

TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
January 19, 2010
New Trier High School - Northfield Campus
Northfield Campus, Multipurpose Room C234, 7 Happ Road, Northfield, Illinois
Closed Session – 6:30 p.m. Open Session – 7:30 p.m.

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, Northfield, Illinois, Room C234, on Monday, January 19, 2010 at 7:30 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 (arrived late from
the New Trier Fine Arts Meeting)

Administrators Present at Table

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

Also Present

Mr. Chris Johnson, Director of Technology; Mr. Doug Springer; Mr. George Sanders, Director of Human Resources; Mr. Paul Waechtler, Assistant Principal, Northfield Campus; Ms. Laurel Burman, Director of Special Education; Ms. Athena Petmezas, Director of Student Life; Ms. Michele Slav, Director of Business Services; Mr. Jay Rosenberg, Department of English and NTEA President; Ms. Elizabeth Blodgett, Co-President NTESP; Ms. Debbie Stacey, Director of Academic Services; Mr. Peter Tragos, Department of Social Studies and NTTEA Past-President; Mr. Colby Vargas, IGSS Coordinator, Department of Social Studies; Mr. James Burnside, Department of Science; Mr. Jeremy Boscaccy, Department of Technology; Mr. Mark Jolicoeur, Perkins + Will; Mr. Bill Bennett, Pepper Construction Co.; Mr. John Rossi, Virchow Krause & Co.; Mr. Steve Malkin; Mr. Tim Scherman; Ms. Sharon Kristjanson; Mr. Wes Baumann; Mr. Herbert Sorock; Mr. James Pinkerton; Ms. Alice Schaff; Mr. Robert Soare; Ms. Onnie Scheyer; Ms. Marcia Oley and numerous members of the Community.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Koch called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. and asked for a motion to call the meeting to Open Session. Mr. Merrick moved and Mr. Harris seconded the motion that the Board move from Closed Session to Open Session. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Mr. Dolinko, Ms. Ducommun, Mr. Harris, Mr. Merrick, Ms. Serrino, Mr. Koch

NAY: None

The motions passed unanimously.

I. Minutes

Mr. Koch requested a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Merrick moved and Mr. Myefski seconded the motion that the Board approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 14, 2009 (open session) and the Special Meeting of January 11, 2009 (open session). Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Ms. Ducommun, Mr. Harris, Mr. Merrick, Ms. Serrino, Mr. Dolinko, Mr. Koch

NAY: None

The motions passed unanimously.

Agenda Item III.D. was presented at this time.

Mr. Koch recognized two New Trier Staff members, Maurice Bonhomme and Jean Cayemitte, for their living example of the school motto “committing lives to the service of humanity.” These gentlemen have long been supporting a village school in Petite Goave, Haiti and along with other staff have recently created the Petit Goave Service Project to support St. Joseph School. In the aftermath of the major earthquake in Haiti, much of Haiti and Petit Goave needs to be rebuilt. Mr. Koch invited everyone to contribute to the New Trier Haiti Project and the Petit Goave Earthquake Relief efforts. Information about this can be found on the New Trier website homepage.

II. Communications

Mr. Koch invited public comment at this time. Tim Scherman, Herbert Sorock, James Pinkerton, Alice Schaff, Robert Soare, Onnie Scheyer, and Marcia Oley shared their thoughts regarding the Facilities Project. Residents addressed their support of the facilities proposal, as well as their opposition. Mr. Koch thanked all the members for their statements and comments.

III. Special Orders of Business

A. Report from Campus Principals and Assistant Superintendents

Ms. Jan Borja, Principal of the Northfield Campus reported on the Academic Life presentations for incoming freshmen at the Northfield Campus. Sophomore registration is getting underway as are the 4 year planning meetings with advisers on February 2, 3, and 4. Ms. Borja thanked Mr. Koch for his mention of the Haiti Project and commented how well the school community has come together in support of the Petit Goave Earthquake Relief.

Ms. Katherine Schindler, Assistant Principal of Student Services at the Winnetka Campus reported on the various activities occurring at the east campus, which included the completion of first semester finals, the Parents Association Breakfast for students on the first day of finals, the start of second semester and also that course selections for next year begin next week. Second City will be lampooning “New Trier through the Years” at the Booster Club fundraiser on Saturday, January 23. New Trier Basketball will play Evanston at Northwestern on January 29 starting at 6:00 p.m. The Jazz Festival will be on February 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the Gaffney Auditorium.

Mr. Tim Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services reported that the school will be running a clinic for distribution of the H1N1 vaccine for any student or staff interested in getting the vaccine on Friday, January 22 from 9:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Mr. Paul Sally, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction echoed praise for the fine presentations made for the incoming freshmen at Academic Life nights.

B. Facilities Update – State Capital Grant Application

Dr. Yonke introduced Mr. Mark Jolicoeur of Perkins + Will Architectural Firm who reviewed the State Capital Grant Application, which needed to be approved before the referendum. Funds from the Recovery Act may become available through the State Capital Grants. Mr. Dolinko moved and Mr. Merrick seconded the motion that the Board approve the State Capital Grant Application as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Mr. Harris, Mr. Merrick, Mr. Myefski, Ms. Serrino, Mr. Dolinko, Ms. Ducommun, Mr. Koch

NAY: None

The motions passed unanimously.

Mr. Goers noted the intention of this financial update of the Facilities Project is to make the financial information as transparent as possible and more clearly explain the financing and the various scenarios that were presented at the November 3 Special Meeting. Mr. Goers also pointed out that the information at the November 3 Board meeting was based on a higher cost figure and subsequent reports have used the lower adjusted amount. There was no recommendation at that time on how the financing would be structured, however it was presented to the Board that the taxpayer cost could be between \$248 and \$295 on a \$10,000.00 tax bill over the life of the bond issue. These figures reflected appropriate expectations of property tax increases and property values over that time. The Administration intends to do a better job at illustrating this financial information. Dr. Yonke pointed out that the November 16 financial information that Ms. Matkowski presented was in the Board packet for that meeting contrary to earlier comments

made otherwise. Ms. Linda Matkowski of PMA Securities Inc. noted that the information of the November 3 meeting was preliminary in nature and was predicated on the \$180 million construction cost.

Prior to the November 16 Board meeting, additional cost-estimating resulted in a projected cost of \$174 million. Ms. Matkowski reviewed the goals of the financing options considered. Financing options should seek the lowest fund cost, the lowest debt service repayment (principal and interest), and have the lowest impact to taxpayers. Other important factors include acknowledgement of economic conditions and changes in the equalized assessed valuations throughout the Township; maximum flexibility for District and Taxpayers to accommodate debt issuance requirements; ability to consider State and Federal grants as they become available; ability to maintain historical debt issuance practices of the District regarding the use of competitive bids. Ms. Matkowski explained the two scenarios under consideration, both of which include an already existing debt that will retire in 2018. The first scenario for debt service gradually increases the repayment amount in the beginning to give taxpayers time to adjust to market fluctuations and the current economic conditions. The second debt service scenario keeps the payment level on debt service the same throughout the life of the bonds. Ms. Matkowski responded to Board members questions. Board discussion followed on the actual amount taxpayers would pay; the reasoning for funding the debt in multiple issues; and the explanation of back-end-loaded debt. Ms. Matkowski noted that these scenarios were not back-end-loaded and the two scenarios being considered by the Board seek a level debt service either gradually (by increasing approximately \$90 over the first eight years) or from the onset. Ms. Matkowski also noted that there are no assumptions made here for any changes that may occur in the operating side.

Ms. Serrino requested that the latest financial information be posted on the website and on BoardDocs.

C. IGSS Presentation Report

Mr. Paul Sally, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction introduced Mr. Colby Vargas, IGSS coordinator, to update the Board on the Integrated Global Studies School and its programs. Mr. Vargas presented a video look at the various IGSS classes at the beginning of the year and invited IGSS students, Jesse Schaffer, Jeremy Levine-Drizin, Rachel Stein, Alexandra Fuhr, Annie Irwin, and Renee Tomic to present their first semester final projects. The final project was called Footprints and required students to choose an area to investigate, to implement a plan, and to calculate the impact on the planet, starting with the school community. Mr. Vargas invited questions of the Board. Dr. Yonke noted that the IGSS students meet for 4 periods per day in the afternoon. The program came out of the Strategic Plan seeking more opportunities for students to make connections among their experiences and to participate in interdisciplinary studies.

D. Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

Mr. Don Goers presented to the Board the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the year ending June 30, 2009. This report included an Introductory Section by the Administration and a Financial Section, with the Independent Auditor's Report which states that the District has complied with the laws, regulations, contracts and grants that are applicable to the District. Mr. Goers also reviewed the sections of the report including the Management's Discussion and Analysis and the Basic Financial Statements with notes to those statements. Additional sections include the Required Supplementary Information with pension information and the Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances, and the Statistical Section. Finally included is a report from the auditors in which they identified certain deficiencies in internal controls. These items are being addressed and evaluated including a cost/benefit analysis and will be presented to the Board in the spring.

Mr. Goers introduced Mr. John Rossi, of the auditing firm Baker Tilly Virchow Krause and asked him to address the Board regarding the report. Mr. Rossi shared with the Board that the District has an "unqualified opinion," which is the highest level of assurance that the statements within the financial report are reasonably stated. Mr. Rossi noted that the school's fund balances were in good shape and would easily weather late payments from the State of Illinois. Mr. Rossi invited questions from the Board. Mr. Goers noted few schools have maintained this unqualified status and that the District has been awarded a Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Association of School Business Officials International for seven consecutive years as well as a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for six consecutive years. It was also noted that the current report conforms to both program requirements and that the report is being

submitted for recognition again this year. Mr. Koch thanked Mr. Goers and Mr. Rossi for the thorough and well done report. Mr. Goers recommended that the Board accept the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2009. This meeting agenda item was not noted as an action item, therefore it will be brought back to the Board at the February Regular Meeting for acceptance and approval at that time.

E. Budget Assumption & Parameters

Mr. Goers presented a report of the 2010-11 Budget assumptions/parameters and the Budget Calendar which began last October. This calendar is set to provide the Preliminary Budget in May, the Tentative Budget for public display in June, and the Final Budget for approval in July. Mr. Goers reviewed details of the Summary of the Budget Assumptions/Parameters noting modifications that have been made after the December projections. The revisions include a reduction in interest rates on investments from 2.0% to 1.5%, a 10% reduction in State revenue, and a hiring freeze. On the positive side, Mr. Goers noted that the 2009 CPI increased to 2.7%. This agenda item is for discussion only and there was no recommendation at this time. Mr. Goers invited questions from the Board and responded to their comments and inquiries.

IV. Routine/Recurrent Items (consent agenda)

- *Bill List for the Period, December 1 – 31, 2009*
- *Budget Status Report*
- *Closed Session Records*

Mr. Goers presented the Bill List for the period December 1-31, 2009 and the Capital Projects Status report, which shows the majority of projects complete. The Bill List also shows vans that were purchased with American Recovery Act stimulus funds and funds used for the NSSSED Facilities Project. Dr. Yonke noted that the motion includes the requirement by the Open Meetings Act to review the minutes of all closed sessions and make a determination in open session as to whether or not the need for confidentiality still exists. The Act also contains a provision whereby tapes of Closed Session and Special Meetings older than 18 months can be destroyed. Mr. Harris moved and Mr. Dolinko seconded the motion that the Board approve the Bill List for the Period December 1-31, 2009 as presented and that the Board approve the opening of the Closed session minutes of July 2008 through December 2008; and that the Board also approve the motion to destroy the Closed Session and Special Meeting tapes of January 2008 through June 2008. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Mr. Merrick, Mr. Myefski, Ms. Serrino, Mr. Dolinko, Ms. Ducommun, Mr. Harris, Mr. Koch

NAY: None

The motions passed unanimously.

V. Board Member Reports

Mr. Myefski reported for the Fine Arts Committee which met earlier in the evening. He noted that a more detailed explanation of the temporary classrooms during the construction phase would be helpful in understanding the project and getting the information out to the public.

Mr. Koch reported that the NSSSED budget analysis was almost complete and contract negotiations for NSSSED would start soon. He also noted that the facility project at NSSSED continues to be 10-12% under budget.

VI. Administrative Items

A. Personnel Report

Dr. Yonke presented the Personnel Report which included Support Staff appointments; a change of status, Ms. Lorraine Starck-King, French Language teacher recommended for appointment in the Modern and Classical Languages Department as Department Coordinator; a leave of absence; several resignations and a retirement. Mr. Dolinko moved and Mr. Myefski seconded the motion to approve the Personnel Report as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Mr. Myefski, Ms. Serrino, Mr. Dolinko, Ms. Ducommun, Mr. Harris, Mr. Merrick, Mr. Koch

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

B. FOIA – 2nd Reading

Mr. Goers presented the Freedom of Information Act Policy for the second reading. It was presented last month and has had no modifications or suggested revisions since then. Mr. Goers recommended the Board approve this FOIA policy which is in compliance with new state regulations. Mr. Merrick moved and Mr. Dolinko seconded that the Board approve the Board Policy 2-250 and the amended Board Policy Procedure 2-250R as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken the members voted as follows:

AYE: Ms. Serrino, Mr. Dolinko, Ms. Ducommun, Mr. Harris, Mr. Merrick, Mr. Myefski
Mr. Koch

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Business Reports

- *Financial Reports for December 2009*
- *Budget Status Report*

Mr. Goers reviewed the financial reports for December 2009 and the Quarterly Revenue and Expenditure reports. He noted that revenues are behind and interest income is down; however, expenditures are in still line with projections. Mr. Goers also reviewed the New Trier Extension and Cafeteria reports. There were no questions by the Board members.

VIII. Board of Education

- **Calendar of Events**

Dr. Yonke noted the usual committee meetings on the January and February calendars, and highlighted two big events. The first is the 2nd City Booster Club Event on January 23 and the second is the Jazz Festival, which will be held on February 6. Dr. Yonke and Mr. Dolinko reminded neighbors and parents to be mindful of the traffic and parking issues at these events and the Turnabout Dance later in February.

- **Board Members' Requests for Information and Staff Research and Suggested Agenda Items**

There were no requests for information or suggested agenda items.

IX. Communications – Citizens' Comments

Mr. Koch invited any additional citizen comments at this time. Mr. Herbert Sorock requested the Board take a second look at the presentations posted on the website for accuracy.

Adjournment

Mr. Dolinko moved and Mr. Merrick seconded the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Koch adjourned the meeting at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

James B. Koch, President