

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

June 28, 2010

**New Trier Township High School
7 Happ Road, Room C234
Northfield, IL 60093
Open Session – 5:00 p.m.**

A **Special Meeting** of the Board of Education of New Trier Township High School District 203, 7 Happ Road, Northfield, IL., Room C234, Monday, June 28, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.

Members Present

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

Administrator Present

Dr. Linda L. Yonke, Superintendent
Mr. Donald Goers, Associate Superintendent
Dr. Timothy Dohrer, Principal -
Winnetka Campus
Mr. Paul Waechtler, Assistant Principal -
Northfield Campus
Mr. Timothy Hayes, Assistant Superintendent
for Student Services
Mr. Paul Sally, Assistant Superintendent for
Curriculum & Instruction

Members Absent

Mr. Dolinko arrived during the Closed Session.

Also Present

Ms. Niki Dizon, Director of Communications; Ms. Laurel Burman, Director of Special Education; Ms. Katherine Schindler, Assistant Principal for Student Services; Mr. Chris Johnson, Director of Technology; Mr. Randy Oberembt, Athletic Director; Mr. Matt Ottaviano, Assistant Principal for Administrative Services; Mr. John Neiweem, Director of Physical Plant Services; Mr. George Sanders, Director of Human Resources; Ms. Reiko Mrozik, Co-President NTESPA; Mr. Richard Corrus, Co-President NTESPA; Mr. Wes Bauman, Ms. Katie Okon.

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Serrino called the Special Meeting to order at 5:08 p.m. and asked for a roll call of Board Members. Members present were Ms. Ducommun, Mr. Harris, Mr. Koch, Mr. Merrick, Mr. Myefski, Ms. Serrino. Mr. Dolinko was absent for the roll call. Ms. Serrino asked for a motion to move to closed session. Ms. Ducommun moved and Mr. Koch seconded the motion to move to Closed Session to discuss specific personnel and collective negotiations, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned to Closed Session at 5:09 p.m.

Closed Session

Ms. Serrino reconvened to Open Session at 6:27 p.m. in Room C234 and welcomed those in attendance. Ms. Serrino noted that a motion was made to move to Open Session at the conclusion of the Closed Session. Ms. Serrino also noted that since this is a Special Meeting of the Board of Education, there will be no Public Comment as part of the agenda.

III. Special Orders of Business

A. Report from Administrative Team

i. History of Long Range Planning at New Trier

ii. Assessment of 2005-2010 Strategic Plan

Dr. Yonke began the joint Administration/ Board planning session with a brief overview that included discussions of Long Range Planning, assessment of the current Strategic Plan, reflection on the Superintendent/District goals from 2007-2010, and discussion of the greatest issues and priorities facing the major areas of the administration..

Dr. Yonke reviewed the History of Long Range Planning at New Trier from 1901 through 2010. There have been three methods used to aid Long Range Planning: North Central Evaluation, State/Federally mandated school improvement process, and Strategic Planning. New Trier has North Central Evaluations dating from 1906 to 2002. Dr. Yonke provided information from the yearly reports from North Central which include the number of teachers, recitations (periods), number of weeks in the school year, etc. Currently, North Central, now known as AdvancED, visits every 5-7 years and focuses on curriculum & instruction and student achievement. Dr. Yonke reviewed Federal/State School Improvement Processes beginning with the National Defense Education Act of 1958 through No Child Left Behind and Race to the Top. Strategic Planning came from the 1920s era Harvard Business School plan for private businesses and in the 1980s was applied to education. Dr. Yonke noted the benefits and negatives of all three methods. Our current Strategic Plan 2005-2010 will be assessed during the next several months with a report due back to the Board by the end of the year.

iii. Superintendent/District Goals, and

iv. Issues/Priorities for 2010-11

Dr. Yonke discussed the Superintendent's goals developed with the Board in 2007 in the areas of Strategic Planning, Academic Achievement, Board Communication and Planning, Financial Planning, and Facilities Planning. Prior to the meeting, Dr. Yonke asked Administrators to write about the critical issues and priorities in their areas. Common themes emerged in their responses such as how New Trier continues to be a place of innovation and creativity. Additional topics that appeared in administrators' reflections included economic concerns, social and emotional development of students, facilities, professional /leadership development, communications, succession planning, and school climate.

Dr. Yonke invited the Administrators to come forward to respond to the Board questions and discussion. Board members and Administrators participated in broad and wide ranging discussions covering such areas as the future of education in a time of economic uncertainty; the cost/benefits of North Central Association (AdvancED) evaluation; new state mandates and their impact on special education; Response to Intervention; flexible services and services identified and provided by the sender schools; graduate follow-up studies/preparedness studies for college or career; time limits and accommodations; types of assessments; the Homework Study and learning styles; providing professional time for teachers; curriculum and our Climate of exploration; more time in school/ how much time is appropriate for teens; and the similarities between the 1927 "Seven Objectives of Our School" and the current Strategic Plan Initiatives and issues.

B. Board Discussion

i. Long Range Planning

Dr. Yonke opened the discussion on Long Range Planning referencing the attachment "Excerpts from the Strategic Plan" 2003-05, including the mission and belief statements; the vision and parameters; and objectives and goals. Board members discussed an assessment process for the current plan and next steps in the planning process, whether that would be beginning anew or further developing the existing plan. Dr. Yonke highlighted that these issues and initiatives have not changed and that these principles have guided New Trier for a long time. Board members indicated that the consistency of principles and beliefs over time is a strength of New Trier's, while there is always a need to examine and understand what has been achieved and what needs to be changed.. Dr. Yonke noted an immediate decision was not expected, that we should engage in a planning process that keeps the best of the current plan and address what is missing in specific areas. Ms.

Serrino noted while it is a good plan, it is missing major parts of the state of the school, such as references to financial goals, academic and curricular needs, training needs, and human resource needs. Several Board members noted that facilities development is not part of the plan and would like it to be considered, especially in the light of recent studies. Each Board member identified important areas to address in future planning. A Long Range Plan review will be presented to the Board by the end of the year. Dr. Yonke appreciated the Board's input specifically on the timeline on the Strategic Plan assessment.

C. Board Governance

i. Goal Setting

Discussion differentiated between Board goals and Superintendent and District goals. A general feeling emerged that Board goals need to be focused on governance and Superintendent and District goals need to be focused on school improvement. Further discussion followed. There was a consensus that the five goals that have been worked on are still applicable and the right areas on which to focus. Dr. Yonke noted the need to continue in the process of assessing progress on achieving goals. Discussion followed on measurement and assessment tools for these goals.

ii. Committee Structure

Board discussion took place about the structure and function of Board committees. Two committees recommended by the Illinois Association of School Boards are a planning committee and a performance monitoring committee. The performance committee helps provide an annual operation plan and helps to refine goals for the next year. Discussion followed that included concerns of the empowerment of such committees, the rationale of outsourcing the work to a separate committee, and the actual need for such since the size of the Board is only 7 people. Discussion ensued about the distinction between Board committees and Superintendent Committees, with Board committees focusing on the Board governance role. It was noted that the Board has struggled with the reporting of information from the two Committees responsible for the facilities planning: the Community Engagement Committee and the Facilities Steering Committee. Should there be changes to the structure of these committees? Dr. Yonke clarified that those two committees are Superintendent Committees and not Board Committees and that two Board members are on each Committee. Discussion followed on whether these two facilities committees should continue as Superintendent Committees, whether they should be designated as a committee of the whole (which would include the entire Board), or whether they should not have Board representation at all. Also, the Board Policy Committee has acted in the past as a Superintendent Committee, and Board members indicated that it should function as a Board Committee, as should the Finance Committee. Discussion followed on the structure of the various committees. It was agreed that more information need to flow from committees to the entire Board, especially from the facilities committees, and that providing comprehensive minutes could start immediately as the next step. There was Board consensus to institute the proposal for more comprehensive published minutes of the two facilities committees for the Board and to make them available to the community. The Board Policy Committee is currently reviewing the policy on committees and may be ready to present proposed revisions at the July 19 meeting.

IV. Personnel Report

Dr. Yonke noted the Personnel Report is included on the agenda. Ms. Serrino asked for a motion to approve the Personnel Report. Mr. Koch moved and Mr. Merrick seconded the motion that the Board approve the Personnel Report as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Serrino noted the motion carried and asked for a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Merrick moved and Mr. Koch seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.
The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Ms. Serrino adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

Wendy M. Serrino, President