

**NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
September 21, 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, September 21, 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  
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

**Also Present**

Ms. Niki Dizon, Director of Communications; Mr. Michael Marassa, Chief Technology Officer; 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 September 21, 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, except for Mr. Dronen, Dr. Glucksman and Mr. McLane. Mr. McLane joined during the reading of the motion to move to Closed Session.

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 discussing the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity; collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees; 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; and the placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students. Ms. Hahn seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: none

ABSENT: Mr. Dronen, Dr. Glucksman

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 September 21, 2020 of the Board of Education to order at 6:36 p.m. Roll call was taken, and all members were present. Dr. Glucksman and Mr. McLane participated via telephone.

### **IV. Minutes**

Ms. Albrecht asked for any comments or adjustments on the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 24, 2020 (open and closed session). There were no requests for changes. Ms. Hahn moved, and Mr. Robitaille seconded, the motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 24, 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 Mr. Tragos, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction. There were three requests for public comment. All comments were to be made in accordance with Board Policy 2-230, including keeping to a three minute or less time limit. First to comment was Mr. Ted Wynnchenko, who shared his thoughts on having to pay for shipping on textbooks from Follett. He feels that since the bookstore was not open, therefore saving money, while at the same time, parents had to pay for shipping costs. He believes that the Board and Administration should have waived the shipping fee for parents. He also mentioned that the District is screening people for COVID symptoms as they enter the Board meeting. He believes that the District is potentially not allowing entry to someone who may want to public comment, while not providing a way for that person to comment remotely. He believes that is a problem and next month may come, say he had a COVID exposure and not be allowed in so he can file another request for review. He shared comments again about not having a way for someone who may have been denied entrance during the screening process to comment remotely. Ms. Albrecht thanked him for his comments.

Next, was Ms. Audrey Klein from Wilmette who has children at New Trier. She questioned if there were any teachers in attendance or any association representation to which Dr. Sally responded. Ms. Klein is also a teacher, entering her 33<sup>rd</sup> year and owns her own private practice as a reading specialist, who sees students from New Trier. She went on to share her thoughts on reopening with the teachers' association, encouraging them to return to in-person school. She also shared her support of the administration.

Finally, Dr. Eric Hungness shared his comments. He is a father of two children at New Trier and is a physician scientist and educator. He was happy to see the Covid dashboard for the school and that the data looked so good. He is part of a new initiative with other parents called Open New Trier to encourage in-class learning at the high school. He went on to share details about the group and more information can be found at [opennewtrier.org](http://opennewtrier.org). He also shared his observations of remote learning. He also wanted to know what percentage of teachers are teaching from the classroom.

Ms. Albrecht thanked those who shared public comments.

### **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:

- Adviser Room Tours took place today for freshmen and there were about 950 students who toured through out the day. Tours were led by administrators, Northfield campus leadership team and some advisers. Several teachers that Mr. Waechtler ran into said it was so good to feel the energy of students on campus. Students then picked up learning supplies for the next several weeks. Mr. Waechtler thanked Ms. Gail Gamrath, Assistant Principal at the Northfield Campus and Ms. Laurae Nielsen, Assistant to the Northfield Campus Principal, for their work helping him put this together. It was a big success and a huge team effort by those that helped.

- Student Activities created a video that outlined club opportunities that are possible for Freshmen which they watched in their Adviser Room last week. On Wednesday there will be a Virtual Activity Fair that will take place during the X block so students can further learn about clubs and other activities that they can join. Clubs will start to meet on October 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Athletics are still taking place on campus.
- Mr. Waechtler will moderate a panel discussion for parents, New Trier 101, with the Parents Association. Panelists include experienced New Trier parents who will share with new parents how to successfully transition their child to New Trier. This is scheduled for Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Lori Worth, Eighth Grade Transition Coordinator, will also join the discussion.

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

- She shared the incredible number of students who have been able to participate in athletics. A total of 769 students are participating in fall sports. New Trier's cross-country team is undefeated, while a golfer had a hole-in-one. Mrs. Dubravec also attended swim and dive and noted that the girls' swimming program is phenomenal. Contact days are at two months and close to 1,300 athletes that have been coming to school during that time. Many thanks to coaches and other staff who are making sure those athletes are being safe and able to participate.
- There are about 86 students who have signed up to be election judges around the Township.
- Yearbooks have been distributed to the various classes. Thanks to the yearbook staff and the New Trier Parents' Association who also volunteered to help.
- Post-High School Counseling (PHSC) has done a wonderful job of transitioning to a Canvas page for all grade levels. Mrs. Dubravec, along with Ms. Jill Cervantes, PHSC Department Chair, will host a webinar to talk through how parents can access that. PHSC has created instructional videos and other ways for students to access information with their families.
- There will be a tour on October 1<sup>st</sup> for those families who are new to the school.
- The New Trier News received first place in the 2019-20 Americans Classic Press Association. A great job was done by Mr. Carlo Trovato, English Department Faculty, and his journalists.
- There will also be a Club Fair for students via Zoom. Ms. Stacy Kolack, Students Activities Coordinator, has done a nice job in creating Club Finder, which is a search of clubs where a student can input their interests and days, they are available and generate a list of clubs for them to check out. Ms. Niki Dizon, Director of Communications, and her team assisted Ms. Kolack with developing a flip book that is online.
- Mrs. Dubravec is in the process of collecting 180 stipend forms from staff. This review is being conducted so that the school can ensure it is offering a robust program for students. The Review Committee will then meet to discuss.
- Mr. Waechtler and Mrs. Dubravec worked on the Covid Course and the Trevian Pledge for students. Mr. Terry Maday, a former New Trier parent, is also going to help put a video together for students to see what the building looks like now. Filming will take place Friday at Winnetka and on Saturday at Northfield.
- Sophomores toured the Winnetka campus and thanked the administrative team for their assistance with them. There was a great turn out and Mrs. Dubravec appreciation from parents that their students could come together.

Mr. Johnson gave the FOIA report noting that there were five requests since the last Board meeting. Two were regarding Human Resources-related documents and two were regarding Covid case numbers, all of which are closed. One includes building ventilation and is partially closed.

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

Dr. Sally presented an update on New Trier's Reopening and Operational Plan for 2020-2021. Dr. Sally led a few campus tours and shared comments around that and then thanked Mrs. Dubravec and Mr. Waechtler as well as their teams for putting those together. Dr. Sally went through the presentation's agenda which began with the strong start of the 2020-2021 school year, the path to in-person learning, metrics and the Reopening Advisory Board and next steps and communication.

Mr. Peter Tragos, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, began with the highlights from remote learning. He recognized the amount of time it has taken to prepare for this new way of teaching and learning. Highlights include collaboration, creativity, Canvas, relationships and engagement, with the through line that connects each of these is the student experience. He explained these further and gave examples. District Planning

Day 2 is on October 5<sup>th</sup> and will help the school and teachers transition into hybrid learning.

Mrs. Dubravec shared some orientation pictures from the freshmen and sophomore tours. She thanked the security staff and the Physical Plant Services staff for making sure the buildings were ready. She noted it was easy to get students into the building with their QR codes. Students also received a lanyard with their student ID. Mrs. Dubravec also noted that she thought students were excited to be there and appreciative to walk through campus. Mr. Waechter shared other pictures such as athletics, yearbook pickup and clubs. He thanked parents for their willingness to drive students to campus for the tours or to pick up items, and that parents have thanked him for helping to get their children back to campus. He noted the great partnership with parents despite this trying time. Mrs. Dubravec also noted how wonderful it was to see Transition and Educational and Life Skills (ELS) students back on campus. Dr. Joanne Panopoulos, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education, and Ms. Megan Zajac, Director of Special Education, joined Mrs. Dubravec when students arrived and shared how happy students were to be back, noting particularly the connection as well as the loss of being at home. She thanked staff for preparing to have students in-person. Dr. Sally gave a special thanks to the ELS and Transition teachers and instructional assistants who are working with these students.

Dr. Sally then discussed the path to in-person learning, including information on staff accommodations, enhanced procedures, the metrics and ladder to reopening as well as realistic expectations as the school moves up the ladder. Mr. Johnson went on to share the District has worked closely with the New Trier Education Association over the past several months to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). There were seventeen negotiations sessions totaling fifty hours. It was a twenty-person negotiating team from the Association and the District. Mr. Johnson noted how proud the team is of the work that was done together to prepare for safe learning, however that may look this year, and focusing on the different needs of the year and the experiences of students. It was a good process and there is a lot of commitment from the association president, from their bargaining team members, from the administrative team and from Mr. Dronen, who was the Board representative. Mr. Johnson thanked everyone who was involved in the process, although intensive, has led to a good outcome and he looks forward to implementing the MOU in the coming weeks. One part to the MOU is thinking about how the District can accommodate its staff members. It is a unique year and the District wants to make sure it is being respectful about the situation they are in while also fulfilling obligations as a school to educate its students. The goal is to keep New Trier teachers teaching New Trier students. He then detailed various accommodations such as for health and childcare, a Zoom Room for staff members' children and substitute and supervision training.

Dr. Tim Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, shared about enhanced procedures. The Ruvna screener has now been expanded to include all students. Dr. Hayes mentioned that masks are required, there are hand sanitizing stations available, water bottle filling only stations as the drinking fountain portion is covered, and social distancing in the classrooms, hallways, during free periods, and while eating lunch. Modifications have also been made to staff areas such as offices as well as having tents outside for staff and students to visit, socially distanced, when they need a mask break. The key to implementing all of this is flexibility, patience, compassion and understanding for all involved. Innovation is also important as more people come on to campus and interact with the environment and offer suggestions to make the campus better and safer.

Dr. Sally shared that the District is building off its successes such as with athletics and the Transition and ELS programs. Dr. Sally noted that lunch is one area that the District continues to problem solve around. Students need to be able to social distance with masks off while eating. He mentioned that the community will continue to hear about the innovation and problem solving around this issue. Finally, Dr. Sally mentioned that if one does not want the Ruvna text at 5:20 a.m. they can text stop in response. Dr. Hayes added that a person could also silence those particular texts.

Next, Dr. Sally spoke about the reopening ladder and metrics. The District has a reopening dashboard and feels good about where it is and the transparency of it for all stakeholders. The District has committed to updating it twice a week and may do so more often, so it has the latest numbers. There are also references to where the District obtains the data. Dr. Sally shared the metrics as of September 21<sup>st</sup>. They include information from the township zip codes and the zip codes of where New Trier staff reside. The staff zip codes are unweighted at this time, but Dr. Sally is working with the epidemiologists on the Reopening Advisory Board (RAB) to get a sense of the value of weighting this information. The weighted averages within those zip codes are lower than what is seen unweighted. The associated step is the step that that metric allows the District to be on. The numbers are for Step 4, the 25% hybrid model; a decision on this step will be made this week, if October 6<sup>th</sup> can be the start of the hybrid plan. The Operational Metrics currently state Step 3. The District has done the needed evaluation of this and will update the

RAB that the school is ready for Step 4. Dr. Sally will also speak to the Board and will make an official announcement on September 25<sup>th</sup>. He also shared graphs that are available on the website. There is also a chart with information pertaining to the number of students and staff who are quarantined, the number of students and staff who have active Covid cases and the number who are symptomatic but are still working to resolve this. They will do so by either obtaining an alternative diagnosis or receiving a negative Covid test. There is always a transient group who is in this process and it is a rhythm that the school will get into.

Dr. Sally shared about setting realistic expectations. The 25% hybrid plan means that students will be in school two days every two weeks. They will attend a blue day and a green day so they will be able to experience their entire schedule in person. There will be some teachers who are teaching from home as they have accommodations and should not be in the building. Supervisors and substitutes will be in those teachers' classrooms. The structure of the hybrid learning allows all students to stay engaged no matter their status. Lunch service will be limited to brown bag options. Students are encouraged to bring their own lunch, if they need to purchase food, it will be grab and go. Free periods and lunch will offer limited seating choices for students. During these times, the school must keep them safe by having them socially distance as well as make sure capacity limits are not exceeded. The school must also be able to contact trace. The Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) will notify the school of a positive test and will need to know which students were near that student. Students will scan into those areas, so the school knows which students were in that area at a particular time. Mr. Waechtler and Mrs. Dubravac have been working on this at their respective campuses. He noted that students and staff will need to quarantine at times and that is part of the process though it will be frustrating it is necessary to keep the community and school healthy. The District has planned out the next four times a student will be able to attend in-person. This will be an important time for the school to learn how it operates in terms of keeping students socially distanced, eating lunch, using the restroom, among other items that need to be managed. This initial schedule is going to be sent out to parents in anticipation of the move to Step 4 on October 6<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Dizon, Director of Communications, shared the communication plan, which has been extensive due to the pandemic. These communications are necessary for students, staff and families so planning can take place. There will be a communication this week in advance of the RAB's recommendation to the Board and their approval to prepare for the step movement. Ms. Dizon encouraged families to go to the website as every letter sent to them is housed there. The District wants to make sure it is transparent about the metrics and thresholds. She thanked Mr. Johnson and Mr. Michael Marassa, Chief Technology Officer, for their work on the dashboard as it is a great resource to see where the trends are. It is important that all constituencies are aware of what is going to happen in each stage. Special Education families will need separate communication and follow up to the mass communication that is sent. Communication is subject to change based on the decision of the RAB, administration and Board as to step movement. Next, Ms. Dizon shared upcoming key dates for communication and the purpose of it. Families need logistical planning as well as reassurances about safety. There will be a staff meeting on Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup> to communicate the decision to them. As mentioned earlier, the principals are working on a video for students about being on campus safely. There will be a Parent Webinar on September 30<sup>th</sup> and they will hear from the principals and Dr. Sally. There will be a District Planning Day on October 5<sup>th</sup> and assuming metrics stay, New Trier will start to welcome students back on October 6<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Sally emphasized how important communication has been. The District has been continually communicating with staff through meetings and emails. As noted earlier, there is a staff meeting on September 25<sup>th</sup> so staff knows what to expect on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Staff has also received communication from Dr. Sally regarding the week of September 29<sup>th</sup> as the time for teachers to be in to make sure their classrooms are ready for students. Dr. Sally is excited for all the progress that has been made in moving forward. He noted that the Township's elementary schools are in-person and that is going well. As anticipated at New Trier, those districts are adjusting procedures as needed. There is a lot of work that the administrative teams in those districts have been doing to keep in-person learning going. Those districts have the advantage of being able to mostly cohort their students. Each district has a unique approach, and none are doing it the exact same way. In the public high school realm of the area, there are several districts targeting the same week that New Trier is planning to reopen. Other districts will begin further into October. He spoke to changes Loyola Academy made after needing to take a two week pause and those changes seem to be going well for them.

Dr. Sally's noted that his most important goal is to have sustained in-person learning for students. It is a community commitment and students, staff and families need to stick to the protocols and sacrifices need to be made in order to maintain in-person learning. The District is looking into how it can enhance its procedures with testing. The Board will continue to hear that information. In-person learning can be done best if it is done together. Dr. Sally then

invited comments and questions from the Board.

Mr. Dronen shared that he had the honor of serving on recent negotiations between the administration and the collective bargaining team for the New Trier Education Association. He represented the Board and community regarding the process to open New Trier with the safety of teachers, support staff and students being the top concern. He thanked the administrative team and Dr. Sally for their leadership during seventeen negotiating sessions with the association. He also thanked the association negotiating team led by current president, Ms. Jen McDonough, and past president Mr. Spiro Bolos. Through a collaborative process, over fifty hours of bargaining time between the administration and association, a MOU was reached. With the MOU, the RAB was agreed to and was composed of all constituencies including administration, teachers, support staff, parents, students and consultant medical professionals. It is this group that is charged with informing and reviewing the metrics, thresholds, and safety plan finally decided upon by the Superintendent. He thanked Dr. Sally, the administrative team, Ms. McDonough, Mr. Bolos and their team for their leadership and for working hard and reaching an agreement in such a difficult environment. Their efforts are appreciated.

Mr. Dronen then asked if there is a plan to accelerate the return of those students with significant unique needs as it has come up from the parents of those students. Dr. Sally turned the question over to Dr. Panopoulos who responded that there is a plan to accelerate the amount of time as much as possible. It does, however, depend on several variables such as the overall health of the students and staff in those classrooms and the safety of the students. One big component of that is the ability of students to wear masks, with the staff is finding ways to observe students to make sure they are being safe in the classroom. Lastly, it is ensuring that there is adequate space, personal protective equipment (PPE), and support in the classrooms to ensure that safety. The Special Education reopening committee is defining those metrics to ensure students are safe and to ultimately increase the time that these students are on campus. This also must be aligned with the metrics of the whole school. Dr. Sally shared that there is a principle that is embedded in the ladder to reopening, which can be frustrating, but will allow the District to have sustainable in-person learning. The District ramps up, making sure it understands how the facility operates in a way it never has before. Teachers and instructional assistants are doing this for the first time, so they need time to learn and innovate. This will help to ensure that what the school says it is doing is being done safely. As the school learns and knows it is doing this well, then it will be ready to accelerate the plan. Mr. Dronen inquired if there would be any consideration for those students with significant needs to move up to Step 5 before the general population, assuming the metrics are there. Dr. Sally mentioned that the MOU puts this set of students in its own category so the school can work with them in unique ways. He answered that it is more about how it is going now and what is the next step for this set of students. Dr. Sally went on to share further comments around this topic. Mr. Dronen noted that Board members have received letters from concerned parents stating remote learning is not working for some of these students. He reminded the Board and Administration, that for many of these Transition and ELS students, this is their college. He asked the administration and teachers to redouble their efforts to make sure students get back into school. Those parents who want to have their students at home can opt out, but from his observations, it is most parents who want their children back in school. He thanked Dr. Sally for his efforts, but it is a big issue and there are students who are struggling.

Dr. Glucksman thanked everyone for the many, many hours of work this entails thus far. Everyone understands that this year will be very different and is not the New Trier one knows or wants. He noted that as someone whose day job involves medical research and teaching with students and dealing with this daily, he can say that he, and hopefully everybody listening, has confidence in the transparency and the evidence-based data that has been seen tonight and one will continue to see that the administration, teachers and staff are dedicated to give students the best and safest experience under the circumstances. He noted that we are all in this together, with teachers, staff and parents as partners with the responsibility to make this work for the safety of everyone. Even though there have been many hours of effort put into remote teaching and it is much better than it was, it is still not in-person. No one, especially in this district, is going to argue that academic progress is not important, but the mental well-being of students, which is crucial, is heeded as well. Not only does the science show that physical safety and isolation is inversely proportional to mental health as they run in opposite directions, but ask any parent, without the benefits of research, and they will say that this is the case. This is what is being heard everyday from the community when they see New Trier's sender schools open as well. In these formative years, and as Mr. Dronen eloquently put it, especially with the vulnerable populations in school, the loss that students are feeling from not connecting is having a very large impact that parents see in their children and it goes well behind the school day. Dr. Glucksman knows this is true due to having two teenage students himself. The District is working towards a tangible form of in-person instruction that is crucial to students' social-emotional development and overall wellbeing. He once again shared his gratitude.

Ms. Ducommun noted that it is important for the community to understand the magnitude of the accommodations that the District has given and that Dr. Zoladz, Director of Human Resources, has worked on. She has done a yeoman's job. She asked Dr. Sally to run through the numbers, noting there are 400 faculty members. Dr. Sally provided rough numbers as Dr. Zoladz was unable to attend the meeting due to a family emergency. Dr. Sally noted that there are about 100 total accommodations that the District has made. Ms. Ducommun noted that is 25% of the faculty population. Dr. Sally stated they are broken down into a couple of categories, the first is personal and family health. This includes faculty and staff who presented information about their health to human resources, as under the law they have the right to do and have been granted full remote accommodations. These teachers will be teaching from home. There are a number of teachers who have some type of childcare accommodation. Many of those teachers have children whose own districts are remote learning. He noted that New Trier's elementary districts are somewhat unique around the area and their success is fantastic, but many, many schools are not open. Teachers have collaborated with Dr. Zoladz to figure out how the school could have enough teachers and subs on campus to deliver instruction. On any given day, there are between 70-80 subs in the building assisting those teachers in teaching students from home in an effective manner.

Mr. Johnson noted that the duration for these accommodations are different. For childcare, those teachers are hoping their own children will go back in-person so they can come back to New Trier. As that happens, those accommodations will sunset. Some accommodations are shorter than that, while others are potentially up to the end of the school year. Each situation is being worked on individually, many of which take several phone calls with each faculty member. Mr. Johnson noted, similar to what Ms. Ducommun said, Dr. Zoladz has done a nice job in continuing to entertain all these requests, responding accordingly and working out what is in the best interest of the school and the best interest of the teachers. Dr. Sally noted that the hard work on all sides is keeping New Trier teachers teaching New Trier students and has left the path open for in-person learning. This is not the case in other schools around the area. He went on to share additional comments noting that the fact that New Trier teachers are the ones teaching students is also important. Dr. Sally noted that teachers would prefer to be working in the school with students, this does not change the 25% hybrid plan as everyone cannot be back at once, but there is a plan to accommodate this in a way that will keep learning at a very high level. It is also important for the community to understand as well that teachers are working hard to make this happen for the benefit of students. He did not want to leave the impression with anyone that teachers are not working hard. The District will continue to monitor the situation and continue to work to get as many teachers in-person as possible and as other schools reopen, there will be more faculty available to be in the building throughout the week. Ms. Ducommun thanked Dr. Sally for his comments and noted that the Zoom Room is part of assisting teachers with childcare accommodations.

Ms. Ducommun mentioned that the school will need about 80 subs, to which Dr. Sally and Mr. Johnson confirmed. She went on to state that the school does need a much longer list of people who are available to sub, reiterating what Dr. Sally said earlier that these are not content and programming subs, but rather supervisory subs. They are paid per class that they teach, which is \$35 for a 70-minute period. Subs can choose which periods and days they teach. Ms. Ducommun appealed to those listening, if they have the inclination and the time, she would love for them to contact either Dr. Zoladz or Ms. Barb Ferguson, Human Resources Specialist, to get signed up. She noted this is also a nice tide-over for college grads while they are in the application process of other employment. It is great that the community is supportive of this effort by signing up to be subs. A person may never get called or they may be called frequently, but they always have the opportunity to say if an assignment does not work for their schedule. It is a win-win for everyone.

Ms. Ducommun noted the tent outside at Northfield and inquired why the school could not have tents open as the solution to lunch all year. She mentioned that supervisory subs could be in there along with heaters to afford more outdoor spaces for students. Dr. Sally responded that the school is trying to work the balance between how many spaces are needed for lunch. At the Winnetka campus, at 25% hybrid, the school needs space for 250-300 students during each lunch period. He is also not sure if heaters are acceptable per school code. In terms of future planning, it is the 50% hybrid where the school needs to problem solve, the 25% hybrid lunch spacing is figured out. One solution is to expand the space outside or, like some other districts are doing, students do not actually have lunch on campus. This piece is exploratory at this point. Ms. Ducommun commented that the weather does not get very bad until January and perhaps there will be a vaccine or other items at that time to divert attention from needing to eat lunch outside.

Ms. Ducommun wanted to address Dr. Hungness' question from his public comments of what number of teachers are teaching on campus now. Dr. Sally stated that it varies day to day, but about a third of staff, who do not have

accommodations, have been on campus.

Mr. McLane thanked everyone for their extraordinary efforts. It is a work in progress and it is a uniquely challenging, moving target. Since spring, Mr. McLane has shared his thoughts on a dashboard, testing, tracing and tracking and “after 3:30 p.m.” He noted that many of these were discussed this evening and progress is being made on them and he is coming around to the plan. There is a plan to address the safety of students and staff members, however, it is scarily reliant on the entire school community adhering to some awesome behaviors – masks, washing hands, keeping distance and not going rogue. He spoke to the dashboard and how it is easy to understand with key metrics. He did want to encourage the addition of the number of hospitalizations so there is a better overview of New Trier Township and New Trier plus/staff zip codes. He inquired how the thresholds were derived as well as why they are less stringent for New Trier plus. He would also like to hear about the progress on testing, whether it is the University of Illinois Shield Program or other rapid testing opportunities as he believes this is a critical component to safely opening the school. Mr. McLane shared thoughts on tracing and tracking, inquiring what New Trier’s cohort schools are doing, the ones that the school would look at nationally as well as what neighboring schools are doing. He then shared comments on “after 3:30 p.m.”, noting that the school will not be able to sustain in-person learning if students and parents are not honest with the health screening, or refuse to follow state health guidelines regarding out of state travel and high-risk activities. He is personally aware of some of this going on and it ties to the tracing and tracking element. In the New York Times today, there was an article that focused on the research of lying and self-reporting and it is more prevalent than it used to be and particularly prevalent among those in their twenties. Mr. McLane inquired how the school, objectively and legally, gets a grasp on the students who go rogue and suggested that if they do, they automatically go remote. He encouraged the administration to pursue excluding students who have violated athletic and IDPH guidelines.

Dr. Sally spoke to the hospitalizations piece, noting the data comes from IDPH and is county level data. Dr. Sally is in contact with NorthShore to see if there is more local data that might be useful to have. Hospitalizations were a large concern in the beginning of the pandemic and are not as much as anymore, but noted it is still data that should be tracked. Dr. Sally then shared thoughts on Mr. McLane’s comments about tracking and tracing as well as honesty on the Ruvna screener. In addition to Ruvna, the District will track where students are in their free periods and lunch with an app that feeds into PowerSchool, the District’s student information system. Dr. Sally will also talk with the RAB and the Board about enhancing its questions on Ruvna to include participation in high risk activities.

Ms. Hahn then shared her thoughts as the Board liaison to the RAB. She thanked Dr. Sally and his team for the tremendous amount of resources and information they have gathered for the RAB to consider. The medical consultants from the infectious disease doctor to the epidemiologists to the local pediatrician to the Chief Operating Officer of NorthShore, have provided amazing insight for the RAB into processes, metrics and thresholds being discussed. She shared additional thoughts noting that there is not one metric that will guarantee 100% safety if school reopens. She believes that the metrics with the local and staff zip codes provide the best approximation of the prevalence of the virus in the community and the likelihood that people come into the building carrying the virus. Ms. Hahn mentioned that according to the medical consultants, not only are the numbers well within what is required from the Harvard Global Health Study to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), but the mitigation strategies within the building will protect people. These numbers work well with the external metrics that the school is required to adhere to from IDPH and CCDPH which are higher thresholds and larger catchment areas. She is confident that the RAB is working with good numbers, but they still need to think through how it works with these numbers as the school sustains in-person learning. The goal is not to have students in and out of the building, so the committee needs to look at how it wants to interpret trends and decide if a pause is necessary instead of going down the ladder. The metrics may need to look different as more students are brought into the building. Finally, they may need adjusting as the science evolves. This is the best approximation of the data that should be reviewed and the RAB has been told it is sound. The community can take pride in the low positivity rate and it is encouraging to try and work for that. Ms. Hahn is confident in the numbers being put out right now. Dr. Sally responded that the District is looking at two areas, local zip codes and a wider area that covers much of Lake County, almost all of Northern Cook County and some outlying areas, as these are the places where staff live. He explained this further, noting the catchment area includes 3.5 million people. He shared the charts from the website, sharing thoughts around those in relation to the data, and the number of students and staff who are quarantined or confirmed positive. Mr. Robitaille inquired if this data is self-reported. Dr. Hayes responded that the data comes from any reports received in health services, Ruvna, and attendance reporting. For those in quarantine that information comes from working with CCDPH. Mr. Robitaille then inquired if the District receives confirmed cases from CCDPH. Dr. Hayes replied that time is spent syncing back and forth with the respective county department of public health, so the data is as comprehensive as possible.

Mr. Robitaille then explained the MOU between the District and the Association that represents all of New Trier's teachers so the community would have a better understanding of it. He thanked Mr. Dronen and everyone who participated in the negotiating sessions, including the teachers. He went on to note that these sessions were around work conditions and safety protocols associated with the return to school effort, which Dr. Sally confirmed. The signing of the MOU by the teachers' association representing all the teachers of New Trier is effectively the teachers signing up for a set of work conditions, protocols and processes for moving up the ladder and returning to school. The recommendations of the RAB and the authority of the Superintendent and the Board to move up the ladder has been ratified through this MOU with the Association. Dr. Sally confirmed that this is the right way to think about the MOU. Ms. Hahn stated that with the metrics piece, part of those are the operational metrics that need to be examined internally to determine if the building can operate if the conditions outside of it are a certain way; this is another piece of the MOU.

Ms. Ducommun shared comments about working with the Education Association, which flows from the conversation about the MOU. She noted that the Board of Education continues to be concerned that the focus is not on students, which she expressed at the August 12<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. The Board of Education is also concerned that the Association is not speaking in a single voice and that Association membership is undermining the MOU agreement that was already negotiated. The MOU was then signed by the Administration and the Education Association's elected members. She went on to note that the community will not accept an indefinite period of remote learning. The disconnect is that plans have not been seen from the Association that would allow in-person instruction under any circumstances. The Board of Education, along with many New Trier families, do not understand how many other essential services have been operating safely for months, yet somehow the school, perhaps the most essential of a community's services, should be exempt from reopening even with the extensive plans and safety measures the Administration has put forward. The Board does have an appreciation for New Trier's long history of collaboration between the Association and the Administration. She went on to share additional thoughts around this piece. She noted that it would be unfortunate if the Association withdraws its members from planning or ad hoc committees working toward in-person instruction as outlined in the MOU. The Board trusts and expects in any of that that the Administrative Team move forward to develop plans and execute them to quickly get all students back in the classroom.

Ms. Albrecht mentioned that she attended the Sophomore and Freshmen campus tours and shared the process of those students getting into the building. She noted that at the 25% hybrid option, the average number of students in the classroom will be six to seven. She thanked administrators for their work on these tours. Ms. Albrecht also mentioned that the new library at Northfield looked beautiful. She went on to share that as the school approaches the hybrid model, it will require a lot of patience from everyone. Frustrations are expected and the school will learn and adjust the plans as needed. The District needs the students and families help to answer the Ruvna questions honestly. Help is also needed to restrict non-socially distanced gatherings outside of school. Ms. Albrecht thanked Mr. Dronen for his work on the bargaining team, Ms. Hahn for her continued work on the RAB and the Board for the three special meetings that occurred between the Regular July and August Board meetings to discuss the reopening plans. She noted that it is her privilege to serve with her fellow Board members as they are a dedicated group. Ms. Albrecht went on to share comments with the Administration, beginning by noting the amazing job that was done by Mrs. Dubravec at the end of May for the drive-through graduation. The Administrative team, led by Dr. Sally, has been overachieving the entire summer through now to continue to refine and find the best plan and way to get students back into school. Ms. Albrecht stated it has been her pleasure to work with the team and is looking forward to implementing the plan.

Dr. Sally thanked the Board for their input and consideration, noting that he and Ms. Hahn look forward to an RAB meeting on Wednesday.

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

This agenda item was postponed to the October 19, 2020 Board of Education meeting.

### **\*D. Public Hearing: 2020-2021 Final Budget**

Ms. Albrecht called to order the Public Hearing on the 2020-2021 Final Budget. Mr. Johnson presented on this topic. He thanked Mr. Myron Spiwak, Director of Business Services, and his team for their contributions to putting together the final budget for the 2020-2021 school year. Each year, the District must adopt a budget by September 30<sup>th</sup>. It serves as a spending plan for the year and helps the District to accomplish its strategic goals and objectives through strong fiscal stewardship. It is aligned to support these results areas and directly support the educational outcomes for students. Mr. Johnson noted that this year it is designed to provide flexibility during unknown times.

The budget supports a deep and broad curriculum, providing for a rigorous and dynamic experience for students. He then shared statistics about what students have been able to achieve with the help of teachers and the support of the community and the budget. The District is very pleased about the support it receives from the community and what it allows students to accomplish with the support of their teachers.

Student activities, performing arts and athletics are robust programs. As Mrs. Dubravec noted earlier, great work is ongoing regarding stipends and how the District preserves the student experience this year in different ways. Lagniappe has done a virtual hybrid experience, working on Zoom and in-person. Other activities and programs are being adapted so students can continue to have these experiences. The athletic program is going strong in different ways under Mr. Augie Fontanetta's, Athletic Director, leadership.

The budget also supports the Adviser Program as well as support for students struggling academically or with social emotional needs. Special education students have been welcomed back to campus and the budget is a key part of supporting this program.

Mr. Johnson shared other highlights. He noted that the budget is balanced in terms of direct revenue and expenditures, but this year, there is a slight deficit when a Covid contingency is included. Property taxes comprise of 90% of the revenue and the District last asked for an operating rate referendum in 2003 and made a 5-year no referendum commitment. The District is proud that that commitment has been extended over a decade past the original date five-year date. There are no referendums in sight right now either. State revenue is up slightly and categorized using the new Evidence Based Funding methodology. Federal revenue, which is typically tied to students with special needs, is up as the District submits for more reimbursements for those students.

On the expenditures side, as a people-based institution, salaries make up the largest part of the budget at 67%. The District employs about 387 faculty, teaching students in a wide variety of subjects. Surveys show that maintaining high quality teaching staff is a top priority of the community. 97% of teachers have master's degrees or higher which far exceeds the 61% state average. 77% of teachers have fifteen year or more of teaching experience. On the merit system, 80% of teachers have achieved Master Teacher or Leader Teacher status. Teachers work for 182 days which is slightly above the state average. Employee benefits total 13% of the budget and include health insurance, which is the largest component of benefits. The District is a member of the NIHIP Cooperative. Health and dental costs increased 12.2% for this fiscal year, this interrupts a trend of historically low renewal rates, the average for the past five years has been 0.3%. The District is seeing a bit of a correction and is working on strategies to continue to manage those costs going forward to get back to that historical average. The District's Illinois Municipal Retirement fund (IMRF) rate, which is paid on noncertified staff, is increasing slightly as the District did an IMRF Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability (UAAL) paydown last year to reduce its pension obligations. The Board approved, last year, sending IMRF money to paydown unfunded pension obligations for staff members, which demonstrated strong fiscal stewardship from the District. Purchase Services are projected to increase 4.72%, while Supplies and Materials will rise 2.12%.

For Capital Expenditures, the District continues to purchase capital equipment from the operating fund and is projected to decrease slightly as some equipment was procured last year with funds that were not expended as the District modified its program for the fourth quarter. The budget also includes funds for the conclusion of the portion 15-Year Plan Year 1 improvements. Ms. Albrecht mentioned the library at Northfield. Half of the third floor at the Winnetka campus was remodeled over the summer. The classroom experience that is in the new building was brought to the third floor and it turned out well. The budget also includes the first half of funding for the 15-Year Plan Year 2 improvements through June 30, 2021. Capital projects are done over the summer, so the budget typically includes the second half of the summer work that occurs July through now and the first half of next summer's work. The Board has already approved this work and it will include finishing the third floor at Winnetka and classroom modernization at Northfield, working with Mr. Waechtler, about furniture and technology improvements like what has been done at Winnetka. Transfers total \$7.65 million for that work and moving to the capital projects fund.

The Other category includes Special Education tuition, room and board and will increase by 2.2%. The District is carefully monitoring Covid related expenses and will seek out reimbursement where possible, whether through the state or the federal government through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The District is seeing extra cost as it purchases appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for staff, additional cleaning supplies, supplemental janitorial staff, which in the Consent Agenda for tonight, as well as other tools the school needs to ensure a safe educational environment. The District is also seeing a decrease in costs as there are certain things that cannot be done now with students or faculty such as professional development conferences. The District is closely

monitoring this and looking to use the savings in some areas due to the pandemic to offset these new expenditures. A one-million-dollar placeholder has been added for Covid-related expenses in the budget's contingency. As contingency is used, the District will discuss this with the Finance Committee and report it to the Board if those funds are used.

Mr. Johnson shared the accolades the District has received for its budget presentation, both from the Association School Business Officials (ASBO) International and other organizations. The District is proud of the work that the Business Office has done to put together the budget.

Mr. Johnson thanked the administration and the Business Office for their assistance in developing the budget. He also thanked the New Trier community for the commitment they have made to the District, students and teachers. It is their support that makes this possible. The budget demonstrates the community's commitment to the educational program and the District's commitment to strong fiscal stewardship. Mr. Johnson then invited questions and comments from the Board.

Ms. Albrecht asked if there were any public comments, of which there were none.

Ms. Ducommun thanked Mr. Johnson and his department along with Mr. Spiwak for their hard work. To make the budget that close, knowing that money will be pulled out for capital and some of the Covid expenses, it is a good place to be. She noted that there are many districts, statewide, that do not have the opportunities that New Trier has to make that all work. Mr. Johnson thanked her for her comments.

Mr. Robitaille noted that it always feels a little anticlimactic as they live the budget process iteration after iteration, so much of it is familiar and consistent with what has been discussed in the past. In terms of the Covid tracking expenses, he thought roughly one million dollars is what Mr. Johnson expects to spend on PPE, plexiglass, and basically outfitting both campuses to be Covid compliant. Mr. Johnson noted that was the approximate cost, with the big asterisk being what type of reimbursement the District could have to offset some of those expenditures. Mr. Dave Conway, Director of Physical Plant Services, oversees submitting the FEMA grant. Mr. Johnson went on to share additional details including that he shared with the Finance Committee that the federal government may be tightening those requirements. The hope is that everything done prior to September 15<sup>th</sup> gets in in some form. There are also other unknowns through out the year such as if the District can get a robust, rapid testing program going. That could potentially be a significant cost. It would be brought to the Board in October if the District is able to get going on it. The District believes it has the plexiglass, masks and supplies it needs, but there are unknowns. The District has done the best it could to project with the information it has, but those unknowns exist. Mr. Robitaille inquired if the District knows what it has spent so far, to which Mr. Johnson replied that it has been about \$900,000 with a portion of that spent in the last fiscal year and the rest spent this fiscal year. Mr. Robitaille mentioned that was an important point to make in terms of the last conversation, that this money has been spent to make the buildings as safe as possible. Mr. Johnson listed those items such as capacity signs, stickers on desks of where not to sit, among others. The District is doing what it can, that is supported by science, to make people as comfortable as possible. There were upgrades to the air filtration system to MERV 13 filters and those systems have been optimized to bring in the maximum amount of outside air. Much of this is behind the scenes, but it supports having a safe environment for students and teachers.

Ms. Hahn inquired where the money for subs is in the budget and if it is part of the Covid budget. Mr. Johnson commented that it is currently not part of the Covid budget, but the District typically has a sub budget between \$500,000 - \$800,000. Sub usage last year was greatly reduced for two reasons, the first was the professional meetings and conferences that teachers had, that are valuable but took them away from the classroom was gone during fourth quarter. The second reason is that those who would have previously requested a sub as they or their children may not have felt well, could stay home, so they could continue their work from home without requesting a sub. The hope is that there is decreased usage through sick time and that the sub budget goes for the supervisors or subs in the classrooms that were previously discussed.

Ms. Hahn inquired if the \$78,000 from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act will be kept in the District as opposed to distributing it. Mr. Johnson would ask Mr. Spiwak if the money has been received but does not believe that it has. Discussion continued between the two on this topic. Schools are waiting for one item that is tied up at the federal level between the House and the Senate in the fourth relief bill. Schools and local governments are focused on if money is available for these additional expenditures. Mr. Johnson reiterated Ms. Ducommun's comments that the District is fortunate to have resources to be able to be flexible, but many schools do

not have that. The District is looking for the next federal bill, if it comes, for any relief for New Trier and other school districts.

Ms. Albrecht noted the September 15<sup>th</sup> deadline regarding the old FEMA reimbursement rules and some documents have been filed. When the District talks about pursuing future testing abilities, the new FEMA rules, at least as of now, have excluded supplies and cleaning staff, she inquired if Mr. Johnson thought FEMA would cover testing. Mr. Johnson replied, that unfortunately, they have excluded these items. The first FEMA grant was submitted for \$186,000 dollars, while working with them during the process, they told the District conditionally the type of expenditure that could be submitted. FEMA has not told the District if they have formally approved of the submitted expenditures, nor have they indicated if they will reimburse the full amount or prorate it because so many people are pulling on the same pool of money. The District does check in weekly as to the status of the reimbursement. It will also continue to submit expenses through September 14<sup>th</sup>. Much of the big purchasing was done prior to this, so the District is hopeful that a large amount is reimbursable. He noted that the District will have about \$60,000 a month in excess cleaning costs which does not appear to be FEMA eligible now. Ms. Albrecht asked, if under the old rules, if there had been testing costs would they have been covered. Mr. Johnson replied that he was not sure if the cost would have been admissible. He went on to note that the District is excited to be working with Shield Illinois, the testing program out of the University of Illinois. They are looking to do this in a non-profit way to bring the cost as low as possible, to around \$20 a test. While certainly a lot of money when multiplied by the number of students and staff through the whole year, it is better than \$100 a test that is being seen elsewhere. Mr. Johnson noted that the District shared with the university that it is very interested once the program is up and running.

Ms. Ducommun moved, and Ms. Hahn seconded the motion, that the Board move to Adjourn the Public Hearing on the 2020-2021 Final Budget. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: none

The motion passed.

**\*E. 2020-2021 Final Budget Approval**

Ms. Ducommun moved, and Mr. Robitaille seconded the motion, that the Board of Education approves the Resolution to Adopt the Annual Budget for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year and the School District Budget Form, as presented. 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.

Mr. Johnson noted that all Board members needed to sign copies of the School District Budget Form.

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

Ms. Albrecht called to order the Public Hearing on the Resolution Authorizing Transfer of Funds from the Education Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund.

Mr. Johnson noted in the budget that the District is going to do several transfers. This will align the funds it wants to spend from the Education Fund and Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Fund to the fund where they will be expended, which is the Capital Projects Fund. There is a 15-year capital plan and funds being transferred will support the work of the second half of this summer and the first half of the work next summer. This transfer will move funds from the Education Fund to the O&M Fund and separately, in the Consent Agenda, the District will move it from the O&M Fund to the Capital Projects Fund. The purpose is to align the resources where they intend to be expended and is consistent with the 15-year Facilities Plan and the discussions with the Finance Committee over the past year. Mr. Johnson then invited questions and comments from the Board.

Ms. Albrecht asked if there were any public comments, of which there were none.

Ms. Hahn moved, and Mr. Robitaille seconded the motion, that the Board move to Adjourn the Public Hearing on the Resolution Authorizing Transfer of Funds from the Education Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: none

The motion passed.

## **VII. Administrative Items**

### **A. Treasurer's Report for August 2020**

Mr. Johnson presented the Treasurer's Report for August 2020. The District is seeing the impact of lower rates continue, with the weighted average for short-term investments in the PMA account, those investments under one year, dropping to 45 basis points. The longer-term account, the MBS/Fifth Third account, is seeing the rates, on a weighted average, 1.73% for one to three-year investments. Although this is decreasing as higher yielding investments roll off and are replaced with cash or shorter-term investments. Receipts are slightly lower than historical averages on the revenue side. This is primarily driven by lower local revenue, such as property taxes, as some take advantage of the grace period allowed by Cook County. The District is seeing payments at the 80-90% level of where it was in prior years and there are no concerns at this point as the October 1<sup>st</sup> deadline approaches.

### **B. Financial Reports for August 2020**

Mr. Johnson went on to share the financial reports for August 2020. Operating revenue was \$40,966,725 for the first two months of the fiscal year, or 14.77% lower compared to last year. Property tax distributions were lower but are expected to catch up. The tentative budget for operating revenue is slightly higher than last year, although the District did reduce its revenue assumptions in the budget that was approved earlier in the meeting. Any funds attributable to 2019-20, that were received by August 31, 2020, will be recognized last year. The budget is still in the audit process, and there are funds, in particular for state programs, focused on last year that will be recorded against last year's budget. Operating expenditures were \$6,724,000 through August, or 12% lower than last year. One does not see a lot of trend data in two months, but there have certainly been many expenditures such as cleaning supplies and other items to prepare for students' return, but lower expenditures in other areas as the school could not offer the same type of travel and other typical summer experiences for students. Mr. Johnson then invited questions and comments from the Board.

Ms. Albrecht noted on the revenue side, the year-to-date, as the end of August, she inquired about the property taxes received so far in September. Mr. Johnson noted that they had slowed down slightly, but there have been some disbursements. He said he will watch them closely as the October 1<sup>st</sup> deadline approaches. Ms. Albrecht noted that October 1<sup>st</sup> was the deadline before penalties start to accrue. Mr. Johnson noted that the county treasurer has thirty days to send the payments to the District, so there is a bit of a delay. He also mentioned that the state caught up quite a bit on payments owed to the District, forwarding on payments for both the state and the federal government in September, both for last year and this year.

## **VIII. Consent Agenda**

- Bill List for the Period, August 1 – 31, 2020
- Personnel Report (Appointments, Change of Status, Resignation, Retirements, Stipends – Appointments and Stipends – Separation)
- ISBE Compensation Report
- The service agreement with ABM Industry Group LLC and to invoke the emergency bidding exception for this procurement as provided in Section 10-20.21, subsection (xiv) of the School Code, due to the urgent need for these critical services. And further recommend that the Board of Education authorize the Associate Superintendent to execute the agreement.
- Resolution Authorizing Transfer of Funds from the Education Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund
- Resolution Authorizing Transfer of Funds from the Operations and Maintenance Fund to the Capital Projects Fund
- Resolution Authorizing Transfer of Funds from the Operations and Maintenance Fund to the Debt Services Fund

Ms. Albrecht inquired if any members wanted to pull an item off the Consent Agenda, no one chose to do so. Ms. Ducommun moved that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda, which includes: Bill List for the Period, August 1 – 31, 2020; Personnel Report (Appointments, Change of Status, Resignation, Retirements, Stipends – Appointments and Stipends – Separation); ISBE Compensation Report; The service agreement with ABM Industry Group LLC and to invoke the emergency bidding exception for this procurement as provided in Section 10-20.21, subsection (xiv) of the School Code, due to the urgent need for these critical services. And further recommend that the Board of Education authorize the Associate Superintendent to execute the agreement; Resolution Authorizing Transfer of Funds from the Education Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund; Resolution Authorizing Transfer of Funds from the Operations and Maintenance Fund to the Capital Projects Fund; Resolution Authorizing Transfer of Funds from the Operations and Maintenance Fund to the Debt Services Fund. Dr. Glucksman 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**

Mr. Dronen reported that the **New Trier Educational Foundation** met on September 17<sup>th</sup>. They reported on the September 14<sup>th</sup> Golf Outing, but did not have a final number yet, but had fifty to sixty golfers.

He next reported that the **Facilities Steering Committee** met on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Wight and Company along with Mr. Steve Cashman presented on the Winnetka campus east side academic and athletic analysis. The committee will continue to look at that area for future improvements.

Ms. Hahn virtually attended the first meeting of the year with the **Booster Club**. While no one is doing what they signed up as there is no tail gate party or football, they are tremendously motivated to continue to provide opportunities for students to have in-person connections and physical activity. The Booster Club is running golf and tennis intramurals. They are also getting creative as it looks like Night League and Spike League are unlikely to happen in the winter and are discussing sports from fishing to paddle to cross country skiing. The Booster Club is enthusiastic and incredibly appreciative of the help that Mr. Fontanetta and his staff have provided to help with the implementation of safety protocols that are required for the intramurals. They noted that the New Trier staff that has helped has been exceptional and they appreciate the chance to both partner with them and the work they are doing. This is an important part for students as it gets them on campus and participating in something connected to New Trier.

In reflecting on the calls Ms. Ducommun has had with the **New Trier Parents' Association (NTPA)** and the **Fine Arts Association**, there have been a lot of questions about what is going on at school and how the new procedures will work. She said it underscores the need to continue to communicate. Where it seems like some may understand these pieces, there are others, who may not be following along as closely that need more explanation. Ms. Ducommun thanked Ms. Dizon for her efforts to do this.

Ms. Albrecht noted that the NTPA donated individual hand sanitizer with the New Trier logo on it for the sophomore tours at the Winnetka campus that could be clipped to their lanyard. She noted it was very thoughtful with Ms. Ducommun adding that those were assembled very quickly.

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

Dr. Sally highlighted the following:

- Next Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup> is a holiday, Yom Kippur and there is no school.
- The week of September 29<sup>th</sup>, teachers will be on campus in anticipation of October 6<sup>th</sup>, assuming the metrics are good, the opening of 25% hybrid.
- There are several tests occurring between now and the next Board meeting. Seniors will take their state SAT test on October 14<sup>th</sup>. It is still required by the state that seniors take this test. Ms. Ducommun inquired if the test would be taken at school, to which Dr. Sally confirmed. There will also be several tests on weekends in October, including the ACT on Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup> and the PSAT on Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. He thanked Dr. Dillard for her work, and Mr. Tragos for his support, to make sure these tests can be done in a way that is safe for students.

- There is no school on October 12<sup>th</sup> for Fall Break.
- The next Board of Education meeting is Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup>.

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

NAY: none

The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lindsey Ruston, Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cathleen Albrecht, President