

**NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
February 21, 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 Tuesday, February 21, 2012 at 5:30 p.m.

Members Present

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

Also Present

Ms. Niki Dizon, Director of Communications; Mr. Matt Ottaviano, Assistant Principal for Administrative Services; Ms. Michele Slav, Director of Business Services; Mr. George Sanders, Director of Human Resources; Ms. Laurel Burman, Director of Special Education; Ms. Athena Arvanitis, Director of Student Life; Ms. Denise Hibbard, Assistant Principal, Northfield Campus; Mr. Terry Phillips, Mathematics Department; Ms. Judy MacNab, Library Department; Mr. Tom Shorrock, Post High School Counseling Department; Mr. Josh Wenger, ARAMARK, Manager; Mr. John Huston, Chicago Tribune; and members of the Community.

I. CALL TO ORDER – 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Myefski called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to Order at 5:35 p.m. Roll call was taken. All members were present. Mr. Myefski noted the first item of business was a Closed Session and 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; and to discuss the minutes of meetings lawfully closed, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or the semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06. 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 – 5:35 p.m.

II. Closed Session – Room A201A

The Closed Session meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

BUSINESS MEETING

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

Mr. John Myefski reconvened the Business meeting to open session, calling the meeting of the Board of Education to order in Room C234 at 7:36 p.m. All Board members were present. Mr. Myefski welcomed those in attendance and noted that if anyone wished to speak to the Board that they should fill out a Communications Request Form found on the table at the back of the room.

IV. Minutes

Mr. Myefski noted the first agenda item was to approve the minutes of the December meeting. Mr. Dolinko noted a correction to page 3 of the Minutes to the Open Session Meeting of January 17, 2012 which stated “Vernon Hills High School received \$10,000”. The correct amount is \$100,000. The correction was noted. Mr. Dolinko then moved with Mr. Fischer seconding the motion to approve the corrected minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of January 17, 2012, open and closed session. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Mr. Fischer, Ms. Goldstein, Mr. Harris, Mr. O’Donoghue, Mr. Dolinko, Ms. Ducommun, 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. Beauty & the Beast Presentation

Mr. Tim Estberg, Music Director of the Choir Opera spring production of Beauty & the Beast presented an opening number of the show with students, Hailey Himmelman as Belle and Tom Hayes as Gaston.

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

Mr. Paul Waechtler, Principal of the Northfield Campus reported on the various events and activities taking place at the freshman campus, which included the Kinesis Dance Concert in early February, Odyssey nights in February and March, the Turnabout Dance, Student Senate, course selection for incoming freshmen and the Service Learning projects for this year. The funding efforts and Service Learning will benefit the Haiti Initiative, Dulles School in Chicago and Green Bay School in Waukegan. The student production of Beauty & the Beast will be March 8 through March 11.

Dr. Yonke noted that Dr. Timothy Dohrer is not in attendance as he became ill today.

Mr. Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services shared some of the happenings at the Winnetka Campus which included a Barbara Crane exhibit in the Brierly Art Center. He noted she was one of the first photography teachers here and is considered to be the founder of the photography program. The Choraliers will be performing on Wednesday this week and the Wind Ensemble will perform on Thursday. The IHSA Swim meet will take place at Evanston Township this weekend. Mr. Hayes noted the preparations for the District articulation program for Social and Emotional Learning Skills to be addressed throughout the township for levels K through 12. This evening there is also a meeting of the summer abroad program that is part of Summer School.

Mr. Paul Sally, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, reported on the Institute Day which was yesterday, February 20. The focus of the day included work on the school reform legislation, follow-up on the earlier discussions of resilience from Institute Day with Dr. Ken Ginsburg, and further meetings of the Learning Cohorts. Mr. Sally, with the Department Chairs, participated in discussions at Wilmette Junior High's Institute Day which focused on the state's Common Core Curriculum that is being developed in the new state test. While the discussions were primarily K through 8 the reforms are inclusive of K through 12.

Mr. Don Goers, Associate Superintendent, recounted the six FOIA requests that were received since the last regular Board meeting. These included requests for information on the synthetic turf project and bidding process; graduation photography services provided in the District; District milk purchases during the previous school year; grade distributions across levels and subjects for two New Trier class levels; information on private tutoring and Board policy on usage and rental of New Trier facilities. All six requests were responded to and are closed out.

C. Board Calendar 2012-2013

Mr. Myefski began the discussion on the proposed Board Calendar of meetings for 2012-2013 and asked for comments or questions. Mr. Dolinko noted the typical time for considering the Board Calendar occurs in April at the time of the Board re-organization and requires Board action for approval which is not on the present agenda. He recommended that it be added to the Consent Agenda of the March meeting and thereby gain Board approval. There was general consensus of agreement for this and there were no recommended changes to the Calendar. Dr. Yonke noted that the school Master Calendar process begins in March and it is beneficial to have the Board's meeting dates prior to this meeting.

D. Update on School Reform Implementation

Dr. Yonke provided a PowerPoint presentation of her update report on the Administration's implementation of the School Reform Legislation and its connection to the Side Letter Agreements of the NTEA current contract. The three side letters concern the issues of teacher supervision/evaluation; scale placement and review; and the Performance Evaluation Review Act (PERA). Dr. Yonke reviewed the requirements of the law (Senate Bill 7) and the tasks set forth, being the creation of a Joint Committee and the revision of the teacher evaluation plan. The purpose of the Senate Bill 7 on School Reform Legislation is to 1) lessen the impact of seniority and maximize the importance of teacher evaluation in employment decisions; 2) institute changes to teacher evaluation, tenure, dismissal, reduction in force; and 3) beginning in 2012-13, requires a standard rating system for all school districts in the state: Four ratings (Excellent, Proficient, Needs Improvement, Unsatisfactory). Dr. Yonke indicated that implementation of the new rating system at New Trier should not interfere with New Trier values such as experimentation, risk-taking, and action research. Ratings will consist of more than one classroom observation, and a detailed explanation of how ratings will be determined will be established by the beginning of the next school year. The Joint Committee goals will be to keep the Merit Scale system as a focus of teacher development and recognition. Dr. Yonke explained the law on honorable dismissal and the authority given to the District Level Joint Committee on Honorable Dismissal.

Dr. Yonke noted that work needs to continue on the Side Letter #1, the Revision of the Evaluation Plan, specifically on the document *Characteristics of Professional Practice* and the definition and assignment of ratings; on Side Letter #2, the Merit Scale System, Merit Scale IV and V Review; and Side Letter #3 PERA in considering student growth in teacher evaluations. Board discussion followed the presentation with Dr. Yonke responding to Board members' questions. Discussion included Performance Evaluation Review; Reduction in Force; appeals; teacher evaluations and observations; groupings, categories and endorsements.

VII. Administrative Items

A. Financial Reports for January 2012

Mr. Goers presented the Financial Reports for January 2012 which included the Cash Flow Statements that are more in line with previous years, due to the timing of the tax receipts. There were no additional questions from the Board.

B. Supplemental Levy DSEB Resolution 2012

Mr. Goers reviewed the changes in the Debt Service Extension Base that have been allowed by Public Act 096-0501 passed August 14, 2009, which permits school districts under the Tax Cap to increase the DSEB each year, starting with the 2009 Levy, by the lesser of 5% or the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) during the twelve-month calendar year preceding the levy year. The District's actual DSEB has increased in levy years 2011 and 2012, based on the 2010 and 2011 CPI. By passing this Resolution, the District can increase the DSEB as it relates to the 2010 Health Life Safety bond Issue thereby reducing the funds needing to come from the District's Operational Funds. The DSEB (Debt Service Extension Base) increased to \$2,538,299 in 2011, the debt amount in excess of DSEB decreases from \$172,391 to 134,879 and in 2012 the debt amount in excess of DSEB is decreased from \$171,541 to \$57,881 based on the adjusted actual DSEB of \$2,614,447. The difference is offset by the supplemental Tax Levy for Debt Services. Mr. Goers responded to Board members' questions. Mr. Dolinko moved to approve the attached Resolution authorizing a supplemental tax levy to pay the principal of and interest on outstanding limited bonds of Township High School District 203, Cook County, Illinois. 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. Dolinko, Ms. Ducommun, Mr. Fischer, Mr. Myefski

NAY: None

The motion passed.

C. Northfield Fence Project Bids

Mr. John Neiweem, Director of Physical Plant Services, presented a report recommending replacement of the perimeter fencing at the Northfield Campus. This project is the final piece of the Health Life Safety Amendment #6 package from July of 2007. Eleven contractors attended the Pre-Bid Meeting and nine subsequently submitted competitive bids. Mr. Neiweem is recommending the low bidder, Tru-Link Fence Products Inc. for the work to be completed in the summer of 2012. Mr. Neiweem invited questions or comments from the Board members. Discussion included the number of bids, the competitive nature of the bids, and the scope of the work as it relates to the Synthetic Turf Project. Mr. Dolinko moved that the Board of Education award a contract to True-Link Fence Products, Inc. for \$131,592.00. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

D. Private Placement Refunding 2005A Bonds

Mr. Goers reviewed the effects of the historically low interest rates and their significant negative impact on the District's interest earnings in investments. However, the low rates also offer opportunities that could benefit the District when seeking financing agreements. Mr. Goers has monitored the refinancing opportunities of the District's long-term debt and found that the 2005 Series A bonds will be callable on December 1, 2012. Refinancing these bonds based on the current market would generate savings of approximately \$320,500. It is possible to lock in current low interest rates through a private placement if a bank is interested in providing a forward lock refunding by September 2, 2012 which is within 90 days of the call date. PMA, which serves as the District's financial advisor, would serve as placement agent and would contact numerous banks to ascertain their interest in the refunding and solicit their interest rates. The transaction fee for this is \$15,000 and could also be applied to a future transaction of these bonds if the District chose to pass on the private placement. Mr. Goers indicated the timing was good for a no-risk sale; the District maintains its Aaa rating and this would be an opportunity to take advantage of the low market rates. Discussion followed as Board members questioned Mr. Goers on the 2005A Bonds original transaction and PMA financial advice. Mr. Fischer moved that the Board approve the attached Private Placement Agent Agreement with PMA as presented. Mr. Dolinko seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

E. Board Policy 4-40

Mr. Goers reviewed the proposed correction to Board Policy 4-40, specifically to the paragraphs C & D of 4-40R Procedures for Investment of School District Funds. He noted that this policy had been approved by the Board in December 2011; however, the Diversification references had not been changed to the revised new paragraph C.3. Mr. Goers explained the corrections and recommended that the Board waive the requirement for a second reading and approve the corrected policy as submitted. Mr. Dolinko moved and Mr. Harris seconded the recommendation that the Board waive the requirement for a second reading and approve the corrected Policy 4-40R as submitted. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

VIII. Consent Agenda

- Bill List for the Period January 1-31, 2012
- Personnel Report
- Board Policy Revisions – Second Reading
- Investment Portfolio Review
- Scholarship Allocation Report
- Closed Session Records
- Booster Club Fundraising Proposal

Mr. Myefski noted the items within the consent agenda and asked if any Board member wished to remove any item for separate discussion. None of the items was specified for discussion. Mr. Dolinko moved that the Board approve the Consent Agenda items, which include approval of the Bill List for the period of January 1-31, 2012 as presented; the Personnel Report and Addendum dated February 21, 2012 as presented; Board Policy Revisions as presented on second reading; the Investment Portfolio Review as presented; the New Trier High School Scholarship Trust Fund maximum allocation of \$95,387 for scholarships for the 2012 graduating class; the opening of the following Closed Session Minutes for :

- The Closed Session Minutes for Regular Meeting Closed Session for July 27, 2009
- The Closed Session Minutes for Regular Meeting Closed Session for August 24, 2009
- The Closed Session Minutes for Special Meeting Closed Session for August 31, 2009
- The Closed Session Minutes for Regular Meeting Closed Session for September 21, 2009
- The Closed Session Minutes for Special Meeting Closed Session for October 8, 2009
- The Closed Session Minutes for Regular Meeting Closed Session for May 17, 2010
- The Closed Session Minutes for Special Meeting Closed Session for February 7, 2011
- The Closed Session Minutes for Regular Meeting Closed Session for March 21, 2011
- The Closed Session Minutes for Special Meeting Closed Session for May 16, 2011

And the Booster Club Commemorative Brick Sale promotion as presented. Mr. Fischer seconded the motion. 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.

IX. Board Member Reports

Mr. Fischer reported on the All School Forum meeting on the topic of the iPad pilot project. Mr. Chris Johnson will follow up on questions brought forth. The New Trier Foundation is preparing for their Hall of Honor Award ceremony on March 15. The evening honors the achievements of ten alumni this year. There are still tickets available for the event. Nine of the ten honored alumni will be present; only Ann Margaret has declined as she is unable to attend. Other alumni so honored are a Tuskegee Airman, scientist, diplomat and Mayor of Chicago.

Mr. Myefski noted that the Technology committee met regarding the iPad proposed initiative. There is no new information for the Board at this time.

Mr. O'Donoghue reported on the accessibility issues at the Northfield Campus. The ADA Task Force discussed, toured the campuses, and focused on prioritizing the list of issues for the Facilities Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will meet on March 6.

Mr. Harris stated that the Booster Club is busy planning for the fundraising campaign for the synthetic turf project. In the Consent Agenda tonight the Board gave approval for their proposal for recognition of individual donors. The recommendation is for a commemorative Brick Sale, with brick placement somewhere in the

entrance area to the field. They are also making plans for corporate participation in the fundraising project.

Ms. Goldstein reported for the NSSED that they have approved their new restructuring. All but on district voted for the change. 70% of the IDEA funds will go back to the Districts. Those funds will be taken away from the programming and used for membership costs. No district will be withdrawing from NSSED. An intergovernmental agreement has been adopted with Wagner Farm in Glenview whereby NSSED students can work at the farm. On Thursday, March 1 from 1-4pm, in the Cornog Auditorium, a presentation by Ross Green is scheduled. He is an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at Harvard's School of Medicine. The title of the presentation is "Kids Do Well if They Can" is a look at collaborative problem solving for parents and professionals. The New Trier Parents Association wants to thank parents, the Booster Club and the Educational Foundation for all their efforts toward the memorial celebration for Jan Borja. Also thanks to ECGC for contributing food to the reception. The steering committee and the parent committees both met in the last weeks and all spent moments remembering Jan and her legacy to ECGC. It was noted "Jan did not just model SEL, she lived SEL. It was in her genes." The steering committee has recognized and is appreciative of the teachers and staff in the Learning Cohorts who have incorporated ECGC activities. They have adopted a new mission statement, which is "To teach and model those social and emotional learning skills that support emotional wellness, academic learning and a safe, ethical and respectful learning community." Their next mission is to develop a new name.

Dr. Yonke took the opportunity to thank the Board for allowing the New Trier community the day for the memorial service for Jan Borja. She noted that while the administrators came together to plan and help with the day, it was the teacher experts who pitched in with their talents to make the day so successful. . Jen McDonough, Nina Lynn, Anne James-Noonan, Tim Estberg, John Haynor, Tom Garrity, and the whole Music Department were but a few of the many who planned and carried out the beautiful memorial service Mr. Myefski also noted how impressed he was at the entire New Trier community coming together for the memorial service which was attended by over 800 people.

X. Board Members' Calendar of Events

- Calendar of Events

Dr. Yonke briefly noted calendar highlights which included *Beauty & the Beast* student musical production, the Turnabout Dance this weekend and the next Board of Education meeting on March 19.

- Board Members' Request for Staff Research

Mr. Myefski requested that Don Goers prepare a letter for homeowners explaining to taxpayers the differences between the Homeowner's Exemption and the Long Term Homeowner's Exemption. He noted that substantial savings are available for those who would qualify for the Long Term Exemption.

Dr. Yonke noted that work on Policy 8-80 - Gifts, Naming, Advertising and Tribute, has begun with the creation of the ad-hoc committee. Members include Dr. Yonke, Mr. Fischer, Mr. Dolinko, Mr. Sally, a community member and a teacher. She noted that they were looking for two new members. The first meeting was last week and the next will be in March.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Dolinko moved that the Board adjourn the meeting. Ms. Goldstein seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote being taken, all members were in favor.

The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

John Myefski, President