

**TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203**  
**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**November 3, 2009**  
**New Trier High School - Winnetka Campus**  
**Student Cafeteria, 385 Winnetka Ave., Winnetka, Illinois**  
**Open Session – 7:00 p.m.**

A **Special Meeting** of the Board of Education of New Trier Township High School District 203, Cook County, Illinois was held at New Trier High School – Winnetka Campus, Student Cafeteria, 385 Winnetka, Winnetka, Illinois, on Tuesday, November 3, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

**Members Present**

Mr. James B. Koch, President  
Ms. Wendy Serrino, Vice President  
Mr. Alan R. Dolinko  
Ms. Carol Ducommun  
Mr. F. Malcolm Harris  
Mr. Robert Merrick  
Mr. John Myefski

**Administrators Present at Table**

Dr. Linda L. Yonke, Superintendent  
Mr. Donald R. Goers, Associate Superintendent  
Mr. Paul Sally, Assistant Superintendent for  
Curriculum & Instruction  
Mr. Timothy Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for  
Student Services  
Ms. Jan Borja, Principal – Northfield Campus  
Dr. Timothy Dohrer – Winnetka Campus

**Also Present**

Ms. Laurel Burman, Director of Special Education; Mr. Matt Ottaviano, Assistant Principal, Winnetka Campus; Mr. Paul Waechtler, Assistant Principal, Northfield Campus; Mr. John Neiweem, Director of Physical Plant Services; Mr. Chris Johnson, Director of Technology; Mr. Nicole Dizon, Director of Communications and Alumni Relations; Mr. George Sanders, Director of Human Resources; Dr. Debbie Stacey, Director of Academic Services; Mr. Gerry Munley, Science Department Chair; Mr. Stephen Murphy, Art Department Chair; Mr. Kerry Hall, Department of Social Studies, Ms. Stephanie Farruggia, Special Education Department Chair; Mr. Jay Rosenberg, Department of English, President, New Trier Education Association; Mr. John Gilchrist, Kinetic Wellness Department Chair; Mr. David Ladd, Music Department Chair; Mr. Jim Burnside, Department of Science; Mr. Jeremy Boscaccy, Department of Technology; Mr. Mark Jolicoeur, Principal Perkins + Will; Mr. Jerry Johnson, Perkins + Will; Mr. Bill Bennett, Pepper Construction; Mr. Scott Hagen, Pepper Construction; Mr. Robert Martinelli, Pepper Construction; Ms. Linda Matkowski, PMA Securities Inc.; Mr. Doug Springer; Ms. Katie Okon; Mr. Wes Baumann; Ms. Sharon Krystjanson; Mr. Kevin Yost; Ms. Onnie Scheyer; Ms. Mallory Corrus; Dr. Miles Cunningham; Mr. Steven Buckman; Mr. Tim Sherman; Ms. Sue Connaughton; Ms. Nina Schroeder, Mr. Herbert Sorock; Mr. J. P. Rachmaninoff; Ms. Karen Vorwald; Mr. Jack Silverstein; and members of the Community

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Koch called the Special Meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and began with opening remarks and welcome. Mr. Koch reviewed the evening's agenda, which included three Facilities Update presentations, time for Public Comment and Board discussion. Mr. Koch noted that the Board is eager to hear from all involved and concerned with the Facilities Project and gives serious consideration to the issues and comments. Mr. Koch commented that the predominant concerns for the Board are curricular driven and the Board seeks that which is in the best interests of the students now and in the future.

**I. Facilities Planning**

Dr. Yonke began her presentation with a summary of the last three years of Facilities Planning. She reviewed several of the various options that have been considered, including the status quo, the rebuild of Winnetka, rebuilding at Northfield, the Field House and the timing of the east side renovations. Dr. Yonke focused on the present Facilities Project Proposal, the Communities' engagement and input and the curricular changes in education and the community in the last forty years. Dr. Yonke noted the attention to stewardship of the Facilities while being mindful of economic conditions. Key benefits of the Project include ADA accessibility throughout the campus; improved safety features for fire suppression and security; storm water management; sustainable design; energy and space efficiency; additional science labs; replacement/renovated classrooms for English, Math, Social Studies and MCL; new cafeteria and student commons; replacement of the Music classrooms, practice rooms, music storage; Art and Tech Arts classrooms and labs; Black Box and McGee

Theater. While a cost-benefit analysis acknowledges the current economic conditions, the benefits to be gained with going forward at this time include lower interest rates, lower material and labor costs and the availability of stimulus funds through the Build America Bonds in 2010.

Mr. Mark Jolicoeur of Perkins + Will Architectural firm reviewed the Project timeline and explained the current Schematic Design phase of the overall design process. Mr. Jerry Johnson ran through the existing and proposed site plans as well as the proposed floor plans. Special note was taken to show new traffic flow for the surrounding streets and improved street profile. He also noted the flexibility of the plan for integration into any future changes to the campus in long range planning. Through actual photos and artist renderings Mr. Johnson presented views of the new proposed spaces and the materials used. Mr. Jolicoeur reviewed the different construction phases of the Project, beginning in 2010 through to completion in 2012. Mr. Bill Bennett of Pepper Construction outlined the budget components of the Project explaining the various building and other costs. The total budget for the proposed Project is \$180 million. Mr. Bennett also reviewed the cost impact of delaying the project for referenda in November 2010 and April 2011. Total Project cost would increase by \$8.75 million for November 2010 and by \$19.755 million for April 2011.

Mr. Don Goers introduced Ms. Linda Matkowski of PMA Securities, Inc. Ms. Matkowski presented financial information for the Board to consider as they deliberate on the Facilities Project. She outlined the objectives for financing a new construction project and the opportunities for capital assistance, while explaining the various grants and bonds available. Ms. Matkowski pointed out that the Facilities Project would be eligible for and benefit from the use of the Build America Bonds, which are offered through December of 2010. Ms. Matkowski examined for the Board different financing options for the \$180 million proposition, including the following: issue all at once; issue in multiple phases; issue over 20 years and issue over 25 years. Ms. Matkowski also detailed four sample scenarios of financing plans with their benefits and challenges. Further charts and information were included such as historical interest rates, historical yield comparisons, municipal market and treasury data and "Aaa" rated school districts in Illinois.

Mr. Goers provided information on the 2008 tax bills and indicated that based on his review of residential pin numbers in New Trier Township, the median tax bill in 2008 was \$10,578 and that the median New Trier portion of the tax bill was \$2,632. He then compared tax bills and Equalized Valuations from 2002 to the current 2008 tax bills for both the District and New Trier based on a sample of this data. He noted that the median tax bill increase during that period was 26.9% and that the median tax bill increase for New Trier was 20.3%, which compares to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase over that same period of 18.9%. He also noted that the median increase in equalized valuation from 2002 to 2008 was 80.6%. Mr. Goers stated that the 2008 tax bills were based on the December 2007 CPI of 4.1%, the highest increase since the tax caps were enacted in 1995 and that the 2009 tax bills would be based on the December 2008 CPI of 0.1%, easily the lowest increase since the tax caps were enacted. Mr. Goers concluded that from a financial perspective it was an excellent time to move forward on this Project as construction and finance costs are at all time lows along with unique federal and state assistance at this time. He also noted that delaying the plan would add significant dollars to the cost.

## **II. Community Comments**

Mr. Koch invited members of the community to come forward with their concerns and comments. Ms. Stephanie Farruggia, Mr. John Gilchrist, Dr. Myles Cunningham, Ms. Mallory Corrus, Mr. David Ladd, Mr. Steven Buckman, Mr. Tim Scherman, Ms. Sue Connaughton, Mr. Herbert Sorock, Mr. Jim Burnside, Mr. J.P. Rachmaninoff, Mr. Stephen Murphy, Ms. Karen Vorwald, Mr. Jack Silverstien, Ms. Onnie Scheyer, and Mr. Bill Campbell shared their thoughts regarding the Facilities Project. Ms. Nina Schroeder and Mr. Kerry Hall submitted their written comments to the Board as they needed to leave before this segment of the meeting. Views and opinions were both for and against the project.

## **III. Board Discussion**

Mr. Koch and Dr. Yonke responded to Mr. Campbell's comment about multiple bidding and stated that all work has been and will continue to be put forth for multiple bids. Other Board discussion included percent of new construction at the Winnetka Campus; ADA accessibility and the cost to patch in elevators; space utilization of the Northfield Campus, the amount of green space at the east campus; advantages of the Build America Bonds and the impact of delaying construction; rationale for the traffic flow in the new plan; managing campus activities and bus traffic; web access of previous options considered; and pre-referendum expenditures and their impact on the construction schedule.

Mr. Koch moved to adjourn the meeting. Upon unanimous voice vote the motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

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James B. Koch, President