

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

March 18, 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, March 18, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.

Members Present

Mr. Alan R. Dolinko, President
Mr. F. Malcolm Harris, Vice President
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. Paul Sally, Assistant Superintendent for
Curriculum & Instruction
Dr. Timothy Dohrer, Principal – Winnetka Campus
Mr. Paul Waechtler, Principal – Northfield Campus

Members Absent

Ms. Carol F. Ducommun

Also Present

Ms. Niki Dizon, Director of Communications; Mr. George Sanders, Director of Human Resources; Ms. Ellen Ambuehl, Director of Special Education; Mr. Randy Oberembt, Athletic Director; Mr. Christopher Johnson, Director of Technology; Mr. Matt Ottaviano, Assistant Principal, Winnetka Campus; Ms. Katherine Schindler, Assistant Principal for Student Services, Winnetka Campus; Mrs. Linda Knier, Director of Academic Services; Ms. Denise Hibbard, Assistant Principal, Northfield Campus; Ms. Athena Arvanitis, Director of Student Life; Mr. Christopher Wildman, Director of Business Services; Ms. Elizabeth Blodgett, Co-President NTESPA; Mr. Marty Laffey, Mathematics Department; Mr. Erik Saszik, Mathematics Department; Ms. Jenny Wexler, Mathematics Department; Mr. William Loris, Science Department; Mr. Steven Drajpuch, Social Studies Department; Mr. Scott Williams, Sophomore Adviser Chair; Ms. Judy Macnab, Library Department Chair; Mr. Mark Onstott, Kinetic Wellness Department; Mr. P.J. Samorian, Speech & Theatre Department; Ms. Hilerre Kirsch; Speech & Theatre Department; Ms. Jennifer Pistorius, Girls' Gymnastics Coach; Mr. Josh Wenger, ARAMARK Food Service; members of the press and members of the community.

BUSINESS MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER – 6:31 p.m.

Mr. Dolinko called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to Order at 6:31 p.m. Roll call was taken. All members were present except Ms. Ducommun. Mr. Dolinko asked for a motion to move to Closed Session. Mr. Fisher 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; and for the purpose of discussing student discipline cases. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

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

- II. **Closed Session – 6:30pm** — A201A
The Closed Session meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

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

BUSINESS MEETING

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

Mr. Dolinko reconvened the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. Roll call was taken and all members were present except for Ms. Ducommun. Mr. Dolinko noted that the Board went into Closed Session at 6:30 which was then followed by the Board Recognition Program at 7:00 p.m. 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 February meetings. Ms. Lori Goldstein moved and Mr. Fischer seconded the motion to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on February 19, 2013, open and closed sessions and the Special Workshop Meeting on February 25, 2013, open session. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

- 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

Mr. Paul Waechtler, Principal of the Northfield Campus apprised the Board of the activities and events taking place at the freshman campus which included the conclusion of the Third Quarter with Spring Break to follow. Those students on the Honor Roll are permitted study hall release time in the Fourth Quarter, allowing them to spend the time in the library or elsewhere on the campus. Spring sports have begun with use of the new turf fields when weather permits. The Freshman/Sophomore play "The Complete Works of Shakespeare: Abridged" was performed last week showcasing student talents. The incoming freshmen for the 2013-14 School Year, approximately 1059, are registering for classes online. Course verifications are being mailed back to them for accuracy. Mr. Waechtler thanked Ms. Katherine Schindler and Ms. Denise Hibbard for their efforts in the complex and time-consuming task of assigning advisers for the incoming students.

Dr. Timothy Dohrer, Principal of the Winnetka Campus, reported on events at the east campus which included the Senior Class's Winter Carnival on March 1. This year's event raised \$25,000 for Habitat for Humanity which is the traditional service project for the class. A silent auction is scheduled for April and senior class adviser rooms continue to work on houses with the Habitat organization. The benefit goal is \$100,000 for Habitat. The Choir Opera musical "Sweeney Todd" was an amazing student production featuring the talents of musicians, actors and stage crew. Featured Education speakers included Dr. Kay Redfield Jamison on February 26 on mental illness; Emily Bazelon on March 6 on bullying and its culture, and on March 13, the Disrupters presentation on alternate routes to post high school success.

Dr. Yonke noted Mr. Tim Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, was unable to attend the

meeting due to a funeral of a close family friend. Mr. Paul Sally, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, stated his reports will be presented later in the meeting.

Dr. Yonke commented on the Alumni Achievement Award Dinner that took place at the Hilton Orrington Hotel on March 14. The successful benefit dinner supports efforts of the New Trier Education Foundation. Dr. Yonke noted the highlights of the week were the speaking engagements of the alumni with students. The Foundation plans to take a year off and present this event on a biannual basis. There is a display showcasing the new honorees at the Winnetka Campus. Dr. Yonke and Dr. Dohrer also expressed gratitude to Niki Dizon and Renee Mosley for their work and arrangements in making the event possible.

Mr. Don Goers, Associate Superintendent, reported there was one FOIA request received since the last Regular Board meeting in February seeking information on outsourcing janitorial services. It has been responded to and closed out.

B. Mobile Learning Initiative

Mr. Paul Sally and Mr. Chris Johnson presented information on the Mobile Learning Initiative in the third of a series of public presentations since the December 2012 Regular Board meeting. Mr. Sally noted interest has continued to grow among teachers and students for the pilot program on Mobile Learning. Evaluations to date on the pilot are very positive and the program will carry on its second year through 2013-14. The recommendation for next year is an expansion of 60 new teachers and approximately 2300 students, with a planned expansion to all students for 2014-15. The cost of the iPads is \$620 each which includes a keyboard, a case, and all appropriate apps. Parents' purchase options include a full purchase for \$350 with the District subsidizing \$270 of the cost or leasing for \$180 per year with ownership after three years with the District subsidy of \$80. Students will also be able to bring their own device and apps, with support to be provided by the New Trier Technology Department. Much Board discussion followed with queries and responses on the payment options, the Technology Budget, the transition years for implementation, other District computers, and iPad life spans. Cost savings were cited for parents of students in the program with eBooks replacing traditional books and the new TI-Nspire application likely replacing the cost of purchasing TI calculators in the future. Board members shared their perspectives on Mobile Learning with general consensus acknowledging the educational trends for Mobile Learning and that it is the right time for the District to take this next step. Mr. Myefski moved and Mr. Fischer seconded the motion that the Board approve the Mobile Learning Initiative as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

C. Recommendations of Facilities Steering Committee

Dr. Yonke reviewed the Special Board meeting of February 25 which concerned the ADA accessibility study completed by the Committee and specific projects designed by Perkins + Will Architects. Solutions were presented that would address the accessibility issues in the Gates Gym, the North Building and both auditoriums. The Board asked the Committee to develop recommendations on the ADA issues as considered in the 2009 Long Range Facilities Plan and to include consideration of a comprehensive solution for the west side of the Winnetka Campus. The Facilities Steering Committee met in early March and developed the following three recommendations which included providing to the Board at the April 15 Regular meeting an updated list of items from the Long Range Facilities Plan that have been met, as well as a list of items left outstanding; to implement the ADA Accessibility Study from the February 25 Special Meeting with a target date of the summer of 2014; and to develop a conceptual design to look at additional and more serious problems on the west side of the Winnetka Campus. This last recommended proposed project would look at the ADA accessibility issues of the Tech Arts classrooms, Art classrooms, and Music classrooms as well as addressing some of the deficiencies in the Cafeteria, the Music/Performing Arts Building and the Tech Arts Building. The Committee wishes to develop a set of project guidelines and investigate options for seeking consultants for the architectural and cost-estimating work, as well as

seeking community input and engagement. Dr. Yonke noted the Committee was seeking feedback and affirmation from the Board that it is going in the right direction. Board discussion followed with a consensus of members in agreement that the recommendations are appropriate at this time. Discussion included conversation on the Community Engagement Committee, members of the Facilities Steering Committee, other renovation projects for the Cornog Auditorium and election and referendum cycles for 2014 and 2015.

VII. Administrative Items

A. Financial Reports for February 2013

Mr. Don Goers presented the Financial Reports for February. They include the Cash Flow Statements, the Financial Statement and the Investment Report. More detail will be provided next month at the Quarter's end by comparing year to date with last year at this time. There were no follow up questions from the Board.

B. Technology Capital Projects – including EPI Center Renovation

Dr. Yonke noted that this report from Mr. Chris Johnson is for the Technology Capital Projects over \$50,000 for the Fiscal Year 2014, and that other Capital Projects will be addressed at the April Regular meeting. The report also includes the renovations to the EPI Center of which the New Trier Education Foundation has contributed a total of \$100,000. Discussion followed on the Foundation's donation and the EPI Center's beginning in 1989. Board members' questions included queries on desk and laptop replacements and the website's upgrade. Ms. Goldstein moved that the Board approve the Technology Capital Projects over \$50,000 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, Mr. Fischer, Ms. Goldstein, Mr. Harris, Mr. Dolinko

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Consent Agenda

- Bill List for the Period February 1-28, 2013
- Personnel Report
- IHSA Renewal 2013-14
- Revised 2013-14 School Year Calendar (PSAE Dates)

Mr. Dolinko asked if any Board member wished to remove any other items of the Consent Agenda for separate discussion. No one requested any items for discussion. Mr. Fisher moved that the Board approve the Consent Agenda items which included the Bill List for February 1-28, 2013, the Personnel Report, the IHSA Membership Renewal for 2013-14 and the 2013-14 School Year Calendar Revision. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Board Member Reports

Mr. Fischer reported the *New Trier Education Foundation's* Alumni Achievement Award Dinner was a great event and huge success. *All School Forum* met, holding discussions on management of student stress. The *Safety Committee* continues its discussions on building security and the security audit which was recently completed.

Ms. Goldstein noted that the *New Trier Fine Arts Association* is accepting applications for its sixteen summer scholarships. The Annual Nancy Joyce Murray Art Show opened at the Brierly Gallery on March 14. The

Percussion Ensemble Concert is at 7:30 p.m. on March 19 at the Cornog Auditorium and the Spring Choral Concert, also at 7:30 p.m. is at the Gaffney Auditorium on March 20. For the ***Social and Emotional Learning Steering Committee***, Ms. Goldstein reported that the all-Township Institute Day for next year will be February 18, 2014. On Wednesday, March 20 New Trier alum, Carolyn Rothstein will speak to students, staff and administrators on eating disorders and vulnerability. The ***ECGC*** Parent Committee has changed its name to ***Expanding Conversation Growing Community***, which is still ECGC. Peggy Kubert of Erika's Lighthouse spoke to the Parent Committee on depression, anxiety and teenage mental health. The next Parent meeting is May 14 which is open to incoming freshman parents. ***NSSSED*** is seeking evaluations and suggestions from superintendents for next year's strategic plan. Due to the Federal sequester, the NSSSED could be losing as much as \$230,000 next year.

Mr. Harris reported for the ***Booster Club*** that they will soon be making another payment to the school for the synthetic turf project.

Mr. O'Donoghue noted the ***Facilities Committee*** will be meeting Wednesday, March 20. Other members reported that this meeting had been cancelled.

Mr. Myefski missed the ***All School Forum Committee*** meeting as he hosted Josh Wood and the Architecture Club at his office on that day.

X. Board Members' Calendar of Events

- Calendar of Events

Dr. Yonke reiterated that Third Quarter ends on Friday, March 22, and Spring Break begins on Saturday, March 23. The Traffic and Parking Committee will meet on April 9 and the Facilities Steering Committee will meet on April 10. The next Regular Board of Education meeting is on Monday, April 15. The PSAT tests for will be administered to juniors on April 23 and 24. The Board's Special Meeting to commission new members and reorganize is scheduled for May 1.

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

Mr. Myefski requested information on school clubs and the process in starting a club. Dr. Yonke noted that Dr. Dohrer has this information and would be happy to share it with the Board as a presentation at the April 15 Regular meeting.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

Alan R. Dolinko, President