The next part of the presentation focused on culture, climate and equity as well as leadership through out the school. Dr. Sally invited Ms. Pat Savage-Williams to present along with Dr. Hayes. Ms. Savage-Williams is the liaison to Dr. Sally and his administrative team for their equity work. Dr. Hayes began by noting that the goals for the year are grounded in the work that was done over the summer. Dr. Sally gathered a committee of around 50 people, including faculty, staff, and administrators. From there administrators pulled in perspectives from students, alumni, parents, and community members who were interested in having a positive conversation with the school about its equity work. The goals that Dr. Hayes shared came from the work that was already being done as well as the discussion that came from the summer. Work on department equity goals will continue. Ms. Savage-Williams shared about the equity professional development noting that the current structure is going through a reorganization. This professional development will be tiered so that faculty and staff can jump in at different entry points thus recognizing that people are in different places with this work.

Next, Ms. Savage-Williams shared about X Block Seminar Programming, which is new. The school heard from students, alumni, and the community about bringing back Seminar Day. A subcommittee gathered to look further into this request over the summer. The plan is to have four sessions, the first would be an introduction, the second would specifically talk about the impact of race in the country and society, the third would focus on religion, and finally, there would be an opportunity to discuss LGBTQ+. These would be a combination of presentation along with having students participate by speaking and teaching other students. Students will also continue to be involved in the planning, along with alum and the community.

Dr. Hayes went on to share about restorative justice and two trainings that took place last year. Those were facilitated by Umoja, which is an organization in Chicago. Restorative Justice is much larger than changing one's approach to discipline and is more about the community that is built within the school, along with the emphasis that is put on relationships and the health of those relationships. It is also about how one helps students move from an experience where they had a moment where there was damage in their relationship with other students. There is then an opportunity for them to be accountable to one another, to repair that damage and to build a positive relationship with one another.

Next, Dr. Hayes shared information about the Adviser Program and Graduation Study. These topics have been discussed in the past about the gender structure of the adviser program as well as the structure and attire of graduation. A process is needed that will allow the school to pull together a representative group, have an informed discussion and reach a decision point where rationale can be explained as to the choice that was made.

Finally, Dr. Hayes shared about elevating student voice and one of the important items that has been done with the Affinity groups is to give students an opportunity to gather. Ms. Savage-Williams is a sponsor of one of the Affinity

groups. These groups allow students to talk about their sense of belonging and experience at New Trier and are student voices that are often not heard. They also allow students to connect with one another and have been extremely helpful and supportive for students. The school is trying to listen to student voice as Ms. Savage-Williams believes that student voice is not just hearing students' stories but is also giving them the opportunity to be involved in the work and planning. This can be challenging as students do not have all the information and details when suggesting a plan. Though while challenging, it can also push the adults in a good way. Ms. Savage-Williams stated that the school will continue to lift up student voice and give them opportunities to talk.

Dr. Hayes then shared the reasoning behind these strategies. Students need the school's help, especially students of color. This moment in the nation's history is a moment of deep reflection and conversation, sometimes angry conversation, about race and identity in the country. Often, students have many questions and need the school's help navigating through and getting to a deeper understanding of these issues. Students need to know that they can come to the school and will be supported with compassion because many feel unsafe in this unsettling time. Ms. Savage-Williams added that she often talks about there being two pandemics, the first, Covid, is new to everyone, the other pandemic is racism. For Ms. Savage-Williams, and those who look like her, she has been in the pandemic of racism for her entire life. She shared that what has happened in the country over the past few months is the recognition of the how big the impact of racism is. What is being seen is that more people are noticing it and now is the time to capitalize on this while people are interested in understanding and learning. Ms. Savage-Williams is trying to give staff and students, students of color and white students who are asking questions and are very interested in learning, the tools they need in order to have these conversations, to think deeper, and to impact their environment and peers. From staff, Ms. Savage-Williams has observed that they are very interested in how to help students and impact their own peers, so they too, are looking for these tools.

Dr. Sally then walked through the remaining areas of the Annual Plan such as community engagement, partnerships, and governance, in particular the connection with alumni. Ms. Liz Mayer, Executive Director of the New Trier Educational Foundation and Ms. Niki Dizon, Director of Communications have developed a partnership that has gone well. Finally, he shared several goals from the finance, facilities, and human resources area.

Next steps in the annual plan include focusing on returning students to safe in-person learning, committees will develop priorities and action plans. The Parent Community Advisory Group will also re-engage. The Board will receive an update on progress during the December meeting. Dr. Sally then asked for questions and comments from the Board.

Ms. Hahn thanked Ms. Savage-Williams for attending the meeting. She also encouraged all Board members to read the article that Ms. Savage-Williams wrote in the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) magazine. It focused on what boards can do in terms of equity. It is a detailed and action driven piece that gives boards concrete items to think about and what they can do. Ms. Hahn found it interesting and thanked Ms. Savage-Williams for that as well as her work in the school. Ms. Hahn noted that the critical thinking and civil discourse piece is hugely important, and she is glad to see it move forward. It is an item that students and the community need to work on, it will be important, in the coming weeks, to have the ability to treat each other with respect, dignity and compassion.

Dr. Glucksman thanked everyone, especially Ms. Savage-Williams, for her valuable work. It is more important now than when the plan was first developed. He also noted how he loved the pandemic metaphor. He noted that we will rely on this generation, that will be the strongest and most resilient, as they will be the most likely to address all these systemic problems.

Mr. Robitaille noted that the last time that the District did something like what Ms. Savage-Williams described, it was fairly divisive within the community. He thought he heard Ms. Savage-Williams say that the community would be involved in the planning. He inquired how the school hosts conversations about racism and LGBTQ+ experiences in a way that is true to critical thinking and the multiple perspectives statement and is constructive across the board as opposed to being divisive, to even a small percentage of the community. He wanted to know what the thoughts are to make this a positive event all the way around. Dr. Hayes responded that it was important to the subcommittee that it is a student-focused approach to planning the seminars. The goal is for students to better understand each other's experiences. Ms. Savage-Williams noted that the critical thinking statement works to bring everyone to a place where these conversations can be had in a civil way. The school will continue to have these conversations and will talk with the students and staff about what they are going to hear and try to get people to listen to one another even if they hear statements that are in conflict with what they believe. The emphasis will be that each person has different experiences and perspectives. Ms. Savage-Williams believes that this of one of the most important items to teach

students: to listen and have the conversations, stay in the room and the conversations, think about it and reflect, think some more and ask questions. Dr. Hayes added that he has heard people say that the model that they currently use to have this conversation, on the national level, sometimes feels like it does not get them to where they can more deeply understand an issue. It either quickly devolves to people yelling at one another or regarding social media, it does not provide the opportunity for there to be real discussion. Dr. Hayes believes that students want an opportunity to talk with and understand one another in a way that is respectful but gives space to all students to talk through their beliefs, ideas and experiences. It is what students want and it is what the school is hoping to do.

Dr. Sally shared that there is a marriage between Mr. Tragos' presentation and what Dr. Hayes and Ms. Savage-Williams presented. It is the path forward for New Trier students to be good critical thinkers, to listen, and to understand that there are different points of view. The school wants graduates to be able to do this in their lives: to listen to other points of view, to make conclusions about what they believe, why they believe it and understand it. Mr. Robitaille thanked them for their response and the sentiment behind it.

Mr. McLane shared that he is impressed that so much tangible and actionable progress has been made in the face of the Covid pandemic. He shared that in his experience of developing other strategic plans and which had the proverbially book on the shelf approach, the District has taken that book off the shelf, as he honestly never thought, the page would turn from the theoretical and rhetorical to actionable. He sees it unfolding in the Critical Thinking and Civil Discourse statement that Mr. Tragos presented as well as what Dr. Hayes and Ms. Savage-Williams described and will evolve over the coming weeks and months. He thinks it will be engaging, exciting and life-altering for not only students, but everyone. He also liked Ms. Savage-Williams comments about staying in the room and is a great way to embrace it by staying, listening, and learning to have civil discourse and engagement If that can come from this, to Dr. Glucksman's comments earlier, there is the next generation that can embrace change and embody Mr. Tragos' description as New Trier graduates are becoming and what they should be.

Ms. Albrecht noted that an Annual Plan for this school year is a hard thing to put together. While some goals may be inspirational, the main point is to continue to move forward in an unusual year the best the school can. For her, the professional development is important and the extra uses of the X block to bring specialized topics in for people to discuss. This will be a hard year to do that in terms of juggling different pieces and how it is put together. Everyone needs to understand that this is a difficult year, but the school needs to keep moving forward to come up with a way to continue to grow. She looks forward to seeing how this develops.

Dr. Sally noted that there is a vote as these become his goals that he reports on to the Board.

Ms. Ducommun moved, and Ms. Hahn seconded the motion, that the Board of Education approve the 2020-2021 Annual Plan, as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: none

The motion passed.

D. New Course Proposals

Mr. Tragos presented the new course proposals for the 2021-2022 school year. Dr. Sally reminded everyone that these are presented in October and approved at the November meeting. There are four new courses, one major course revision, and a few other minor changes to courses. This presentation helps to keep the Board and community apprised of curricular changes and new opportunities for students. This work is done collaboratively among teachers and department leaders. Even during a pandemic, there are teachers who are looking ahead and innovating curriculum. Mr. Tragos then gave an overview of each of the proposed new courses, two of which are interdisciplinary between Applied Arts and Special Education. The first course is Consumer Mathematics and Culinary Arts and the second is Emerging Careers in Robotics and Manufacturing. The third course is a collaboration between the English and the Post-High School Counseling departments entitled Summer Writing Workshop. The final course proposal is from the English department entitled Yearbook Journalism.

Social Studies has submitted a major course revision as well as a name change for their Civil Rights and Social Protest in Modern America. Mr. Tragos shared further details of the course, highlighting that the "Social Protest" part of the title of the course should not be misconstrued as left-leaning curricula. Social protest is not just a tool of the left, but is an American characteristic across the political spectrum, both left and right, and the course intends to

explore these. He went on to share more details of what may be studied in the course as well as the skills students will develop.

There are two name changes in English. Advanced Journalism will change levels, which will allow students to choose either elective or major credit as well as designate the course to fulfill the Fine/Practical Arts graduation requirement. Civics in Social Studies is proposing that the Constitution test is moved into all courses that fulfill the Civics requirement. Lastly, Social Studies will retire Political Science and Topics in International Relations. The intention is to undertake a major revision of Topics in International Relations for the 2022-2023 school year. Mr. Tragos invited questions and comments from the Board.

Ms. Hahn and Mr. Tragos conversed about what a great opportunity Consumer Mathematics and Culinary Arts will be for students. Dr. Sally shared that Consumer Math was a course he taught early in his career at New Trier.

VII. Administrative Items

A. Treasurer's Report for September 2020

Mr. Johnson presented the Treasurer's Report for September 2020. This report represents the third month of the fiscal year and the first full month of school. The District has fund balances of \$128,605,903 for all accounts. The weighted portfolio yield has dropped to 0.43% for short term investments or those less than one year. This is a function of the declining interest rate environment as those short-term investments mature and are replaced with ones at even lower rates. Long term investments are at 1.41%, which continue to drop as these three-year investments mature and are replaced by ones at current market rates. Receipts continue, although property tax payments are lagging slightly due to the October 1st deadline extension with no penalty. The District has seen continued property tax distributions in October that will be reflected next month and will show that the gross collection rate is catching up to prior years. The District also continues to see regular state and federal receipts.

B. Financial Reports for September 2020

Mr. Johnson went on to share the financial reports for September 2020. Operating revenue, after the first three months, was \$44,027,897, or 9.24% lower compared to \$48,500,000 last year. The adopted budget for operating revenue is slightly higher this year. Operating expenditures, excluding transfers, were \$15,834,675 through September, or 4.62% lower than last year. The timing differences usually seen in the first quarter will begin to level off as one more month of school is underway. Typically, there is variation such as the start date of school, when some expenditures begin and the types of supplies and materials that are being purchased. This is an atypical year and the District expects it to even out shortly. Mr. Johnson invited questions and comments from the Board.

Ms. Albrecht inquired if the District will know by the end of October where it is on revenue, to which Mr. Johnson replied that it would. He will have a more substantial update at the end of the month because there will be significant property tax distributions. When the Board sees the October report, there should be a good understanding of where the District is at.

***C. Resolution declaring the intention to issue \$4,200,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds of Township High School District Number 203, Cook County, Illinois, for the purpose of increasing the Working Cash Fund of said School District, and directing that notice of such intention be published in the manner provided by law.**

Mr. Johnson presented on this topic. Last summer, the Board approved year two of the fifteen-year plan of facilities projects. The projects will occur in the summer of 2021 at both campuses and include completing the third floor of the Winnetka Campus, updates to classrooms in the D Building at the Northfield Campus, gym backstops and partitions, and roof and mechanical system upgrades. These are important projects to maintain the community's investment in the campuses and benefit students. The estimated project costs are currently \$11,124,000. The cost of the project will be financed using two mechanisms, the first is the fund balance and the second is issuing \$4.2 million in Working Cash Fund Bonds in February of 2021. The financing plan was previously reviewed by the Finance Committee. The Board will be asked to take the first step in a three-month process to authorize the issuance of up to \$4,200,000 in Working Cash Fund Bonds. The Resolution of Intent to issue the Bonds will be voted on this evening and then published in the local newspaper therefore beginning the 30-day petition period. A Public Hearing on the bond issue will be set for the November 16th, 2020 Board of Education meeting. At the December 14th Board meeting, members will be asked to approve a Parameters Resolution to allow the District to conduct the bond sale in the new year. This is the typical process that the District follows each year for issuing these types, or similar, bonds. They are Debt Service Extension Based Bonds, but they replace previous debt that is expiring and should not cause any unusual spikes in property tax bills.

Ms. Ducommun moved, and Ms. Hahn seconded, the motion that the Board of Education approve the Resolution declaring the intention to issue \$4,200,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds of Township High School District Number 203, Cook County, Illinois, for the purpose of increasing the Working Cash Fund of said School District, and directing that notice of such intention be published in the manner provided by law. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: none

The motion passed.

***D. 2020 Preliminary Tax Levy**

Mr. Johnson presented on the 2020 Preliminary Tax Levy which is the first step in next year's budgeting process. The preliminary levy will be reviewed at this meeting, it will then be placed on display on the District's website. At the November 16th Board of Education meeting, the District will hold a public hearing and have the final approval of the levy. 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 primarily funds the 2021-2022 school year. The District's levy complies with the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law, which limits the increase to the lesser of 5% or CPI, which is 2.3%, plus the value of new property. The value of new property is unknown until June and must be estimated. The result is that the proposed levy is higher than the actual levy to ensure that new property can be taxed. The tax cap law will restrict the total tax amount, regardless of the amount levied based on new property. This year, the projected increase in the levy for operating funds is 2.77%. 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. Right now, it is showing that it will go down 12%, but as the debt comes in for the new bonds being issued in February, that will increase slightly. The average homeowner should experience an increase of less than 2.3%, on average, for the New Trier portion of their property tax bill. 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. Some people will see the value of their home increase by ten or twenty percent, but the District's levy only goes up 2.3%, and if the value of one's home rises or falls at the same rate as one's neighbors, one should only see a change of 2.3% in their New Trier property tax bill. Once the levy is completed, the clerk extends taxes with 55% of the previous year tax bill, which happens in January, with the remaining balance is paid in July.

Mr. Johnson then highlighted what the levy dollars support at New Trier such as a deep and broad curriculum tailored to individual student interests and needs, a robust student services program as well as extracurricular program 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. Mr. Johnson noted that it is remarkable, thanks to the Board's and Administration's work, that the District has tripled that commitment from 2003. It shows the community that the District is judiciously using the funds they provide to the District.

The District also maintains appropriate reserves to fund operations between tax payments as well as with any potential delay. In the cases of delays, those reserves provide the stability that is needed to continue operations. It also allows the District to maintain its Aaa bond rating and to be prepared for any future funding changes. The Aaa bond rating allows the District to issue debt to fund future facilities projects at some of the most competitive rates which allows the District to maximize the use of those dollars for the taxpayer on behalf of students. 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 levy will allow the District 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. Mr. Johnson then invited questions and comments from the Board.

Ms. Ducommun moved, and Mr. Dronen seconded the motion, that the Board of Education approve the 2020 Tentative Levy in the amount of \$111,371,502 and that a Public Hearing be held at the November 16, 2020 regularly scheduled Board Meeting.

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.

VIII. Consent Agenda

- Bill List for the Period, September 1 – 30, 2020
- Personnel Report (Appointments, Change of Status, Resignations, Stipends – Appointments and Stipends – Separation)
- Bright Horizons Contract Amendment, as presented
- Approval of Emergency Tent Rental
- Resolution Authorizing the Prompt Payment of Bills
- Release and Settlement Agreement
- Non-Exclusive License Agreement and Grant of Easement for Stepan Chemical Electrical Connection

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, September 1 – 30, 2020; Personnel Report (Appointments, Change of Status, Resignations, Stipends – Appointments and Stipends – Separation); Bright Horizons Contract Amendment, as presented; Approve the rental agreement with Marquee Event Rentals and to invoke the emergency bidding exception for this procurement as provided in Section 10-20.21, subsection (xiv) of the School Code, for the reasons specified in the Board Report; Resolution Authorizing the Prompt Payment of Bills; Release and Settlement Agreement; and Non-Exclusive License Agreement between New Trier Township High School and the Stepan Company along with the Grant of Easement between New Trier Township High School and ComEd. Ms. Hahn 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.

IX. Board Member Reports

Ms. Ducommun noted that the **New Trier Parents Association** (NTPA) will play an active role in helping the School start the COVID saliva testing program. Dr. Sally shared that logistics are still being worked on, but Mr. Waechtler and Mrs. Dubravec have been in contact with them as has the NTPA member who is on the Reopening Advisory Board. He noted that parents want to support the school and the process. There is manpower needed to do this and the school is appreciative of the offer and details will be provided soon.

Mr. Dronen noted that **NSSSED** met on October 7th. Starting in 2021, they will have new branding and their new name will be True North Educational Cooperative 804. Also discussed at the meeting was blended remote learning.

Next, Mr. Dronen shared about the **Facilities Steering Committee** meeting on October 8th. The committee continued to look at the fifteen-year facilities planning with much discussion about the east side of the Winnetka campus including the Gates Gym, the Kinetic Wellness program, lack of space and facility enhancement.

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

Dr. Sally highlighted the following:

- There will be a webinar for parents of special education students on Tuesday and one on Wednesday for all parents to make sure they understand the Covid Surveillance Testing Program.
- Dr. Sally mentioned that the Board was provided with the 2020 Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) Resolutions Committee Report. He asked to hear from Board members as to whether they would like a special meeting on November 9th to talk through any participation in that voting process. Ms. Albrecht noted that this discussion was not part of the meeting, but should contact him individually, to which Dr. Sally agreed.
- Parent-Teacher conferences are scheduled for Wednesday, November 11th and Thursday, November 12th.

Information will be forthcoming for parents, which Mr. Waechtler confirmed.

- The next Board of Education meeting is Monday, November 16th.

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

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Ducommun moved, and Mr. Dronen seconded, the motion to adjourn. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: none

The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsey Ruston, Secretary

Cathleen Albrecht, President