

**NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
July 19, 2010
New Trier Township High School
7 Happ Road, Room C234
Northfield, IL 60093**

A **Special Meeting** of the Board of Education of New Trier Township High School District 203, 7 Happ Road, Northfield, IL. Room C234, Monday, July 19, 2010 at 4:00 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

Administrators 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

Also Present

Ms. Niki Dizon, Director of Communications; Ms. Laurel Burman, Director of Special Education;
Mr. Chris Johnson, Director of Technology; Mr. Randy Oberembt, Athletic Director; Mr. Matt Ottaviano, Assistant Principal for Administrative Services; Dr. Debbie Stacey, Director of Academic Services;
Mr. John Neiweem, Director of Physical Plant Services; Mr. George Sanders, Director of Human Resources; Mr. Jeremy Boscaccy, Department of Technology; Ms. Laura Bruno, Treasurer, NTESPA; Mr. Wes Bauman, Mr. Daniel Fox; Mr. Chuck Hirsch; Ms. Onnie Scheyer; Ms. Mary Lappan; Ms. Marcia Oley and members of the Community.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. John Myefski called the Special Meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

Dr. Yonke began with an overview of the meeting's agenda, noting that due to the large amount of material for review, it was likely that discussion would continue to future regular or special meetings. The overview outlined information that was given to the Board from the Steering Committee about maintenance options for the Winnetka Campus, a history of the enrollment model research/decision in 1998, and long range planning for all facilities.

I. Report from Steering Committee

A. Maintenance Report

Mr. Don Goers reviewed a preliminary draft report on Long Range Facilities Options. The three options under consideration from a maintenance perspective are:

1. Health Life Safety Projects within current available Life Safety Bonding capacity - no referendum.
2. All currently identified Health Life Safety projects within the next 10 years, including those beyond the District's available Life Safety Bonding capacity - requiring a referendum.
3. In addition to projects identified in Option 2, some renovation projects within the current building footprint - requiring a larger referendum than Option 2.

Mr. Goers further explained the details of the report, highlighting the various charts and projections. Discussion followed as Mr. Goers responded to Board members' questions. Ms. Serrino requested the financial information be clearly posted on the website.

B. History of Facilities Research

Dr. Yonke introduced this agenda item and noted the various Steering Committee members who contributed summary reports on the different enrollment models researched prior to the 1998 decision to re-open the Northfield Campus as a freshman center. Board and Steering Committee member Carol Ducommun commented on her research of the minutes of the Board of Education meetings of 1995 through 2005. She found it most interesting and informative about the issues and the decisions made at that time.

Dr. Yonke reviewed some of the options not pursued in the 1990's such as the 2/2 model (freshman-sophomores, juniors-seniors) and the 1-3 model with seniors at Northfield. She noted the reasons for not proceeding with those two models. The 2-2 model was not pursued because of the expense of building additional space at Northfield, the negative impact on the Advisor system, the number of upper level courses accessed by sophomores, and the wasted space that would result at Winnetka. Moving seniors to Northfield was deemed not worth pursuing because of the integrated 11-12 curricular offerings and the lack of facilities at Northfield for the more sophisticated senior curriculum. Dr. Yonke also reviewed the 1998 Community Survey on the four enrollment model options: single campus at Winnetka, two four-year schools, 1-3 with freshmen at Northfield, and the voluntary enrollment model.

Dr. Tim Dohrer reviewed the Single Campus Study option. This study, commissioned by the Board of Education in 1997, considered housing 4250 students at the Winnetka campus. While the study offered three options for accommodating this number of students, the report states that the campus would be "hard pressed"

to handle the projected increased enrollment of students. Option A included the Tech Arts building replacement and minimal campus renovation. Option B included the Tech Arts building replacement and moderate campus renovation. The preferred option at the time was Option C, which included the Tech Arts /Cafeteria building replacement and moderate renovation. Dr. Dohrer also reviewed the strengths and limitations of the single campus option.

Ms. Mary Lappan reviewed the Voluntary Large School/Small School Enrollment Model. In 1997, this model projected having about 650 students at the Northfield campus and 3600 at the Winnetka campus. The smaller Northfield school, first conceived to be a lab school, had very different programs and schedules similar to that of today's Global Studies School. It sought to incorporate the benefits of a small school for the District. While this model was studied by numerous task forces ('99, '00 and '02) the idea of voluntary enrollment was highly problematic with no guarantees that it would be viable or stable over time. In 2002, the Board of Education took this model out of consideration. That same year in 2002, another study reported on the effectiveness of the 1-3 freshman campus model.

Mr. Tim Hayes reported first on the Two Schools model. He noted the challenges of re-opening the Northfield Campus, including the difficulty of dealing with the Northfield tenants. He also listed the advantages of having two separate high schools. The two most negative issues were the overall cost, as this was the most expensive option, and re-instituting District boundary lines. Mr. Hayes also discussed the 1-3 Enrollment Model study. In 1996, the West Center Recommissioning Study explored the 1-3 Enrollment Model, creating a freshman campus in Northfield. In 1997, the Upperclass Campus Study assessed whether the Winnetka campus would "have adequate classroom space to support an upperclass educational program." By 1998, the Board of Education unanimously voted to approve the 1-3 Enrollment model as an interim solution. When the freshman campus opened in 2001, the Voluntary option was still under study. There were annual reports to the Board from 2002 through 2005 on the status and effectiveness of the 1-3 Model.

Dr. Yonke summarized the community survey that was administered by ECRA in 1998. The survey provided information to the community and sought their input about the various options being considered. The Community was evenly divided between the single campus model and two four-year schools. She observed that the 1-3 model served as a compromise that addressed many of the concerns of all sides. The freshman campus provided a way to make a large school feel small and to provide closer attention to the needs of freshmen. The Board also continued to support expansion of extracurricular opportunities, and has continued to track participation trends since that time.

Board discussion followed regarding the success of the 1-3 Model and the challenge of communicating to the Community about the exhaustive study and research that contributed to the Board's decision in 1998. Mr. Myefski noted the importance of clearly communicating the reasons for the model of choice in order to garner Community support going forward. He specifically requested concise clarification of the motives for and against the two Schools model. Mr. Dolinko noted that beyond the discussion of numbers of students at the Northfield campus and the financial investment that would come with making a change in the enrollment model, is the need to plan with as much flexibility as possible. In twenty, thirty or fifty years, conditions may change and require closing one campus again. He noted that the Board should determine the best possible location for the community's financial investment. Dr. Yonke reminded the Board that the referendum was for not only more space, but it also was to address the issue of aging buildings. Mr. Dolinko viewed the current challenge to be a facilities investment decision and queried why there has not been a 1-3 Model report since 2005. Mr. Hayes reported that the annual reports became repetitious in their findings and perfunctory. The Administration and Board continued to closely monitor academic achievement and the extracurricular activities and participation report. There was a general discussion and consensus that since this year is the 10th anniversary of the opening of the freshman campus, it would be appropriate to look back and assess the model and its effectiveness. Ms. Serrino cited a lingering need to address and explain well, why the Winnetka campus cannot accommodate 4000+ students. This information needs to be fully complete and communicated to the Community. Further discussion followed on costs, the use of the two campuses, the need for the community to have this information in order to complete a survey, and the technology and learning needs of the 21st Century.

C. Long Range Facilities Planning

Dr. Yonke reviewed the history of facilities planning and development, noting the major facility changes over the last 110 years at the Winnetka and Northfield Campuses. She also shared information about facilities from the North Central Evaluation reports written in the 1960s, 1970s, 1980s and 1990s. The North Central reports focus mainly on curriculum and instruction; however, they always contained a component report on the facilities noting challenges and issues in particular at the Winnetka Campus. The Strategic Plan of 1995 included a significant section on facilities, largely in reaction to the 1992 North Central report. The Strategic Plan facilities section mapped out plans for significant improvement of the facilities at Winnetka, but did not include extensive renovations or building replacements. Dr. Yonke noted that enrollment projections impact facilities planning, and that the demographic projections show a period of stable enrollment in the next fifteen years. The future is still difficult to predict, which underscores the need for flexibility in facilities planning.

Discussion followed about the need for another special meeting in August or early September. Committees that could begin work include one to examine building/field space use at all New Trier properties; a committee to compare New Trier's facilities with those of other high-achieving high schools, both in the Chicago suburban area and throughout the country; and a committee to conduct an assessment of the effectiveness of the 1-3 Model. Ms. Ducommun noted the Community Engagement Committee should help establish committee memberships with broad representation from the community. Mr. Serrino noted the importance of utilizing all

the volunteers who indicated an interest in being on a committee.

Ms. Serrino thanked those in attendance and the Steering Committee for all their work. Dr. Yonke noted that all of the materials are posted on BoardDocs.

Mr. Dolinko moved and Mr. Merrick seconded the motion to adjourn the Special Meeting. Upon a voice vote being taken, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn.

The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

Wendy M. Serrino, President