

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

April 16, 2012

**New Trier Township High School
7 Happ Road, Room C234
Northfield, IL 60093**

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, Room C234 on Monday, April 16, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present

Mr. John Myefski, President
Ms. Carol F. Ducommun, Vice President
Mr. Alan Dolinko, President
Mr. Peter Fischer
Ms. Lori Goldstein
Mr. F. Malcolm Harris, Vice President
Mr. Patrick O'Donoghue

Administrator Present

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

Also Present

Ms. Niki Dizon, Director of Communications; Ms. Michele Slav, Director of Business Services; Mr. George Sanders, Director of Human Resources; Ms. Laurel Burman, Director of Special Education; Mrs. Linda Knier, Director of Academic Services; Ms. Athena Arvanitis, Director of Student Life; Mr. Randy Oberembt, Athletic Director; Mr. Christopher Johnson, Director of Technology; Mr. John Neiweem, Director of Physical Plant Services; Mr. Mark Onstott, Kinetic Wellness Department; Mr. Don Wurth, Science Department; Ms. Gretchen Stauder, Post High School Counseling Department; Ms. Mary Ann Apple, Technology Department; Mr. Peter Tragos, Social Studies Department; Ms. Robyn Ward, Science Department; Mr. Angel Villaluz, Technology Department; Mr. Jeremy Boscoccy, Technology Department; Ms. Kay Pothast, Kinetic Wellness Department; Mr. Pete Collins, Kinetic Wellness Department; Mr. Marty Laffey, President NTEA, Mathematics Department; Mr. Marc Garneau, Technology Department; Ms. Linda Straube, Technology Department; Mr. Tim Estberg, Music Department; Ms. Kathy Heublein, President NTESPA; Mr. Wes Molyneaux, Science Department; Mr. Jason Dane, Science Department; Mr. Andrew Docktor, English Department; Ms. Elizabeth Blodgett, Business Services Department, NTESPA Representative; and members of the Community.

I. CALL TO ORDER – 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Myefski called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to Order at 6:01 p.m. Roll call was taken. All members were present. Mr. Myefski asked for a motion to move to Closed Session. Mr. Dolinko moved and Mr. Harris seconded the motion that the Board move to closed session for the purpose of discussing the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity; and to discuss collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representatives, 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. Fischer, Ms. Goldstein, Mr. Harris, Mr. O'Donoghue, Mr. Dolinko, Mr. Myefski

NAY: None

The motion passed.

Adjournment to Closed Session – 6:04 p.m.

II. Closed Session – Room A201A

The Closed Session meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Student/Staff Recognition Program – Room C234 – 7:00 p.m.

BUSINESS MEETING

III. Reconvene to Open Session – 7:30 p.m. – C234

Mr. John Myefski reconvened the meeting, calling the open session meeting of the Board of Education to order in Room C234 at 7:30 p.m. All Board members were present. Mr. Myefski welcomed those in attendance, stating the Board had been in Closed Session earlier in the evening. He also noted that if anyone wished to speak to the Board, they should fill out a Communications Request Form found on the table at the back of the room. Mr. Myefski reported he had received two communications since the last Board meeting. The first was an email to the Board from Ms. Mollybelle Berish concerning work done to preserve the West Campus during the 1980s, and the second, from Linda Ball, requesting consideration of removing all soda from the student cafeteria. Mr. Myefski responded to both letters. Mr. Myefski also shared the great news of the Certificate for Excellence in Financial Reporting for New Trier District 203, noting it is the highest level of achievement in the area of government accounting and reporting. Mr. Myefski congratulated Mr. Don Goers, Associate Superintendent, for the accomplishment which is awarded by the Government Financial Officers' Association. Mr. Goers gratefully acknowledged his staff for their efforts in gaining this recognition.

IV. Minutes

Mr. Myefski noted the first agenda item was to approve the minutes of the March meeting. Mr. Dolinko moved and Mr. Fischer seconded the motion to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of March 19, 2012, open and closed session. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Ms. Goldstein, Mr. Harris, Mr. O'Donoghue, Mr. Dolinko, Ms. Ducommun, Mr. Fischer, Mr. Myefski

NAY: None

The motion passed.

V. Communications

Mr. Myefski invited members of the Community to share their comments with the Board. No one came forward to speak.

VI. Special Orders of Business

A. Board Officer Elections

Ms. Kelly, Secretary to the Board, called for nominations for the office of President of the Board of Education for the period of April 16, 2012 through the April 2013 Regular Board Meeting. Mr. Fischer nominated Mr. Alan Dolinko to be the next President of the Board. Ms. Ducommun seconded the motion. There being no further nominations, Mr. Dolinko was elected by acclamation to be the next President of the Board of Education through April 2013. Before the meeting continued, Dr. Linda Yonke thanked Mr. Myefski for all his efforts and leadership of the Board for the past year and presented him with a gift of appreciation. Mr. Dolinko exchanged seating with Mr. Myefski and assumed the office of the President. Mr. Dolinko expressed his gratitude to his fellow Board members and also thanked Mr. Myefski and Ms. Ducommun for their work. He then opened nominations for the office of Board Vice President. Mr. Fischer nominated Mac Harris. Ms. Goldstein seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations and Mr. Harris was elected Vice President by acclamation. Mr. Harris expressed his gratitude also and noted his pleasure and eagerness to fulfill his commitment to the school and the community. Mr. Dolinko then called for nominations for the office of Board Secretary, noting the custom whereby the Superintendent's secretary also serves as the Board's secretary. Mr. Fisher nominated Lou Anne Kelly, current secretary to

the Board. Mr. Myefski seconded the motion. Again, by acclamation Lou Anne Kelly was elected as Board Secretary for the next year.

B. Report from Campus Principals, Assistant Superintendents & Associate Superintendent

Dr. Yonke noted that Dr. Timothy Dohrer was absent due to a death in his family. Mr. Matt Ottaviano, Assistant Principal of the Winnetka Campus, reported the events and activities of that campus. He began with the Australian Tour, March 23 through April 3, with 180 music student participants from New Trier's Symphonic Wind Ensemble, the Concert Choir and the Symphony Orchestra. The visit was to our sister school, Pittwater High School in Mona Valle, which is sister city to Wilmette. Students were housed with families of Pittwater, attended school and performed in five performances which culminated at the Sydney Opera House. The tour was a phenomenal, first class experience and Mr. Ottaviano noted he was never more proud of a group of New Trier students. Other events included the conclusion of third quarter and mailing of report cards after Spring Break; the master scheduling for next year is progressing; Career Day was on April 12; fourth quarter senior projects have started; and the PSAE testing is scheduled for April 24 and 25. Sophomores and seniors do not have school on those days; however, they will have institute days. Lastly, Advanced Placement testing will take place on May 7 through May 18.

Mr. Paul Waechtler, Principal of the Northfield Campus, shared the current happenings at the freshman campus which included work on the master schedule; spring break; the Haiti service project assembly; and Aids Awareness Day. Mr. Waechtler noted that New Trier hosted a consortium of teachers and administrators from high schools across the country last Thursday through Saturday. He heard high praise for our staff and students from many of the attendees as they toured the school. Work involved with the incoming freshmen on their class work and scheduling continues. "After the Academics" will be on May 7 for students and parents. This is an introduction to the many opportunities in performing arts, athletics and school clubs for student participation. Mr. Waechtler also mentioned that advisor selection is going on at this time as well.

Mr. Timothy Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services highlighted the 21st Century Benchmark Consortium of which Mr. Waechtler spoke. Administrators from high schools in Nebraska, Texas, California and Missouri participated in sharing ideas and alternative approaches in education. In the area of equity work, a Beyond Diversity workshop was held over 2 days with 45 staff and student members. The workshop featured discussions of equity and race and the importance of this topic for students and adults. Mr. Hayes also noted an invitation to all parents for next Tuesday for a workshop called Voices in Equity. The Institute Day for the sophomores will include service learning projects and the Senior Institute Day will focus on their transitions beyond high school.

Mr. Paul Sally, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, reported that departments are in the middle of interviewing and hiring staff for next year and noted that very qualified candidates are coming forward. Textbook offerings will be discussed at next month's Board meeting. He stated that planning for next year's learning cohorts continues in the areas of individual professional development and other school issues.

Mr. Goers, Associate Superintendent, reported on one FOIA request that was received since the March Board meeting. The request was for information on enrollment in athletic participation by gender. A response was made and the item is closed out.

Dr. Linda Yonke further recounted the visit of the 21st Century Benchmark Consortium Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents and Principals. This year member districts brought teams of teachers to tour the Winnetka Campus. Dr. Yonke noted that these teachers and administrators are from high achieving schools from across the country, similar to New Trier. Their comments of positive feedback all touched on the quality of the teachers and student questions and the constant interaction of teachers with students throughout the day. It was a great experience to hear from them and work together on educational issues for the future.

C. Mobile Learning Project

Dr. Yonke introduced this agenda item noting that one of the Consortium schools, Eames ISD in Austin Texas, is approximately one year ahead of New Trier in piloting a mobile learning project. Discussions with them on their successes and challenges were very informative. Mr. Paul Sally and Mr. Christopher Johnson presented a report and video of the work of the Technology Planning Committee and the Mobile Device Professional Development Cohort. The focus of several years of meetings of the committee and cohort has included research and testing of mobile devices for student use. This type of device would provide the student with instant access to information and the ability to create new content; tablets also offer a wide variety of applications across the school curriculum. This report is a summary of mobile device pilots in a number of departments over this past year. The video included student testimonials of their uses of the devices; a look at eBooks; and the various departmental proposals in anatomy and the sciences, languages, English, and Social Studies. Mr. Sally and Mr. Johnson outlined a proposed expanded pilot program for next school year which would increase the number to 15 proposals submitted by faculty with a project budget of \$375,000. This would be funded by reallocations within the annual Technology Budget. Discussion followed with Mr. Johnson, Mr. Sally and Dr. Yonke responding to Board members' comments and questions. Topics examined included scholarships, the speed of change in technology, warranties, fees, purchase options, usage policies, and changes in the proportion of desktops, laptops and iPads.

D. Fee Discussion – Update

Dr. Yonke began the update report with a brief overview of the background material presented to the Board's Finance Committee. The background included a compilation of research into current New Trier student fees, fee comparisons to other area high schools and the fees of the township sender districts. The information demonstrates that fee schedules vary greatly. Dr. Yonke noted earlier discussion by the Board and the Finance Committee to examine the use of fees to offset the cost of books for students. Further research looked at all the costs involved in Athletics, Activities, and Performing Arts. The Administration team expressed concerns with adding fees to the extra-curricular program, as it may negatively impact the participation levels which were addressed in the Strategic Plan initiatives. The Finance Committee is seeking feedback from the Board about the goals of the study. Dr. Yonke queried the Board whether the intent is to reduce the cost of books as a primary objective and if so, is it to be addressed by raising fees somewhere else? Is the Board to stay fee-neutral or is there another objective?

Mr. Dolinko, as Chair of the Finance Committee, related an overview of the discussions and objectives of the Committee which reflected a wide range of thought. He stipulated, however, that there was strong feeling to not add fees to club activities for numerous reasons. There were compelling arguments both for and against raising fees for interscholastic athletics and Performing Arts. Mr. Myefski agreed with Mr. Dolinko and noted that considerable time was spent discussing the fees currently in effect, which are "all over the board". He also reported that Activities do currently have one flat fee. Extensive Board discussion followed. Mr. Fischer did not see any overriding philosophy toward fees; however, he noted that any changes contemplated would constitute a change in philosophy. He felt the issue addressing book costs is being met in a number of ways and additional cost reductions by adding fees elsewhere is not appropriate. Book costs should be addressed separately from other fees. Eliminating any current fees would be a visible change in philosophy that the District is subsidizing the activity. He also strongly supported an assistance or scholarship mechanism for any student who truly could not afford to pay for any opportunity. Mr. Fischer was in favor of a general club fee and supports fees to be paid by the parents. Ms. Ducommun agreed with Mr. Fischer and further cautioned the Board that attempting to answer these questions could be opening a Pandora's Box. She looked at the per student costs of athletics (\$1800.00), performing arts (\$975.00) and activities (\$766.00) and asked the Board to define school value and the larger question of philosophy. She agrees that book costs should be handled separately and felt the larger philosophical questions of what is public education and what it includes should be asked before addressing where fees should go. Ms. Goldstein expressed concern that participation would fall if fees were added. Mr. Myefski noted early fee discussions were focused on keeping the fee structure neutral and equitable. Discussion continued on what public education should be and what it should cost. Mr. Dolinko summarized for the Committee that the book costs should remain separate from all other fees; that users of the system should contribute to the enterprise; that anything going forward should be revenue neutral and should ensure equity and simplification. Further discussion followed on the wide number of factors that impact fees. Mr.

Dolinko was appreciative for the input by his fellow Board members and noted that the Committee will work and follow up on a recommendation in the coming months.

VII. Administrative Items

A. Budget Status Report & Financial Reports for March 2012

Mr. Don Goers reviewed the Financial Reports for March 2012 which includes the Cash Flow Statements, the Financial Statement for March, Quarterly Revenue and Expenditure Reports, and the New Trier Extension Report. Tax revenue receipts are in, significantly improving the District's position. He was pleased to note that Expenditures are closely in line with last year at this time, being within .1%. Two areas of expenses to watch are Special Education Tuition and Transportation. He also included a summary for New Trier Extension. Overall, he noted the reports were positive and all certainly within budget.

B. Budget Assumptions & Parameters – Capital Projects 2012-2013

Mr. Goers presented the 2012-13 Budget Assumptions & Parameters for the Board's review. The Preliminary Budget is set to be presented in May, the Tentative Budget in June, and the Final Budget in July. The process has already begun for the list of recommended Capital Projects for 2012-13 with the receipt of departmental requests which are reviewed by the Administration. The Board will be asked later for approval of those Capital Projects that are in excess of \$50,000. Mr. Goers also presented the State Maintenance Grant Program which will match dollar for dollar those maintenance and repair projects costing up to \$50,000. He highlighted the changes to the Budget Assumptions and Parameters on the key variables since first presented in December and reviewed the funding and financing of the Turf project. Mr. Goers noted that there are some significant capital projects coming and encouraged consideration of allocating some reserve funds to the Capital Projects fund for these future major facilities projects. He also reviewed the enrollment, salary increases, benefits, and purchased services. Long range projections currently foresee a balanced operating budget over the next five years. Finally, he noted the list of capital projects over \$50,000 and the submitted list of maintenance and repair projects for the State Grant Program. Mr. Goers invited questions and responded to questions and comments of the Board members. Mr. Fischer moved that the Board of Education approve those capital projects in excess of \$50,000 and the projects listed for submittal through the State Maintenance Grant program, as presented. Ms. Goldstein seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Ms. Goldstein, Mr. Harris, Mr. O'Donoghue, Mr. Myefski, Ms. Ducommun, Mr. Fischer, Mr. Dolinko

NAY: None

The motion passed.

C. Bid Approval for Gates Gym Windows

Mr. John Neiweem, Director of Physical Plant Services, reviewed the work to be done on the windows of the Gates Gym. He noted the windows had been scheduled for replacement in 2009, as part of Health Life Safety Amendment #17, but was delayed for the possible facilities work envisioned in the Referendum of February 2, 2010. Notification of bid was sent to seven contractors with only two of them attending the mandatory pre-bid meeting. Despite contacting all contractors again, only two companies submitted bids for the work. The low bidder was Auburn Corporation at \$339,556. Mr. Neiweem noted that the Auburn Corporation had completed several window replacement projects at New Trier over the last twenty years. He is very pleased with their work and recommends them without reservation. Board discussion followed with comments and questions from members, to which Mr. Neiweem responded. Mr. Myefski moved that the Board of Education award a contract to Auburn Corporation in the amount of \$339,556 for the installation of windows and all associated electrical, masonry and roof repair work on the Gates Gymnasium at the Winnetka Campus. Mr. Fischer seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Mr. Harris, Mr. O'Donoghue, Mr. Myefski, Ms. Ducommun, Mr. Fischer, Ms. Goldstein, Mr. Dolinko

NAY: None

The motion passed.

D. Personnel Resolution

Dr. Yonke noted this resolution is for an honorable discharge of an employee. It is due to changes in department staffing in which a teacher is coming back from a leave of absence and the number of fifth's cannot support both staff members. Dr. Yonke also noted the possibility of hiring this employee back, if further changes occur over the summer. Mr. Fischer moved that the Board approve the Personnel Resolution as presented. Ms. Goldstein seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

A YE: Mr. O'Donoghue, Mr. Myefski, Ms. Ducommun, Mr. Fischer, Ms. Goldstein, Mr. Harris, Mr. Dolinko

NAY: None

The motion passed.

VIII. Consent Agenda

- Bill List for the Period March 1-31, 2012
- Personnel Report

Mr. Dolinko noted the items within the consent agenda and asked if any Board member wished to remove any item for separate discussion. No items were specified for separate discussion. Mr. Myefski moved that the Board approve the Consent Agenda items which include the Bill List for March 1-31, 2012 and the Personnel Report as presented. Mr. Fischer seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

A YE: Mr. Myefski, Ms. Ducommun, Mr. Fischer, Ms. Goldstein, Mr. Harris, Mr. O'Donoghue, Mr. Dolinko

NAY: None

The motion passed.

IX. Board Member Reports

Mr. Fischer reported for the All School Forum and their recent discussions regarding the KONY 2012 video and about social service and the philosophy of social service work.

Ms. Goldstein shared news of events for the New Trier Parents Association, ECGC Parent Committee, Family Awareness Network and NSSED. Occasions of note include the sophomore parent program on Stress, the "Louder than a Bomb" movie screening to an audience of over 700, the staff appreciation breakfast, and Dr. Yonke's Book Talk on Practical Wisdom by Barry Schwartz. Ms. Goldstein also noted that NSSED presented their budget which will be voted on in June.

Mr. Harris reported on the upcoming Booster Club fundraising event on May 10. It is an exhibition game of the Chicago Sky vs. the Washington Mystics and it will be in the Gates Gym. Tickets are \$15 per person and all proceeds will go towards the Turf Field Project.

Ms. Ducommun noted that the Fine Arts Association continues to work on their new logo. Meeting discussions also included the Speech and Theater Department's facility needs.

Mr. Myefski reminded any homeowner who has lived in their home more than 10 years, has an income under \$100,000, and has not had a significant decrease in their home's assessment is eligible for a substantial homeowners' tax exemption, if they are able to complete the forms before April 18.

Mr. Dolinko noted that with the change of Board officers there will be a new list of committee assignments for next year. He encouraged fellow members to consider their interests and to let him know their preferences for assignment.

X. Board Members' Calendar of Events

- Calendar of Events

Dr. Yonke reported that the Spring Orchestra Concert is Wednesday, April 18 in the Gaffney Auditorium at 7:30pm; the Menz Dance performance is Thursday, April 19 in the Cornog at 7:30pm and the Prairie State Tests are scheduled for next week on April 24 and April 25.

- Board Members' Request for Staff Research

There were no requests for staff research.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. O'Donoghue moved that the Board adjourn the meeting. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote being taken, all members were in favor.

The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 10:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

Alan R. Dolinko, President