

BOARD BRIEFS

News from the New Trier Township High School District 203

Board of Education Meeting

August 26, 2019

Board Welcomes New Teachers, Faculty Leaders

The Board of Education welcomed 21 new teachers to New Trier as well as six faculty members who are taking new leadership positions for the 2019-2020 school year. We are happy to welcome the following new teachers to New Trier and congratulate our leaders on their new roles:

Applied Arts

Devan Castellano, Technology Education teacher

Business Education

Kevin Kansler, Business Education Department Chair

Sara Burnett, Business Education teacher

Flavio Kola, Business Education teacher

English

Ed Zwirner, English Department Chair

Sarah Gompers, English Department Coordinator

Sarah Lahey, English teacher

Grace Phillips, English teacher

Mathematics

Vishna Patel, Mathematics teacher

Modern and Classical Languages

Marissa Rubin, Modern and Classical Languages Department Chair

Bob Cummings, Modern and Classical Languages Department Coordinator

Karen Schiff, Spanish teacher

Music and Theatre

Mark Hiebert, Jazz teacher

Laura Wesslund, Theatre teacher

Post-High School Counseling

Jill Cervantes, Post-High School Counseling Department Chair

Heather Ecklund, Post-High School counselor

Kristen Graf, Post-High School counselor

Science

Regina Schindel, Physics teacher

Benjamin Torrisi, Chemistry teacher

Social Studies

Valerie Curtis, Social Studies teacher

Tony Knuth, Social Studies teacher

Daniel Rothschild, Social Studies teacher

Rose Wysocki, Social Studies teacher and head softball coach

Special Education

Daniel Bruzdziński, Vocational Coordinator

William Cline, Special Education teacher

Hannah Kreps, School Psychologist

Jacob Rothstein, Speech and Language Pathologist

District Presents 15-Year Facilities Framework

Chris Johnson, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, presented a 15-year framework for facilities improvements at both campuses that includes academic,

athletic, mechanical, safety, and environmental upgrades without the need for a referendum in the foreseeable future.

The Facilities Steering Committee has been working with the District to review the framework. It sets priorities for projects that primarily would be completed each summer, minimizing the impact on students and teachers while allowing the District to modernize its classrooms, learning spaces, and mechanical systems.

A major part of the plan involves the gradual renovation of the 1934 North Building and 1957 Tower Building on the Winnetka Campus to match the modern spaces created in the West Addition, which opened in 2017. The District successfully replicated the new building's look and feel with the renovation of the former library into new classrooms on the third floor and will use this work as a template to renovate and create new classrooms throughout the North and Tower buildings. The plan includes new furniture, technology, and lighting as well as breakout rooms and other spaces for collaboration.

On the Northfield Campus, the plan calls for renovating the library and eight classrooms in the first five years of the framework, renovating six science labs and an additional 16 classrooms in the following five years, and renovating the locker rooms, 16 more classrooms, and the cafeteria in the final five years.

Athletic and Kinetic Wellness improvements are also necessary to meet the needs of students in both the school day and after school program. Those changes would include expanded strength and conditioning spaces, improvements of the Gates and Bickert Gymnasiums, renovations at Duke Childs Field in conjunction with the Village of Winnetka stormwater project, and other projects to be determined.

Possible funding sources include the operating budget, fund balance, debt certificates, debt service extension base, and fundraising opportunities.

Johnson also presented information on the first year of work proposed in the summer of 2020, which will include renovating a portion of the North and Tower Building 3rd floor at the Winnetka Campus, creating modern classrooms as well as updating halls, bathrooms and mechanical systems, updating the library at the Northfield Campus, and further energy conservation, mechanical systems, and security updates at both campuses.

The District will reassess the plan each year to match District and strategic plan priorities, and the Board will approve the following summer's work annually. A link to the presentation can be found here: <http://bit.ly/nt15yearfacility>

Updated Evaluation Processes for Teachers, Leaders, Advisers

District administrators updated the Board of Education on changes that aim to enhance the goal-setting and evaluation processes for teachers, leaders, and advisers at New Trier.

The changes were reviewed and approved by the Joint Committee for Teacher Evaluation, a group that includes an equal number of Faculty Association and administration members who collaborate on improving the District's evaluation systems.

This year, as part of the *New Trier 2030* strategic plan, the District has published a new *Characteristics for Professional Practice for Leading at New Trier*, which defines the characteristics of a successful leader and will serve as the driving document for professional development for current and aspiring leaders. This document joins the successful *Characteristics for Professional Practice for Teaching at New Trier* in setting clear expectations and standards for teachers and leaders.

In addition, the Joint Committee for Teacher Evaluation endorsed a new goal-setting and reflection process for teachers. Beginning this school year, teachers will set annual goals in the areas of professional growth, student learning, and the classroom environment. Faculty members who are advisers will also set a goal for professional growth in the adviser system. The classroom environment goal will incorporate student feedback; teachers will use a set of prescribed questions and any questions they wish to add to collect this feedback from students. They will then use the feedback to reflect on the student learning experience and their own professional practice on an annual basis.

Also new this year is the Adviser Role Framework, the product of a collaborative effort led by the adviser chairs and including current and former advisers, administrators, department leaders, and Faculty Association members. The comprehensive document identifies the many responsibilities and foundational elements of advising and will be the basis of goal-setting and feedback for advisers each year.

A memo on the new goal-setting and evaluation processes can be found here: <http://bit.ly/ntevaluations>

The New Trier Board of Education generally meets on the third Monday of each month, with the business portion of the meeting beginning at 7 p.m. in Room C234 on the Northfield Campus, 7 Happ Road.

Full videos of Board meetings are available online at <https://nthsmediaspace.kaltura.com/category/BOARD+OF+EDUCATION/>

Information about Board of Education members, upcoming meetings, agendas, minutes, and other documents are available at <http://www.newtrier.k12.il.us/boardofeducation/>