

**NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
November 19, 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, November 19, 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

**Administrators Present**

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

**Also Present**

Ms. Niki Dizon, Director of Communications; Mr. George Sanders, Director of Human Resources; Ms. Ellen Ambuehl, Director of Special Education; Mr. Christopher Johnson, Director of Technology; Mr. Matt Ottaviano, Assistant Principal, Winnetka Campus; Mrs. Linda Knier, Director of Academic Services; Ms. Athena Arvanitis, Director of Student Life; Mr. Terry Phillips, Mathematics Department, NTEA President; Mr. Erik Saszik, Mathematics Department; Ms. Judy Macnab, Library Department Chair; Ms. Jenn McDonough, Applied Arts Department Coordinator; Ms. Carolyn Muir, Social Studies Department, Service Learning Coordinator; Mr. Jim Conroy, Department Chair, Post High School Counseling Department; Ms. Jill Cervantes, Post High School Counseling Department; Ms. Linda Connelly, Post High School Counseling Department; Ms. Deb Donley, Post High School Counseling Department; Mr. Michael O'Connor, Post High School Counseling Department; Mr. Dan Rogan, Post High School Department; Mr. Tom Shorrock, Post High School Counseling Department; Ms. Gretchen Stauder, Post High School Counseling Department; Ms. Susie Thorngren, Post High School Department; Mr. Josh Wenger, Aramark; Mr. John Huston, Chicago Tribune; members of the press and members of the community.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

**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. Fisher moved and Mr. Myefski seconded the motion that the Board adjourn 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 the 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 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 unanimously.

**Adjournment to Closed Session – 6:32 p.m.**

**II. Closed Session – 6:30pm — A201A**

The Closed Session meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

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

Mr. Dolinko reconvened the meeting to open session, calling the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. and welcomed those in attendances, stating the Board had been in Closed Session earlier in the evening. Roll call was taken and all members were in attendance. He announced that if anyone wished to address the Board, he or she needed to fill out a yellow Communications Request Form found on the table at the back of the room and pass it up to the Board table.

**IV. Minutes**

Mr. Dolinko requested a motion to approve the minutes of the October meeting. Mr. Fischer moved and Mr. Myefski seconded the motion to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on October 15, 2012, open session. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Mr. O'Donoghue

The motion passed.

**V. Communications**

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

**VI. Special Orders of Business**

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

Ms. Denise Hibbard, Assistant Principal of the Northfield Campus, stepped in for Northfield Principal Paul Waechtler who was unable to attend. Ms. Hibbard reviewed the activities and special events taking place at the Northfield campus which included parent teacher conferences on November 7 & 8 and the staff Institute Day on November 9. Registration for incoming freshman is starting with the scheduled CTP-4 test dates on December 1 & 8. Information letters regarding Academic Life in January have been mailed to parents. The Names program for this year is planned for November 28 & 29. The Names program is presented in partnership with the Anti-Defamation League on the issues of bullying, bias, and diversity. Staff members and senior helpers assist in facilitating this important program.

Dr. Timothy Dohrer, Principal of the Winnetka Campus, recounted the presentation of Howard Gardner from Harvard University on Truth, Beauty and Goodness in the Modern Era on October 30. Dr. Dohrer highlighted the musical and theatrical productions that included the Jazz Ensemble on November 30; the freshman/sophomore musical, *Working* on December 12-15; and the winter play, *Almost Maine* on December 13, 14 and 15. The annual Winter Music Festival is scheduled for Sunday, December 16 at 3:00 p.m. in the Gates Gymnasium. The English as a Second Language Program (ESL) celebrated its annual Thanksgiving meal with traditional American food as well as Korean fare on November 16. The fall Canned Food Drive ends today. This service project benefits the Chicago Food Depository with New Trier being a major contributor each year. The Tri-Ship Christmas Tree sale begins Friday, November 23 through December 21 with proceeds going to student college scholarships. Tickets are now available for

the Tom Deluca Show on December 1 in the Gaffney Auditorium. This is the senior class fundraiser to support the Habitat for Humanity Service Project. Dr. Dohrer shared news of the Fall Sports Season highlighting the Girls Swimming & Diving and Volleyball teams which placed 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in state competitions. It was also noted that during this fall season, the New Trier Girls' Field Hockey, Cross-Country, Volleyball, Golf, Tennis, and Swimming teams all placed fourth or better in state championships. The Board of Education Recognition Program is planned for the December Board meeting at which students and staff will be recognized for their achievements.

Mr. Timothy Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, highlighted two of the important service work projects noted by Dr. Dohrer, which are the Canned Food Drive and Adopt-a-Family. He noted that New Trier is one of the largest donors to the Chicago Food Depository with only large corporations like Jewel and Dominick's contributing more. Adopt-a-Family has long been a traditional service opportunity for adviser rooms during the holidays, providing a needy family of the Northwest Settlement House with gifts and a meal. Mr. Hayes also noted an event on December 5 whereby he and Mr. Sally, on behalf of the Parents Association, will present the Profile Report in a program called "Understanding New Trier" in the Gaffney Auditorium at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Paul Sally, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, emphasized the importance of the work done on the Institute Day on November 9. Mr. Daniel Willingham is a cognitive scientist from the University of Virginia whose presentation to staff and faculty focused on engaging students in active learning and developing critical thinking. Mr. Sally also expressed appreciation for the afternoon time spent in discussions among the Learning Cohorts. Mr. Willingham was impressed, upon visiting three of the cohorts, at the level of questioning and the type of work that was going on in our professional development program.

Mr. Don Goers reported that there were no FOIA requests since the last Regular Board of Education meeting.

#### **B. Post High School Counseling Presentation**

Mr. Paul Sally noted the custom of departmental presentations to the Board and welcomed the Post High School Counseling Department. Mr. Jim Conroy, Chair of the Department, thanked the Board for the opportunity to share current trends in college planning and beyond as well as the work of department members inside and outside of New Trier. Ms. Linda Connelly began the PowerPoint presentation noting that the department assists all students in their planning for the years after New Trier. Options for students today include higher education, the military, travel, employment, internships, and GAP year. Mr. Tom Shorrock reviewed the department counseling services for freshmen and sophomores. Mr. Dan Rogan is the Junior Year liaison in the department and he noted the services, activities, and events that make this year so pivotal for students. Ms. Gretchen Stauder recounted the application process for seniors and the efforts of the department to assist with adviser room visits and workshops. She also noted the outreach to specific groups of students which include the Choices Fair for students with disabilities as well as work with International students, IGSS, and the Fine & Performing Arts students. Ms. Jill Cervantes highlighted the professional development activities of the department staff taking place both within New Trier and outside at various colleges and professional conferences. Mr. Mike O'Connor reviewed college admissions from the national standpoint, touching on issues such as self-report of grades, November 1 deadlines, Early Decision, the common application, the NCAA, and the Net Price calculator.

Ms. Deb Donley addressed in and out-of-state admissions, noting that the University of Illinois is the fourth most expensive state university in the country. Due to that fact, students are looking at other nearby state universities such as Minnesota, Nebraska and Missouri for the large university experience. She also noted that the ACT writing section was no longer offered during PSAT testing. Ms. Susie Thorngren, the career counselor member of the department, shared information on the different services and events provided to assist students in evaluating career options. In addition to self-evaluation testing, the department sponsors a Classroom to Career Day during which more than thirty professionals share their work experiences with students. This day has proven to be an opportune way for student to network in their searches for summer internships and jobs.

Mr. Conroy concluded by sharing that colleges also do research on their students and the high schools they attended and he was pleased to note that they appreciate the caliber of students we have at New Trier and how well they have done in college. Mr. Sally praised the work of the Post High School Department and highlighted the outreach that is done as the counselors keep our students in touch with current trends for the post high school years. Board discussion followed with Mr. Conroy and department members responding to questions and comments.

#### **C. Class of 2012 Profile**

Mr. Paul Sally, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, presented the Profile Report for the Class of 2012. This is the third consecutive year for this particular report which conducts an in-depth study of the last graduating class. Mr. Sally highlighted many of the sections of the report which included information on academic awards and achievements; course taking patterns; college matriculation; support services; extracurricular participation; and a service summary. Specifically noted was the rigor across the curriculum in the 3 level classes as well as in the 4 level curriculum. The data shows a broad and varied academic experience for all students. Board members commented on various aspects of the report and queried Mr. Sally on the academic information before Mr. Tim Hayes then presented the service and participation data. Board members were very positive about the report and were eager to share it with parents and the community.

#### **D. Student Participation Report**

Mr. Tim Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, provided information on the support services that the Class of 2012 accessed, including the GAP program, Social Work Services, and the Bridges program. He also spoke of the many service opportunities that this class sponsored including \$40,000 contributed toward the building of a school in Angola. The Class of 2012 was the inaugural class to partake in service for the Sophomore Institute Day, benefitting local organizations. In addition, they met their Habitat for Humanity goals of raising \$100,000 to build homes here and in the Philippines. This class participated in 158 different clubs, 35 sports teams and 14 opportunities to perform on stage as part of their extracurricular activities. He noted that 92% of students are participating in some activity after school hours. The seniors of 2012 were very successful on the athletic fields winning four state championships and having five teams place among the top four teams in the state. Additionally, four teams placed in the top eight in state competition. Nineteen teams that participate in a conference won their respective conference championships and two New Trier Rowing crews finished first at the Scholastic National Regatta. Mr. Hayes noted that the overall number of participations continues to grow, yet some inside fluctuations in numbers do take place. Another trend is an increase in the number of single sport athletes as we see the impact that club sports have on the students and athletic programs. Dr. Yonke expressed a concern about this trend of student specialization, and she talked about the importance of being on a high school team, including the leadership opportunities and the quality of coaching that students experience. Board discussion followed on student participation, comparisons of data from one class to another, and future levels of analysis. Mr. Hayes and Dr. Yonke responded to Board members' questions and comments.

#### **E. New Course Proposals**

Dr. Yonke began the discussion for the New Course Proposals, noting the request from last month for more information on the Service Learning Program trip to India. Mr. Hayes and Ms. Arvanitis prepared a memo addressing the questions about the India trip as well as other summer travel opportunities. Ms. Ducommun expressed the need for the Board to know more about the travel programs planned, the number of students traveling, and the cost of such trips. Ms. Arvanitis and Ms. Carolyn Muir responded to the issues of cost and the range of travel opportunities with service involvement. Mr. Fischer was supportive of school-sponsored trips as they provide some sense of security for parents that New Trier teachers are organizing and leading the travel experiences. Mr. Myefski echoed Ms. Ducommun's concerns on the high cost of the trip and regretted hearing of the trip details late in the planning process. Dr. Yonke noted that the planning for the India trip followed the usual course proposal process and the Board still retains the ability to approve or reject any course proposal presented. Discussion moved to national versus international service projects. Mr. Hayes cited the New Orleans Habitat trip for music students as an example of a national service project. He also stated that the goal of the Service Learning Initiative is to build a program which offers a wide variety of service opportunities. Board discussion continued on the cost of the service trip,

the philosophical threshold of mixing service with travel, the egalitarian nature of learning and service, the benefits of global travel over classroom experience, the similarities of immersion programs, and the belief that service is a part of New Trier's education. Mr. Sally stated the trip is for families who are deciding on their individual student's summer school experience. Mr. O'Donoghue noted that it is not the Board's responsibility to limit the opportunities of students or families in choosing their service experience. Mr. Dolinko proposed bringing the Board to a decision on the New Course Proposals by dividing the motion into two. Having heard no contrary discussion on all the other course proposals brought forth, Mr. Dolinko asked for a motion to approve the New Course Proposals except the India Service Trip. Mr. Fischer moved to approve the New Course Proposals for 2013-2014 School Year excluding the India proposal. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Fischer moved and Mr. Harris seconded the motion that the Board approve the India Service Learning Experience Summer School course. Ms. Ducommun stated that she will support the motion with the understanding that the trip is not held as the culminating experience of the freshman service project. Mr. Myefski noted that he could not support the motion as he feels the need to draw the line on expensive trips of this nature. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: Mr. Myefski, Ms. Goldstein

The motion passed.

## **VII. Administrative Items**

### **A. October Financial Reports**

Mr. Don Goers presented the brief Financial Reports which follow the more extensive Quarterly Reports of last month. The Cash Flow and Investment Reports show no dramatic change. Mr. Goers invited questions and comments from the Board.

### **B. Architect Services for ADA work**

Dr. Yonke reviewed this action item which asks the Board's approval for architectural services that would look at conceptual/scope definition, schematic designs, and cost estimates for ADA (American Disabilities Act) work to be performed at both campuses. Dr. Yonke noted that this is not a commitment to do the work; it is only a feasibility study to determine what the projects would look like and to secure an estimate of their cost. Improvements to be addressed are an elevator in the Gates Gymnasium, an additional elevator in the central part of the Winnetka campus that would connect to the fourth floor of the North Building, and ADA improvement to both auditoriums. The Facilities Steering Committee looked at both bids; both firms were qualified, but the proposal for Perkins + Will was considerably less expensive. Mr. Myefski moved that the Board approve the proposal from Perkins + Will dated November 8, 2012 for \$27,000.00. Mr. Harris 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 unanimously.

**VIII. Consent Agenda**

- Bill List for the Period October 1-31, 2012
- Personnel Report
- 2013-2014 School Year Calendar
- Election Official Representative Appointments

Mr. Dolinko asked if any Board member wished to remove any item for separate discussion. Ms. Ducommun requested that the 2013-14 School Year Calendar be pulled for discussion. Mr. Myefski moved that the Board approve the Consent Agenda items which include the Bill List for October 1-31, 2012 as presented, the Personnel Report as presented, and the appointment of Election Official Representatives. Ms. Goldstein seconded the motion. 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 unanimously.

Dr. Yonke highlighted various points of the proposed 2013-2014 School Year Calendar that included a later start to the year, giving families another week of summer. The student start date is August 26 which is still a full week before Labor Day; the calendar is more in alignment with the township sender districts; it includes a township-wide Institute Day on February 18; there are fewer three day weeks and there are also a full two weeks after winter break before semester exams begin. She noted the calendar process includes working with the NTEA leadership. Board members commented and Dr. Yonke responded to their questions. Ms. Ducommun moved and Mr. Fischer seconded the motion to approve the 2013-2014 School Year Calendar as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

**IX. Board Member Reports**

Mr. Fischer reported for the *All School Forum* which followed up Dr. Howard Gardner's presentation on ethics. He noted that they ran simulated voting on ethical issues and questions which stimulated provocative discussions. He attended the *New Trier Education Foundation* meetings which discussed the Golf Outing and possible options for the Foundation to add another event if the Alumni Achievement Awards Banquet moves to a biennial rotation. The Foundation also welcomed new members.

Ms. Goldstein noted that *NSSED* did not meet in October. *The New Trier Fine Arts Association* is saving the date for the annual Jazz Fest on February 2, 2013 which features the Count Basie Orchestra. The Association is also planning for fundraising to assist with the ADA auditorium projects. The *Social and Emotional Learning Steering Committee* (formerly the Ethical Conduct & Global Citizenship Committee) met last week with numerous events taking place, including a Challenge Success presentation and workshop by Denise Polk, Madeline Levine and Ken Ginsburg. The parent ECGC Committee will meet on November 27 in Room C234 for any parent interested in the committee's work. Angela Duckworth will be speaking on resilience on November 29 at North Shore Country Day and Robert Brooks, a psychologist, will speak to educators and parents on January 17.

Ms. Ducommun reported that the *Parents Association* Communications committee has plans for a new e-newsletter to go out to parents on December 5. Their long term goal is to reduce the cost and number of their publications.

Mr. Harris stated that the *Booster Club* continues to raise funds for the Turf Project. He also noted that the Club will host the annual Coaches' Breakfast on December 7 to show them their appreciation for all that they do.

Mr. O'Donoghue reported for the *Facilities Committee* which is now headed by Dave Conway, Director of Physical Plant Services at the Northfield campus and Steve Linke, Director of Physical Plant Services at the Winnetka campus. He noted discussions included the 2012 summer projects; Health, Life Safety funding; an energy audit due in January; and the five year plan for infrastructure. Mr. O'Donoghue also attended the *Technology Planning Committee* where the progress of the i-Pad Pilot was discussed as well as new courses, course evaluations, and the selection process for iPad project participants next year. An update on the Mobile Learning Initiative will occur at the December Regular Board meeting.

Mr. Myefski noted that the *Facilities Steering Committee* brought the ADA proposal to the Board for approval. Perkins + Will will now provide a schematic design analysis and a good cost for the project for the Board to consider in January.

Mr. Dolinko reported for the *Traffic & Parking Committee*. At the last meeting the Winnetka Village Engineer informed the school about the traffic project that will take place at the intersection of Winnetka Avenue and Green Bay Road in March of 2013. Also of note is the progress made with the traffic and parking around the school and the outreach of Dr. Dohrer to the school neighbors. Positive feedback from the neighbors has indicated a much improved situation.

Ms. Ducommun noted for the *Communications Committee* that the Annual Report has been mailed out and residents should receive it by Monday.

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

- Calendar of Events

Dr. Yonke reviewed upcoming events which included the Special Workshop Meeting on December 3, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. in C234 on Student Fees, and of special note is the Winter Music Festival on Sunday, December 16 at 3:00 p.m. in the Gates Gymnasium at the Winnetka campus. Thanksgiving Break is this week - Wednesday, November 21 through Friday, November 23. Mr. Goers noted that the next Facilities Committee meeting was changed from December 19 to January 9.

- Board Members' Request for Staff Research and Future Agenda Items

There were no additional requests for staff research or agenda items. Mr. Dolinko noted the student fees item has been carried from month to month; however, it will be addressed with the Special Workshop Meeting of December 3.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

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Alan R. Dolinko, President