

**NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**May 19, 2014**  
**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, and Room C234 on Monday, April 21, 2014 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  
Mr. Greg Robitaille

**Administrators Present**

Dr. Linda L. Yonke, Superintendent  
Ms. Cheryl Witham, Assistant Superintendent  
for Finance & Operations  
Mr. Timothy Hayes, Assistant Superintendent  
for Student Services  
Mr. Paul Sally, Assistant Superintendent  
for Curriculum & Instruction  
Ms. Denise Hibbard, 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. Ellen Ambuehl, Director of Special Education; Mrs. Linda Knier, Director of Academic Services; Mr. Gerry Munley, Assistant Principal, Winnetka Campus; Mr. Peter Tragos, Assistant Principal, Northfield Campus; Ms. Katherine Schindler, Assistant Principal for Student Services, Winnetka Campus; Ms. Athena Arvanitis, Director of Student Life; Mr. Christopher Johnson, Director of Technology; Mr. Christopher Wildman, Director of Business Services; Mr. Steve Linke, Plant Operations Manager for Winnetka Campus; Mr. Dave Conway, Plant Operations Manager for Northfield Campus; Mr. Todd Maxman, Social Studies Department; Ms. Lindsey Arado, Social Studies Department; Mr. John Gilchrist, Kinetic Wellness Department Chair; Mr. Pete Collins, Kinetic Wellness Department Coordinator; Ms. Ursula Schwark, Kinetic Wellness Department; Mr. Jason Dane, Kinetic Wellness Department; Mr. Chris Rutt, Kinetic Wellness Department; Ms. Kay Pothast, Kinetic Wellness Department; Mr. Tom Flanagan, Science Department; Mr. John O’Connor, English Department; Ms. Katie Kritek, Kinetic Wellness Department; Mr. Bruce Kimball, Kinetic Wellness Department; Ms. Kate Goodman, Kinetic Wellness Department; Mr. Lawrence Stoegbauer, Kinetic Wellness Department; Mr. George Chiropolos, Athletic Department; Mr. Andy Horne, Kinetic Wellness Department; Mr. Brent Roman, Kinetic Wellness Department; Mr. Andy Milne, Kinetic Wellness Department; Mr. Scott Fricke, Kinetic Wellness Department; Ms. Erika Immel, Library Department; Mr. Eric Saszik, Mathematics Department, President, NTEA; Mr. David Powell, Wight & Co. and other members of the faculty, press and community.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

**I. CALL TO ORDER – 6:30 p.m.**

Mr. Dolinko called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of May 19, 2014 to order at 6:31 p.m. Roll call was taken. All 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 for the purpose of collective negotiation 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: Mr. Harris, Mr. Myefski; Mr. O’Donoghue, Mr. Robitaille, Mr. Fischer, Ms. Goldstein, Mr. Dolinko

NAY: None

The motion passed.

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

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

The Closed Session meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

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

Mr. Dolinko recalled to order the meeting of May 19, 2014 of the New Trier High School Board of Education at 7:33 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. Roll call attendance was again taken and all Board members were present. He announced that if anyone wished to address the Board during the Citizen’s Comments part of the agenda, he or she would need 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 April Regular meeting on April 21, 2014. Mr. Fischer moved and Mr. Myefski seconded the motion to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 21, 2014, open and closed session. Mr. Dolinko asked if there were any comments or corrections to the minutes. None being noted, a roll call vote was taken and the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

**V. Communications**

Mr. Dolinko invited members of the Community to address the Board with their comments and concerns. New Trier junior and IGSS student, Coquise Frost, requested the Board reconsider the commemorative days of Columbus Day and Veteran’s Day and how they are currently honored. Mrs. Chris Wiedrich, New Trier Fine Arts President, presented the Board members and the District with their fundraising proceeds of \$10,265.00 for the renovations to the lobby of the Cornog Auditorium.

**VI. Special Orders of Business**

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

Mr. Paul Waechtler, Principal of the Northfield Campus, shared events at the freshman campus at the close of the fourth quarter which included an update on the India Service Learning Project and Partnership that is focusing on a clean water source for last year’s Indian school; Spring Fest; After the Academics on May 12; Trevia Day on Friday, May 23; and the annual “Take your kids to school” day for faculty members and their children. Mr. Waechtler highlighted the exemplary role models that our students provide the staff’s younger children throughout the day. He noted it was gratifying to witness.

Ms. Denise Hibbard, Principal of the Winnetka Campus, began her report with a review of the Recognition Dinner last Friday where retirees and staff were honored. She thanked Niki Dizon for her organizing and arranging efforts. May 23 is the last day for seniors and Trevia yearbook signing day. Ms. Hibbard lauded the Class of 2014 for their accomplishments and contributions to the New Trier community. IHSA Journalism sectionals were held last week. Four New Trier students attended and two placed fourth and second. The Junior Awards ceremony also took place last week, where 98 students were honored. Twelve students have been named National Merit Winners with two corporate sponsors, four with scholarships over \$2,500.00 and six with college scholarships. AP Exams were administered over the last two weeks to 900 students who took over 2,000 AP exams. The New Trier Science Olympiad team placed 13<sup>th</sup> in the national competition in Florida. The Badminton and Water Polo teams are champions in sectional play and the Girls Lacrosse team is ranked 21 in the nation. Allison Quigley is the Gatorade Illinois Softball Player of the Year. Ms. Hibbard shared comments from seniors and graduates who attended last week’s All School Forum meeting which touched on New Trier’s excellence in preparing students for college. Discussions centered on factors of competition, the arts and music, and writing skills. Events in the near future include Temple Grandin, who will be speaking at New Trier on Wednesday, May 21 in the afternoon and again in the evening at the Welsh Ryan Arena of Northwestern University. Ms. Grandin is

an influential speaker on autism. The Senior Project Exposition is on Thursday, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., and Senior Awards will take place on May 29. Commencement will take place on Sunday, June 1.

Mr. Tim Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services added that on May 29 at the Award Ceremony the Scholarship Committee will be awarding \$164,000 in scholarships to senior students. While most of the funds are through the trust fund, the Girls' Club and Tri-ship work hard throughout the year to raise money for scholarships for seniors.

Mr. Paul Sally, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, highlighted that New Trier was included with eight other schools in receiving the Apple Award of Distinguished Schools on May 14. The honor is based on the schools' leadership in technology, innovation in the classroom, and evidence of successes. Ms. Sally thanked our teachers who opened their classrooms the next day as we hosted teachers from the other schools to showcase our classroom technology. Mr. Sally also attended Daniel Biss' Educational Advisory Committee along with Glenbrook South and Wilmette District 39. He noted the implementation of a Youth Committee and student groups to speak with the State Senate on educational issues and specifically the PARCC testing.

Ms. Cheryl Witham, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations, reported that there were no FOIA requests since the last Regular meeting of the Board

#### **B. Foreign Exchange Students**

Ms. Katherine Schindler, Assistant Principal at the Winnetka Campus, introduced three of this year's four Foreign Exchange students. They returned to share with the Board some of their experiences over this past year. *Karen Heggelund*, from Norway; *Hans Scheulien*, from Germany and *John-Erik Hansen*, from Norway were all grateful for the opportunity to study at New Trier and participate in the many club and sports activities. *Oskar Norstedt*, from Sweden, was unable to attend. Dr. Yonke thanked the host families, Julie and Steve Kaiser, Kathy and Chris Tucker, Kelly Costello and Mark Bickford, and Julie and Hans Geyer for their hospitality in welcoming these students into their homes and the New Trier community.

#### **C. Kinetic Wellness Department Presentation**

Danah Ouimette began the Kinetic Wellness presentation by explaining the fundamentals of KW classes which focus on movement, wellness, and the connection between mind and body. Pete Collins noted the goals and state guidelines that guide the curriculum that include the CDC Youth Risk Behavior Survey and Results and CASEL, which examines social and emotional learning. Andy Milne showed the ease with which technology can be added to enhance class discussions. Students spoke of their roles as KW leaders and assistants in PESO classes and performed an improvisational dance sequence to demonstrate typical activities of a KW class. Jason Dane conducted an interactive class with Board members on foods and nutrition. Kate Goodman and Bruce Kimball shared results of a fitness class workout that focuses on the cardiovascular system and good health. Andy Horne concluded with a call to exercise with "the Exercise Brain Rap" to highlight the mind and body connection. Mr. John Gilchrist, Kinetic Wellness Department Chair thanked the Board for the opportunity to present the work and activities of the department and responded to Board members' questions. Board discussion and conversation followed about planning the future of KW classes, bringing movement into the regular classroom, making furniture choices which facilitate movement, encouraging a lifetime of health and movement, managing stress, and getting enough .

#### **D. Community Engagement Committee & Facilities Steering Committee Update**

Dr. Yonke reviewed her update memo highlighting the two mailings which have been sent out and two more soon to be mailed. She noted the Facilities Steering Committee met often in April and then again on May 8. Community member Erin Lavin has joined the Steering Committee. She is Executive Director of Public Building Commission for the city of Chicago. The Community Survey is due to go out soon, which will be followed up by the phone poll. Results of these will be available in July. Dr. Yonke noted that if the township were to vote on a facilities referendum in November at the General Election, then the last day to approve the question for the voters is August 18. Most members indicated they will be available for a Special Meeting on August 11; however, no specific date has been set for such a decision. Board members on these committees commented on the work being done. General discussion followed on the needs of the project, the timing of the Special Meeting, information and data gathering for a Board decision, the tenor of the community meetings, positive community feedback on the use of District funds for the project, the need to see the design work and phasing as soon as possible, addressing those members of the community who are negative on the project, and planning for costs and contingencies. Mr. Dolinko summarized the greatest present need is for more information quickly and scheduling a few Special Meetings to consider

and deliberate.

#### **E. High School Ranking Discussion**

Dr. Yonke prefaced the discussion of journalistic “high school rankings” as published in *Newsweek*, *The Washington Post*, and *U.S. News & World Report*, with background information on their original metrics. The rankings look at the number of students taking AP tests as a percentage of all students in a school, regardless of the students’ AP scores or any other measure of student achievement. As a result, schools whose student did not perform well on AP exams will rank higher than New Trier when a higher percentage of their students are taking AP tests. Dr. Yonke pointed to New Trier’s rigorous curriculum and emphasis on critical thinking, writing, and problem-solving as developmentally appropriate to each student.

A more fair assessment in Illinois would be the ACT exam as it is the only test that all high school juniors take. New Trier’s average ACT score was 27.5 for the class of 2013 compared to the state average of 20.9. That score is the highest for any open enrollment high school in the state. Board discussion followed with a request to compare New Trier to other peer high schools from around the country, similar to the member schools of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Benchmark Consortium. Board members wanted to look at more than test scores and graduation rates but to include how well graduates are succeeding in college. Mr. Hayes pointed out that these discussions do occur with the Consortium schools and the question is how well is New Trier doing against other schools in similar districts. Equally part of the conversation, even among the highly successful schools is the very different environments of these successful schools. Mr. Sally noted that survey information will be available at the November Regular Board of Education meeting.

### **VII. Administrative Items**

#### **A. Financial Reports for April 2014**

Ms. Cheryl Witham reviewed the financial reports, cash balances and Investment Portfolio for April. She noted that the District had \$114 million in cash-on-hand and the total receipts in April were \$2.4 million. Ms. Witham highlighted that the Investment Portfolio had more activity in certificates of deposit and government securities this time as they provided better interest rates. The top three investments remain with PMA at 42%, North Shore Community Bank at 34% and IBC at 15%. Mr. Dolinko opened the floor for questions from Board members. Ms. Witham responded to Mr. Myefski’s question on investments under \$250,000.

#### **B. Preliminary Budget**

Ms. Witham updated the Board on the status of the budgeting process and reviewed the Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2015. The summary information of the Operating Funds is presented in a new PMA format that is formatted differently than previous reports. No changes in the General State Aid is anticipated in the near future that could impact FY 2015; however, state funding will be closely monitored for legislative activity and bills affecting school funding. Ms. Witham reviewed other budget items which included salaries, employee benefits, the IMRF rate and costs related to the Winnetka Campus Project. She noted the largest change to the Budget was in the area of Special Education. Mr. Dolinko summarized the report, noting the greatest change is to the projected Surplus, reduced by as much as \$1.3 million.

Ms. Ellen Ambuehl, Director of Special Education addressed the changes in the budget for the Board. She began with an overview of the extraordinary costs of residential placements through special education which can come from day placement tuition and residential placement. Residential placement includes both tuition costs as well as room and board. The state will reimburse the District to some extent for these costs, but not completely. The state mandate for Special Education is to meet the needs of the student in the least restrictive environment. These students often come to the district from their sender schools with IEPs (Individual Educational Plans) in place. A placement decision is made by the IEP team, parents, and Ms. Ambuehl, Pat Savage Williams and Deb Kind of the Learning Center. Ms. Ambuehl mentioned there has been an increase in the numbers of Special Education students with needs ranging from the autism spectrum to other serious social and emotional needs. A sharp increase of seven new residential placements this year causes huge upswings in department costs. Quarterly meetings of the assessment team continually review the placements in attempts to keep a residential stay to nine to twelve months, while maintaining the best interests of the student at the center. Ms. Ambuehl noted that both sender schools and area high schools have both noticed an uptick in the numbers of students needing services. Board discussion followed with Ms. Ambuehl and Ms. Witham responding to members’ comments and questions. Conversation included contingency planning, the unpredictability of special education costs, actuarial view

of data, and historical view of special education enrollment. More budgetary information will be presented to the Board.

### **C. Board Liaison Assignments**

Mr. Dolinko noted that members had time to review the liaison assignments for Superintendent and School Committees as well as Parent and Community Groups for the 2014-2015 school year. Board members were in agreement with their assignment for next year.

## **VIII. Consent Agenda**

- Bill List for the Period April 1-30, 2014
- Personnel Report and Addenda, including the Resolution Regarding Administrative Contracts & Compensation
- IASB Annual Dues
- New Textbooks – Print & E-books
- Construction Management Contract

Mr. Dolinko asked if any Board member wished to remove items of the Consent Agenda for separate discussion. Mr. Myefski requested the Construction Management Contract be pulled for separate discussion. Mr. Dolinko asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items remaining. Mr. Fisher moved that the Board approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Bill List for the Period of April 1-30, 2014, the Personnel Report and Addenda which included the Resolution Regarding Administrative Contract & Compensation, the IASB Annual Dues, and the New Textbook Adoptions for Print and E-books. Mr. Myefski 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. Myefski, Mr. Dolinko

NAY: None

The motion passed.

Mr. Myefski wanted to highlight the review by the legal team that there was not a way for the concessions made to be recovered in other areas. Ms. Witham also pointed out a language change that was agreed on in Section 9.3. Mr. Fischer moved to approve the Construction Management Contract, subject to final review by the Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations and District Counsel. Ms. Goldstein 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: Mr. Myefski

The motion passed.

## **IX. Board Member Reports**

Mr. Myefski reported for the *Technology Committee*, at which two students presented their views on the best uses and challenges of the iPad program. Mr. Myefski encouraged administrators to investigate the best methods to reinforce this educational platform. He added that getting teachers' input in the discussion was very enlightening and the technology presents great opportunities for both students and teachers to explore new frontiers.

Mr. O'Donoghue noted that the *New Trier Fine Arts Committee* presented the District with a check to help the Cornog renovations; he also received an update on facilities from Dr. Yonke and the final plans for this year and next year. The Booster Club transitioned their new members and outgoing members and held their annual raffle for seats at graduation. Mr. O'Donoghue also reported that the Booster Club plans to pay upwards of \$200,000 towards their balance of the 'Tackle the Turf' funding campaign. Mr. Dolinko added that the Club is to extend their payment period by one year, so they may honor other funding requests made to them.

Ms. Goldstein reported for *NSSSED* on their Professional Development update. They created a Professional Leadership Team that goes out to the Districts for assistance with development. They introduced their goals for next year. The NSSSED board reviewed and approved their Fund Balance Policy. They approved their collective bargaining agreements with their faculty association, teaching assistants association, and their transportation contract with SEPTRAN. The *New Trier Parents Association* hosted or assisted in numerous end-of-year

events which included After the Academics, Post High School Counseling and Advisor brunch, Staff Appreciation Dessert, Institute Days, and the final exams breakfast snack on June 11. She also noted that Chris Johnson attended the meeting to present the school's new website. Parents were encouraged to send in photos of their students' activities to be part of the new site. The *ECGC Parent Committee* had their final meeting of the year with 30 people in attendance that included freshman parents. They hosted a roundtable discussion conducted by Amy Offenbach and Jude Eliacin on 'Learning How to Let Go,' facilitated by Tim Hayes. Their first meeting for next year is on September 23.

Mr. Fischer attended the School *Safety Committee* where Denise Hibbard reviewed the checklist from the safety audit. Most items had been completed. The *All School Forum* meeting heard from recent graduates and seniors who spoke of being very well prepared for college, especially in the area of writing. The *New Trier Education Foundation* is holding recruiting parties seeking new members to join the Foundation. The 'Non-Event' Tea Party fundraiser was more successful than anticipated and they are grateful. They are also seeking new ideas or areas from the Administration to target for future funding endeavors.

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

- Calendar of Events

Dr. Yonke reviewed the ending calendar days of this school year. She noted that the next Board of Education Regular meeting is on Monday, June 9; there are five facility presentations coming up – on May 20, 21, 22, and two on May 27; there is no school on Memorial Day, May 26; Commencement is on June 1; final exams are on June 10, 11, and 12; Friday, June 13 is the last day of school; and Monday, June 16 is the first day of Summer School.

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

Mr. Dolinko invited discussion on the issue of the Facilities Committee. Dr. Yonke responded with background of that committee and the evolution of the current Facilities Steering Committee and the Design Advisory Group. It was her recommendation to wait a year or until after a Winnetka Campus project would get off the ground and that it would look at the rest of the buildings (unless a project does not go forward). Discussion followed on the kind of committee needed as well as the list of facilities projects to be done over the next five years. Dr. Yonke suggested adding it to the Agenda Overview for discussion at the September or October meeting of this year. Mr. O'Donoghue requested a re-creation of the Cost Containment Committee to investigate if there are any areas of savings for the District. Mr. Myefski requested future discussion on the calendar changes brought up during the Citizen's Comments portion of the meeting whereby Veteran's Day would be honored with a day off school and not Columbus Day. Mr. Dolinko noted that it will be taken up for discussion when the 2015-16 Calendar is up for approval.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. O'Donoghue moved that the Board adjourn the open meeting. Mr. Myefski seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote being taken, all members indicated they were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

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Alan R. Dolinko, President