

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

**June 3, 2013**

**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, June 3, 2013 at 5:30 p.m.

**Members Present**

Mr. Alan R. Dolinko, President  
Mr. F. Malcolm Harris, Vice President  
Mr. Peter Fischer  
Ms. Lori Goldstein  
Mr. Patrick O'Donoghue  
Mr. Greg Robitaille

**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  
Mr. Paul Waechtler, Principal – Northfield Campus

**Members Absent**

Mr. John Myefski

**Also Present**

Ms. Niki Dizon, Director of Communications; Mr. George Sanders, Director of Human Resources; Ms. Ellen Ambuehl, Director of Special Education; Mr. Matt Ottaviano, Assistant Principal, Winnetka Campus; Mrs. Linda Knier, Director of Academic Services; Ms. Denise Hibbard, Assistant Principal, Northfield Campus; Mr. Christopher Wildman, Director of Business Services; Mr. Randy Oberembt, Athletic Director; Mr. Kurt Weiler, English Department; Mr. Todd Maxman, Social Studies Department; Ms. Joan Liess, Health Services Department, Northfield Campus; Mr. Alex Klein, Social Studies Department; Mr. Mike Napoleon, Kinetic Wellness Department; Mr. Jay Rosenberg, English Department; Mr. Dean Pinos, Social Studies Department Coordinator; Ms. Jenny Wexler, Mathematics Department; Mr. Erik Saszik, Mathematics Department, NTEA President Elect; Mr. David Ladd, Music Department; Ms. Jeannie Logan, Social Studies Department; Mr. Rob Forrest, Social Studies Department; Ms. Kay Pothast, Kinetic Wellness Department; Ms. Robyn Ward, Science Department Coordinator; Ms. Aileen Geary, Social Studies Department; Ms. Molly Lombardi, Social Studies Department; Mr. Matt Temple, Music Department; Mr. Dan Lawler, English Department; Ms. Mary Lappan, Mathematics Department; Mr. Steve Linke, Physical Plant Services Manager, Winnetka Campus; Mr. Steven Gaeth, Art Department Coordinator; Ms. Alissa Hammer, Mathematics Department; Ms. Elizabeth Blodgett, Co-President NTESPA; Mr. Terry Phillips, Mathematics Department, NTEA President; Mr. Alfred Estberg, Mathematics Department; Ms. Christine Estberg, Science Department; Ms. Elizabeth Plank, Social Studies Department; Mr. Jamie Atwell, Social Studies Department; Mr. Tim Kajfez, Social Studies Department; Mr. Steve Drajpuch, Social Studies Department; Mr. John O'Connor, English Department; Ms. Colleen Sheridan, Health Services Director, Winnetka Campus; Ms. Kelly Breiner, Science Department; Mr. Mike Baeb, Social Studies Department; Mr. Peter Tragos, Social Studies Department; Ms. Susan Vaughn, Music Department; Ms. Claudia Furman, English Department; Ms. Rachel Hess, English Department; Mr. David Fickett, Mathematics Department; Mr. Andrew Docktor, English Department; Mr. Dan Gross, Special Education Department; Mr. Marty Laffey, Mathematics Department; Mr. David Hjelmgren, Social Studies Department; Mr. Ian Duell, Social Studies Department; Mr. Dan Licata, English Department; Mr. Bob Spagnoli, Applied Arts Department; Ms. Katie Kritek, Kinetic Wellness Department; Mr. Matthew Sloan, Science Department; Ms. Judy Macnab, Library Department Chair, Mr. Josh Wenger, ARAMARK; members of the press and members of the community.

## **BUSINESS MEETING**

### **I. CALL TO ORDER – 5:30 p.m.**

Mr. Dolinko called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 5:31 p.m. Roll call was taken. Mr. Myefski was absent. All other members were present. Mr. Dolinko asked for a motion to move to Closed Session. Mr. Fischer moved and Mr. Harris 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. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

### **Adjournment to Closed Session – 5:33 p.m.**

### **II. Closed Session – 5:30pm — A201A**

The Closed Session meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

*Student Staff Board Recognition Program – 7:00 p.m. – Cornog Auditorium*

## **BUSINESS MEETING**

### **III. Re-Convene to Open Session – 7:30 p.m. – C234**

Mr. Dolinko reconvened the meeting to order at 7:47 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. Roll call was taken and all members were present except for Mr. Myefski who was absent. Mr. Dolinko noted that the delay in the start of the Business meeting was due to the Student-Staff Board of Education Recognition Program which took place in the Cornog Auditorium and ran late. He announced that if anyone wished to address the Board during the Communications part of the agenda, 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 May Regular meeting. Mr. Fischer moved and Ms. Goldstein seconded the motion to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on May 20, 2013, open session. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Mr. Robitaille, Mr. Fischer, Ms. Goldstein, Mr. Harris, 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. Ms. Tori Jo Wible and Ms. Nancy Pred addressed the Board in support of the Duke Childs Netting Project. Both were appreciative of the District's position in making safety the first priority for the project, and hoped that it would be approved by the District and Village of Winnetka.

### **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 year end activities at the freshman campus which included the English Department Shakespeare performances, Trevia Day on May 24, and

Final Exams this week. He thanked the Parents' Association for providing snacks during the exam week. The last day of student attendance is June 7, Friday. Mr. Waechtler also thanked Dr. Tim Dohrer for his wonderful service and looked forward to continuing the partnership as he moves on to Northwestern University.

Dr. Tim Dohrer, Principal of the Winnetka Campus, also shared information on the year end transitions at the Winnetka Campus. Sophomores and juniors will finish out their year with final exams this week. The most important transition however, is with the senior class as they prepare to leave. Events marking their work include the Senior Project Exhibition and the Senior Award Ceremony with scholarships and the Departmental Awards. Dr. Dohrer congratulated the Class of 2013 as they end their high school years with style and dignity. Their last day at school was Trevia Day. Graduation at Northwestern University's Welsh Ryan Arena on June 2 went extremely well for more than 1000 students and 10,000 family and friends. Dr. Dohrer expressed his thanks and appreciation to the many staff members who facilitate the event every year at N.U. as well as the senior parents who sponsor the Graduation Party at the Northfield campus. He highlighted the collaborative efforts of New Trier staff, the Northfield Police and Fire Departments, and the Wilmette Police and Park District to make the event wonderful for all involved. Board member Mac Harris noted the generosity of the Class of 2013 with their gift to the school for \$100,000.

Mr. Tim Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, expressed his congratulations to the graduates and to everyone involved in the many year-end programs and events. Mr. Paul Sally, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction noted his reports will be shared later in the meeting.

Mr. Don Goers, Associate Superintendent, reported that there were no FOIA requests received since the last Regular meeting of the Board of Education on May 20.

Dr. Yonke invited the audience to remain after the meeting to share some cake and good wishes with Mr. Goers and Dr. Dohrer as this is their last Board of Education meeting. Mr. Goers is retiring as of June 30, 2013 and Dr. Dohrer has accepted a position at Northwestern University.

#### **B. Duke Childs Baseball Field Net Project**

Dr. Yonke reviewed the Backstop Netting Project at the Duke Childs Field, explaining that the Board had approved \$57,884 for the project at the April 16, 2012 meeting as part of the FY 2013 Capital Projects over \$50,000. The project is designed to stop foul balls from going onto Willow Road by increasing the backstop height with a 50' netting system. The Duke Childs Field is owned by the District. The District is asking for a zoning variance from the Village of Winnetka as the new height will exceed the regulation height of 35'; however, Mr. Dolinko noted that it is not clear that a school needs permission from the Village to make improvements on its property. In the interest of being good neighbors, the District has agreed to seek approval for the zoning variance. Athletic Director Randy Oberembt, Physical Plant Manager Steve Linke, and Baseball Coach Mike Napoleon attended numerous meetings with the Village Planning Board, Zoning Board, and the Design Review Board to obtain the variance and present project research. Many options were considered as well as suggestions from the various Village Boards. Safety has been the primary goal of the District throughout the process, for cars traveling on Willow as well as students retrieving the foul balls. Dr. Yonke is requesting that the Board approve the original 50' netting system with the addition of \$27,000 of new landscaping (addition of 7 mature trees) and \$9,000 of new backstop fencing. Mr. Steve Linke was available for questions from the Board during open discussion of the project. Board discussion followed with the consensus of opinion being this is needed for public safety. Mr. Goers was asked where in the budget we would find the additional \$36,000 for the project. He responded that it would be added to the 2013-14 Capital Projects and further budget modifications would be sought to offset the increase. Mr. Dolinko noted that while he is not 100% sure that the District had to do this, he is absolutely sure that it is reasonable and needs to be done. Ms. Goldstein moved that the Board approve the project as presented, with the original 50' netting, but with the addition of new landscaping and fencing. Mr. Robitaille seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

**C. Professional Development Time – Learning Cohorts**

Mr. Paul Sally presented a proposal to the Board to extend professional development time to three meetings per semester instead of the current two per semester. He noted the importance of this schedule that allows teachers time in the school day to focus on specific topics related to their teaching and student learning. The success of the Learning Cohorts has occurred because of the dedication of the teachers, meaningful topics chosen for study, use of time embedded in the school day, and the individuality and choice teachers have for the focus of their work. Three teachers, Garret Forbes of the Science Department, Kurt Weiler of the English Department, and Matt Temple of the Music Department outlined the work of their Learning Cohorts to the Board, explaining the benefits the cohorts have contributed to both faculty and students. Mr. Sally outlined the minor changes proposed by the Professional Development Council to the 2013-2014 School Year Calendar which would allow two additional meeting times for cohorts, one each semester. The change would shorten two school days by one hour. All classes would meet for 35-minute periods. Learning Cohorts would meet from 2:40 – 4:00 p.m. After school activities would be postponed until 4:00 p.m., and supervision would be provided for students who are waiting for practices to start. The two additional Cohort dates would be November 14<sup>th</sup> and January 30<sup>th</sup>. Board discussion followed with Mr. Sally and Dr. Yonke responding to Board members' inquiries. Mr. Fischer moved and Mr. Harris seconded the motion that the Board approve the recommendation to adjust the 2013-2014 School Year Calendar to make November 14<sup>th</sup> and January 30<sup>th</sup> early release days to help provide time for Learning Cohorts. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

**D. Mobile Learning Initiative Update – New E-book Adoptions**

Dr. Yonke introduced the agenda item as having two parts which will cover both the new e-textbook adoptions and the Mobile Learning Initiative. Mr. Sally presented a list of e-books for approval by the Board that included a new e-book adoption for Mobile Learning Initiative classes, new editions of existing approved books that will allow families to purchase a reduced price e-book, and current texts which will allow student to have the reduced price e-book option whether or not they are enrolled in the Mobile Learning Initiative. The cost savings for families are significant and over time will pay for the cost of the I-pad itself. Mr. Johnson reviewed two textbooks which have e-book editions: *The Americans* for US History classes and the *Biology* textbook used by our Science Department. He demonstrated the various features provided in the e-book which is available at a greatly reduced cost for families compared to the print edition. Mr. Sally noted that the reduced cost of e-books is attractive; however, it is not the only criteria considered when selecting textbooks. Departments critically look at each publication to present and provide the right tools for learning to our students. All but two of the presented e-books also perform on multiple platforms which include i-Pads, computers, tablets, Macintosh and PCs. Board discussion followed with both Mr. Sally and Mr. Johnson responding to members' comments and questions. Discussion included the costs of rental and buy-backs, the decision process for selecting texts, and the deliberative nature of the transitional period. Mr. Fischer moved and Ms. Goldstein seconded the motion that the Board approve the e-textbooks as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Johnson reviewed the status of the Mobile Learning Initiative and invited questions of Board members. Communication about the initiative program to parents was of foremost concern. Methods of communication were discussed as well as methods of reaching out to families with financial issues. Mr. Robitaille noted that parents were eager to understand the reasons for the program and the tangible benefits

to be gained. The amount of communication could not be stressed enough. Mr. Sally noted the type of communications that were planned included emails (which would include links to videos) and postal mail. Mr. Johnson stated that this year's seminars will be repeated next year also.

**VII. Administrative Items**

**A. Financial Reports for May 2013**

Mr. Don Goers presented the Financial Reports for May which are brief. They include the Cash Flow Statements, the Financial Report and the Investment Report. More detail will be provided next month as the year moves forward on the Budget Status Report.

**VIII. Consent Agenda**

- Bill List for the Period May 1-31, 2013
- Personnel Report and Addenda
- Prevailing Wage Approval
- Reaffirm District's Approved Financial Institutions

Mr. Dolinko prefaced the Consent Agenda discussions noting an interest from some Board members to pull the Personnel Report and Addenda from the Consent Agenda. He stated that the Personnel Report does include an Addendum for salary increases for the Management and Exempt Support Staff by an aggregate of 2.5% for the 2013-14 year. Mr. Dolinko asked if any Board member wished to remove items from the Consent Agenda for separate discussion. Mr. Robitaille requested that the Personnel Report and Addenda be removed for open discussion. Mr. O'Donoghue asked that the Prevailing Wage Approval also be pulled for separate discussion. Mr. Dolinko requested a motion to approve the remaining items in the Consent Agenda. Mr. Fischer moved that the Board approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Bill List for the Period of May 1-31, 2013 and to reaffirm the District's Approved Financial Institutions. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Robitaille expressed his belief that while the total dollars increase in the management group salaries is around 2.5%, the general increase in salaries is on average 3%. This 3% is what the CPI currently is and to preserve the long term health of the school he believes salary increases should be below the CPI and rate of inflation.

Remaining Board members equally shared their views on the Addendum which covers salaries for management and exempt support staff, discussing the rate of inflation and their thoughts that it is a reasonable raise. Mr. Dolinko suggested the Board consider the parts of the Consent Agenda separately, and asked for a motion. Mr. Fischer moved that the Board approve only the Personnel Report, as revised on the yellow sheet. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Dolinko asked for a motion regarding the Addendum. Mr. Fischer moved that the Board approve the Addendum with the proposed raises for the management and exempt support staff as presented. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: Mr. Robitaille

The motion passed.

Mr. O'Donoghue asked for the purpose of considering the Prevailing Wage in the Consent Agenda. Mr. Goers explained that it is state law that all School Boards include this at their meetings and vote on it. Mr. Fischer moved and Ms. Goldstein seconded the motion to approve the Prevailing Wage as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

**IX. Board Member Reports**

Mr. Harris noted this is his last year as the Booster Club liaison and shared a list of their accomplishments for this year alone, including helping fund the Turf Field Project, selling 770 bricks as its fund raiser, hosting 60 athletic team meetings, taking 3,300 photos, renovating concession stands, assisting at the annual state swim meet, sponsoring a holiday breakfast for over 150 coaches, and presenting to Mr. Goers a check for \$550,000.

Ms. Goldstein reported for the New Trier Fine Arts Association which held their end of the year party. They said goodbye to seventeen Board members and welcomed those new members joining the group. Sixteen students were honored with Summer School Scholarships. Ms. Goldstein also noted that one family joined the New Trier community because of the reputation of the Debate program.

Board members Mr. O'Donoghue, Mr. Robitaille, Mr. Fischer and Mr. Dolinko did not report as their Committees have ended for the year.

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

- Calendar of Events

Dr. Yonke noted that students were in the middle of final exams this week and Friday is the last day of student attendance. Monday is the first day of Summer School. The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education is in six weeks on July 15. Dr. Yonke proposed that the Board consider scheduling a Board's Self-Evaluation session earlier in the day on July 15 with a facilitator from the Illinois Association of School Boards.

- Board Members' Request for Staff Research and Future Agenda Items  
There were no new requests for staff research or agenda items.

Dr. Yonke invited all to share in honoring Mr. Don Goers, Associate Superintendent who is retiring and Dr. Tim Dohrer who is starting a new position at Northwestern University. She thanked them for their service and wished them well in their future endeavors. Gifts were given and Board members shared cake and good wishes with Dr. Dohrer and Mr. Goers.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Dolinko requested a motion to adjourn. Mr. O'Donoghue 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 9:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

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Alan R. Dolinko, President