

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

**May 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 Monday, May 21, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.

**Members Present**

Mr. Alan R. Dolinko, President  
Mr. F. Malcolm Harris, Vice President  
Ms. Carol F. Ducommun  
Mr. Peter Fischer  
Ms. Lori Goldstein  
Mr. John Myefski  
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  
Dr. Timothy Dohrer, Principal – Winnetka Campus  
Mr. Paul Waechtler, Principal – Northfield Campus

**Also Present**

Ms. Niki Dizon, Director of Communications; 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. Christopher Johnson, Director of Technology; Mr. Matt Ottaviano, Assistant Principal, Winnetka Campus; Ms. Denise Hibbard, Assistant Principal, Northfield Campus; Ms. Maureen Magee, Technology Department; Ms. Gretchen Stauder, Post High School Counseling Department; Ms. Mary Ann Apple, Technology Department; Mr. Marty Laffey, President NTEA, Mathematics Department; Ms. Kathy Heublein, President NTESPA; Ms. Elizabeth Blodgett, Business Services Department, NTESPA Representative; Ms. Stephanie Farruggia, Special Education Department; Mr. Terry Phillips, Mathematics Department; Mr. Erik Saszik, Mathematics Department; Mr. Josh Wenger, Aramark; Mr. Roger Thornton, Energy Education, Mr. John Huston, Chicago Tribune; Ms. Kimberly Fornek, Pioneer Press; Mrs. Brooke Conkey and members of the Community.

**I. CALL TO ORDER – 6:30 p.m.**

Mr. Dolinko called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to Order at 6:30 p.m. Roll call was taken. All members were present. Mr. Dolinko asked for a motion to move to Closed Session. Mr. O'Donoghue moved and Mr. Fischer 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 lastly to discuss litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular District has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the District finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the closed meeting minutes. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

**Adjournment to Closed Session – 6:33 p.m.**

**II. Closed Session – Room A201A**

The Closed Session meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

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

Mr. Alan Dolinko reconvened the meeting, calling the open session meeting of the Board of Education to order in Room C234 at 7:34 p.m. All Board members were present. Mr. Dolinko 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.

**IV. Minutes**

Mr. Dolinko requested a motion to approve the minutes of the March meeting.

Mr. Fischer moved and Mr. O'Donoghue seconded the motion to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of April 16, 2012, open and closed session. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

**V. Communications**

Mr. Dolinko invited members of the Community to share their comments with the Board. Mrs. Brooke Conkey shared her concerns about the proposed changes in the naming rights policy.

Mr. Dolinko also acknowledged receiving written communications from Brooke Conkey regarding Board Policy 8-80. The Board received additional letters from Jen Stanko, Aylah Weinstein, Louis Justman and Becca Conviser regarding a staff member.

**VI. Special Orders of Business**

**A. Report from Campus Principals, Assistant Superintendents & Associate Superintendent**

Mr. Paul Waechtler, Principal of the Northfield Campus, reported on the many activities taking place on the freshman campus which included the year end activities of the Haiti Project, and the partnership with St. Joseph School in Haiti to rebuild the school after the earthquake. There also was a benefit Walk and Pancake Breakfast for the Haiti Project. Springfest occurred last week, hosted by Student Senate; adviser rooms and clubs raised money and increased awareness of the need for assistance to complete the school. After the Academics took place on May 7 to introduce incoming freshmen to the Athletics, Fine Arts and Student Activities and Clubs available to them next year. Other events also include the Dance Theater New Trier performances and the Shakespeare Festival.

Dr. Tim Dohrer, Principal of the Winnetka Campus, highlighted the happenings at the east campus which included Prom on April 28, the Sophomore and Senior Instituted Days on April 24 and 25 while the Juniors were taking the PSAT tests. The sophomores were involved with service learning projects with their advisor rooms and the seniors were meeting in discussions on transitions from high school. The AP Art Show is taking place at the Student Lounge at the Winnetka Campus. Senior Project Exhibitions are scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, April 23 & 24 in gyms G108 and G109. Those seniors participating in Senior Project present their work and share their projects with other students, staff and parents. Friday, May 25 is the last day of attendance for seniors. Trevia day is also on the same day. Seniors will gather one more time on Friday, June 1 for Commencement practice. Commencement is on Sunday, June 3 at 5:00 p.m. at Northwestern University's Welsh Ryan Arena.

Mr. Tim Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, acknowledged and thanked Mr. Todd Maxman, Junior Advisor Chair and Mr. Josh Seldess, Freshman Advisor Chair for their service to the District. Both gentlemen are moving on in their careers. Mr. Maxman will go back to the classroom in the Social Studies Department at New Trier and Mr. Seldess has taken a position as Division Chair of Social Studies at Oak Park/River Forest High School. Mr. Hayes complimented and thanked them both on efforts in continuing the excellence of the adviser program.

Mr. Paul Sally, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, reported on the work being done as the state of Illinois is developing a new common core curriculum for English, Mathematics and the next generation Science standards. More information will be forthcoming as the state begins to implement the changes. Mr. Sally noted the departments have been working to understand the new standards and how our curriculum aligns with them. We are also working with the junior high schools on the changes that will affect them.

Mr. Don Goers, Associate Superintendent, noted that there were two FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) requests since the last Regular Board meeting. The first was requesting salary information on a current employee and the second wanted the number of students with 504 plans. Both requests were responded to and have been closed out.

## **B. New Textbook Adoptions**

Dr. Yonke prefaced the report by stating that this approval is for adopting new print textbooks. The Board will be presented with the new e-textbooks at the June 4, 2012 Regular meeting. Mr. Sally noted that the adoption list for print text books is small compared to past years, due in large part to the transitions to electronic books. He stated the departments are looking at ways to extend current textbooks with supplemental materials to observe and evaluate what develops in the school e-book market over the next year. Mr. Sally invited and responded to questions and comments by Board members. Discussion covered the length of time before textbooks are replaced; the use of books for at least four years before replacement; the separation of the pilot programs for e-books and iPads; and the sensitivity the administration has shown to the issue of book costs. Ms. Ducommun moved to approve the proposed New Textbook Adoptions for 2012-2013 School Year as presented. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

## **C. Board Representative/Liaison Assignments**

Dr. Yonke reported that new representative/liason assignments have been determined for the next school year. Board members attend the meetings of the assigned committees and organizations in order to share and facilitate open communications between Board members and the school community.

## **D. Board Policy Revisions – First Reading**

Dr. Yonke reviewed the policies that are being presented to the Board for consideration for revision and briefly outlined the suggested changes. The policies include Policy 5-90 Staff Use of Technology; Policy 7-245 Student Use of Cellular Telephones; Policy 7-250 Student Use of Technology; Policy 7-255 Student Publishing on the Website; and Policy 8-80 Gifts, Naming, Advertising and Tribute. Dr. Yonke noted this was the first reading for these changes and the committee was seeking discussion that would indicate whether the policy needs changes that would send it back to the committee, whether there was no need for changes, or whether the committee should completely start over. Mr. Dolinko proposed that the Board discuss the technology policies as a group and then address Policy 8-80 separately. Board discussion followed on the application of policy to include the guest network and the revocation of privileges. Mr. Dolinko noted that there was a typographical repetitive phrase in the first reading draft of Policy 5-90. It was duly noted and will be corrected for the second reading. Mr. Johnson was also queried about

communicating the policy to students. Mr. Johnson and Dr. Yonke responded that the policies are published in the Guidebook and reviewed in adviser rooms. The new policy is more clear, especially since the separate cell phone policy is combined with the general student technology policy. The Guidebook will no longer have repetitive information and will be clearer to understand since it also includes the Acceptable Use Regulations (AUR).

The Board's discussion on Policy 8-80 began with Mr. Fischer, member of the Policy Committee and the special committee, reviewing the background of the committee's discussions. These included the need for an overall philosophy toward naming and advertising and the need for a balanced approach to gifts and donations. He noted the past practice is to name facilities only for people who provided meritorious service to the District; the new policy introduces the possibility of naming facilities for a donor who contributes more than half the cost of the new or renovated facility. Committee discussion also included advertising, though there is little change proposed in that part of the policy. He remarked that philanthropy is part of our society and within certain economic conditions the District could benefit by leaving giving opportunities open to those willing to donate significant funds. He stressed the need for checks and balance and all decisions would be at the Board's discretion. Mr. Dolinko added that the committee spent more time debating the advertising issue than the naming issue. He noted that selling space or time to corporations for marketing to garner revenue was not something the committee was endorsing right now. Dr. Yonke remarked there was a commitment on the committee not to expose students to commercial messaging during the school day. The only advertising allowed would be in printed programs for extracurricular events, if approved in advance. The two changes to the Naming Policy were to expand who is eligible for naming due to meritorious service to the District to include people other than staff members (who are already eligible). Another change allows for the possibility of naming in return for a significant donation toward a significant facilities project. A minimum donation amount was not stipulated; however, the donation must be at least half the cost of a major facilities project.

Board discussion followed with Mr. Harris speaking in support of the advertising part of the policy. He queried however, what the guidelines would be to make decisions regarding donations and what constitutes a "major project". Mr. Fischer pointed out that the Committee wanted to keep as much discretion as possible with the Board. The discussion and conversation of this should be open and in public. Mr. Harris stated his belief that the project must be substantial to qualify for a naming opportunity. Dr. Yonke pointed out that projects of substantial size would include new buildings or the significant renovation of existing buildings. Mr. Dolinko noted that the Board should not refuse to consider the possibilities associated with major donations, while at the same time the Board would not necessarily be open to every project being an opportunity for naming. Ms. Ducommun agreed with the proposed changes and felt the intent was clear. Ms. Goldstein noted the importance of the Board's duty to the taxpayer consider philanthropic possibilities. Mr. Myefski stated donations associated with naming opportunities should only be considered if a transformative change to the facility were to occur. Furthermore, he indicated the Board needs to remain flexible to listen and consider economic options and naming opportunities. Discussion continued on wording, the issue of "selling the District", and details of the Donation Committee and its role. Mr. Dolinko reminded all that this is the first reading and a vote will be expected after the second reading in June. No specific changes to any of the policies were suggested.

## **VII. Administrative Items**

### **A. 2012-2013 Preliminary Budget & Financial Reports for April 2012**

Mr. Don Goers noted that the Preliminary Budget still had key variables in question such as support staff salaries and benefits, state and federal revenues, final staffing hires and the possible legislative action on pension reform. He reviewed the modifications made to the April projections in the areas of salaries, employee benefits, Capital, other expenditures and revenues. The net impact of the modifications will increase the reserve levels by about \$200,000 to \$250,000 which will increase the projected Fund Balance by approximately \$1.1 million in FY2016-17 to \$70.1million. There remain however, the significant unknowns of possible pension reform and identified facility needs. Mr. Goers also reviewed the transfer of funds discussed at the April Regular meeting from the Operating Funds to the Capital Projects Fund. He showed the projected revenues and expenditures of the Capital Project Fund over the next six years which reflects the payment of the synthetic turf fields. The Tentative Budget will be presented at the June Regular

Meeting. Mr. Goers, Dr. Yonke and Mr. Hayes responded to Board members' questions on Service Learning and pension reform. Mr. Goers also noted the inclusion of the Financial Reports for April 2012.

## **B. Energy Education**

Dr. Yonke and Mr. Goers provided an introduction and background on Energy Education, a company offering energy management services to schools. The Energy Education approach to energy is to provide significant savings by changing people's behavior within the organization, resulting in a reduction in energy consumption. The recent proposal by Energy Education provides for the compensation and training of the energy specialist and the District would be responsible for the energy accounting software, approximately \$25,000 spread over the first five years. Mr. Goers noted a number of areas of question for Energy Education as to the types of behavior modifications, the impact on occupants and the learning environment, and verification of the metrics used to estimate savings. Mr. Dolinko invited Board comment on the program. Mr. Fischer queried if the estimates were based on our use of energy and if it would be possible to hire an energy consultant. Ms. Ducommun expressed many concerns that the program is not cost free and would be a huge investment over time. She also pointed out the surrendering of control and management to Energy Education. Mr. Myefski agreed that the first step would be to determine if the Board believes the District should have an energy conservation program. He stated if that is the case then the District should look at all the options available for analysis to decide the best direction. Mr. Myefski agreed that the control issue is troubling but has more concerns about the District seeing the return on savings to be more immediate. Mr. Dolinko summarized that if energy conservation is the goal because it is the right thing to do, then the task should be given to a committee to look at all the options and recommend the best solutions. It became the consensus of the Board members that Dr. Yonke set up a special committee to address this issue. Mr. O'Donoghue suggested it should include looking at all consumables and the area of purchasing.

## **C. Food Service Bid**

Mr. Goers reviewed the awarding of the Food Service contract to Aramark last year for this current school year, 2011-2012. The year began with start-up problems which included 1.) The food service provider's lack of adjustment to a new environment and culture; 2.) The District's adjustment to a new food service provider and their way of operating; 3.) Aramark's strict interpretation of the wellness policy which unnecessarily resulted in the elimination of all fried foods, MSG, sodium, and the overuse of wheat-based product in their recipes (for pizza, pasta and bread); and, 4.) Management mistakes and deficiencies. These problems led to growing dissatisfaction with the food quality. Time was spent early in the year attempting to turn the situation around; however, not until the request for viable options for contractors for the 2012-13 school year did significant changes occur. Since that time, feedback from students and staff has been much more positive. Food service sales have increased and Aramark is committed to sustaining this level of food quality and service. Mr. Goers recommended another one-year contract requiring mutual agreement for continuation in future years. Board discussion followed with the consensus being that the contract would end if the current level of quality is not provided in a sustainable way. Mr. Myefski moved that the Board of Education renew its second annual contract with Aramark and that the Food Service Bids received on April 5, 2012 be rejected. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

## **VIII. Consent Agenda**

- Bill List for the Period April 1-30, 2012
- Personnel Report & Addenda
- IASB Annual Dues 2012-2013

Mr. Dolinko noted the three 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. Fischer moved that the Board approve the Consent Agenda items which include the Bill List for April 1-30, 2012, the Personnel Report with the Addenda and the IASB Annual Dues for 2012-2013 as presented. Mr. Myefski 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. Myefski, Mr. O'Donoghue,  
Mr. Dolinko

NAY: None

The motion passed.

**IX. Board Member Reports**

Mr. Fischer noted the Policy Committee work was reported earlier in the meeting. He reported the Executive Committee for the New Trier Education Foundation discussed future donation possibilities as their fundraising is going well. The benefit golf outing will be in September. The All School Forum had its last meeting of the year featuring two New Trier alumni addressing students on the valuable experiences they had at New Trier which prepared them well for success at Indiana and Michigan Universities.

Ms. Goldstein reported for NSSSED; their budget will be approved at the June meeting. To save money, they are making staff reductions from 12-month to 9-month. Their curriculum committee reported on their shift in focus from equal access for the disabled to curriculum mapping which is more similar to current general education. For the New Trier Parents Association Ms. Goldstein reported on the Prom and Graduation activities and the sponsored exam breakfast on June 6. ECGC Parent, Student and Staff committees all are celebrating their year of work at their last meeting. They are planning a parent blog on Social and Emotional Learning for next year.

Mr. Harris reported for the Booster Club noting their current fundraising efforts for the Turf Project. Their event on May 10 was an exhibition game of the Chicago Sky vs. the Washington Mystics at the Gates Gym. Proceeds will go towards the Turf Field Project.

Mr. O'Donoghue attended the Technology Committee meeting, where Chris Johnson outlined the iPad program in detail for next year.

**X. Board Members' Calendar of Events**

- Calendar of Events

Dr. Yonke thanked the Board for the Recognition Dinner which took place on Friday, May 18. She extended a special thank you to Niki Dizon, Renee Mosley, Tom Garrity and Mike Hill for all their efforts and hard work in planning and implementing the event. Retirees were honored as well as newly tenured teachers and those celebrating 10 and 25 years of service to the District. She also noted the next Board of Education meeting is in two weeks, on June 4. June 8 is the last day of school and Summer School starts on June 11.

- Board Members' Request for Staff Research  
There were no requests for staff research.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Ducommun 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 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

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Alan R. Dolinko, President