

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

August 25, 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, in Room C234 on Monday, August 25, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.

Members Present

Mr. Alan Dolinko, President
Mr. F. Malcolm Harris, Vice President
Mr. Peter Fischer
Ms. Lori Goldstein
Mr. John Myefski
Mr. Patrick O'Donoghue
Mr. Greg Robitaille (*arrived at 7:48 p.m.*)

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 Dubravec, 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; Mr. Christopher Johnson, Director of Technology; Mr. Todd Maxman, President, New Trier Township Education Association; Mr. Terry Phillips, Mathematics Department; Mr. Eric Saszik, Mathematics Department; Ms. Elizabeth Blodgett, Business Services Department; Ms. Mary Beth Barrett, Science Department; Ms. Debbie Johnson, Social Studies Department Chair; Mr. Jim Conroy, Post High School Counseling Department Chair; Mr. John Gilchrist, Kinetic Wellness Department Chair; Mr. Dale Grooms, Head Athletic Trainer; Ms. Lori Starck-King, Modern and Classical Languages Department Chair; Ms. Nina Lynn, Speech & Theatre Department Chair; Ms. Erika Immel, Library Department Chair; Ms. Robin Ward, Science Department Coordinator; Ms. Kristine Fischer, Business Education Department Chair; Ms. Tiffany Myers, Social Work Department Chair; Mr. Mike Lee, Science Department Chair; Mr. Daniel Paustian, Social Work Department Coordinator; Ms. Iwona Awlasewicz, Speech & Theatre Department; Mr. Thomas Malouf, Speech & Theatre Department; Mr. Cory Calmes, Special Education Department; Mr. Brian Doll, Kinetic Wellness/Athletics Department; Mr. Joshua Runkle, Kinetic Wellness/Athletics Department; Ms. Ghana Cooper, Social Work Department; Mr. Daniel Hibey, Social Work Department; Ms. Josie Elbert, Science Department; Ms. Kristin Gregory, Modern and Classical Languages Department; Ms. XHensilda Shkemi, Modern and Classical Languages Department; Mr. Robert Zigmund, Post High School Counseling Department; Mr. Christopher Hidaka, Social Studies Department; Ms. Kathryn Parks, Social Studies Department; Ms. Julia Segraves, Social Studies Department; Mr. Matthew Mersch, Business Education Department; Ms. Alicia Landes, Art Department Chair; Ms. Susan Peterson, Library Department; Mr. Wes Bauman, Mr. Steve Shearing, Pioneer Press; members of the press and community.

BUSINESS MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:30 p.m.

II. Closed Session – NO CLOSED SESSION

III. Open Session – 7:30 p.m. – C234

Mr. Dolinko called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of August 25, 2014 to order at 7:30 p.m. Roll call was taken. All members were present except Mr. Robitaille, who had notified Mr. Dolinko that he would be a few minutes late. Mr. Dolinko welcomed those in attendance. Mr. Dolinko noted that if anyone wished to address the Board during the Citizens' 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 July Regular meeting on July 21, 2014 open and closed session and the Special Meetings of June 30, July 24, and August 14, 2014 open sessions. Ms. Goldstein moved and Mr. O'Donoghue seconded the motion to approve minutes of the Special Meeting of June 30, 2014 open session; the Regular Meeting of July 21, 2014 open and closed session; the Special Meeting of July 24, 2014 open session; and the Special Meeting of August 14, 2014 open session. Mr. Dolinko noted that he would specify a change in the August 14 minutes, which was in the agenda item "**Board Discussion**" for the proposed Referendum. The reference to the cost should be noted as \$100.3M instead of \$100M. Board members agreed and the minutes will be changed to reflect the new figure. There were no changes to any of the other minutes. Mr. Dolinko noted that some Board members were absent from some of these meetings and the appropriate members should be the ones to vote on the minutes of the meetings they attended. He called for a separate vote for each date.

With respect to the minutes of the Special Meeting of June 30, 2014 open session, a roll call vote was taken and the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

With respect to the minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 21, 2014 open and closed session, a roll call vote was taken and the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Mr. Myefski, Mr. Dolinko

The motion passed.

With respect to the minutes of the Special Meeting of July 24, 2014 open session, a roll call vote was taken and the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Mr. Dolinko

The motion passed.

With respect to the minutes of the Special Meeting of August 14, 2014 open session, a roll call vote was taken and the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

V. Communications

Mr. Dolinko invited members of the Community to address the Board. There was no one who wished to speak.

VI. Special Orders of Business

A. Report from Campus Principals and Assistant Superintendents

Mr. Paul Waechtler, Principal of the Northfield Campus, shared news of from the freshman campus

pertaining to the start of school. Today was the first day of student attendance and the positive energy from both students and staff was great to see. He thanked the Parents' Association for providing snacks and the senior helpers for assisting with the picnics. Students attended advisory picnics to get to know one another. Teachers and staff returned last week for Institute Days on Thursday and Friday, August 21-22. He marveled at the low number of schedule changes (7) for the 6,000 course requests. He thanked Peter Tragos, Laurae Nielsen and Natalia Katsinis for their exceptional job of checking and correcting schedules for all the students. He noted the Freshmen Athletic Orientation night is tomorrow, Tuesday, August 26, and the Freshmen Parent Advisor nights will be September 9 and 11.

Mrs. Denise Dubravec reported on the activities at the Winnetka Campus. She noted that fall sports began with 1,303 students participating. Mrs. Dubravec thanked Linda Knier and Aileen Heidkamp for the excellent teacher orientation program for the new faculty. She also extended thanks to Laura Stiles for the wonderful support staff orientation provided as well. The New Trier Parents' Association hosted a new-family orientation for our seventy five transfer students. Stacy Kolack provided a Welcome to the Winnetka Campus orientation for the class of 2017 with her "Pack the Gaffney" event. Ms. Dubravec also thanked Gerry Munley and Scott Williams for their endless hours of correcting schedules in order to be ready for this first day of school.

Mr. Tim Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services noted that there will be two presentations from Student Services and he ceded his time for their presentations.

Mr. Paul Sally, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction reported that the one-to-one iPad Mobile Initiative is in full swing now with all students participating. He also noted there has been an increase in e-books available. Mr. Sally thanked the Technology Department and the faculty for all of the hard work it took for full implementation of the Mobile Learning Initiative. He stated that parent questions on the Initiative are less than last year as teachers and tech staff are continuing to respond to parents and students. Mr. Sally shared his monthly update on the PARCC testing, which was that there is no new information from the State.

Ms. Cheryl Witham, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations reported that there was one FOIA request since the last Regular meeting of the Board that came in at 4:30 p.m. today. She noted it was requesting information on Kinetic Wellness exemptions and policies. She stated that she will respond to this request. There are no other open FOIA requests.

B. New Teachers Introductions

Mr. George Sanders, Director of Human Services, was pleased to introduce the seventeen new faculty members. He noted their experience ranges from zero to twenty years of experience and includes academic credentials of bachelor degrees, masters' degrees, and doctorates in juris prudence and divinity along with one New Trier graduate. Mr. Sanders invited the Department Chairs to introduce the new members of their staff. The new teachers for the 2014-2015 include Iwona Awlasewicz, Cory Calmes, Ghana Cooper, Brian Doll, Josie Elbert, Kristin Gregory, Daniel Hibey, Christopher Hidaka, Alicia Landes, Thomas Malouf, Matthew Mersch, Kathryn Parks, Susan Peterson, Joshua Runkle, Julia Sagraves, Xhensilda Shkempi and Robert Zigmund. (*Mr. Robitaille arrived during the New Teacher introductions.*)

C. Special Education Presentation

Ms. Ellie Ambuehl, Director of Special Education presented an overview of special education services offered at New Trier with comparisons to other area high schools and New Trier's sender districts. She also presented data regarding recent budget increases in special education to better plan for future budgetary needs. Ms. Ambuehl's PowerPoint presentation began with the Federal Law passed in 1975 known as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) which requires that public school districts provide a "free and appropriate public school education in the Least Restrictive Environment to any student with an eligible disability where the disability adversely impacts educational performance." The Act mandates that schools provide interventions before special education services, offer a continuum of services, and provide services in the least restrictive environment to achieve post-high school positive outcomes. Ms. Ambuehl summarized the special education student population, the resources and services offered at New Trier, public day and private day schools and residential placements. She reviewed the factors considered in making placements and the cost of the placements. The District's cost per student per year in the New Trier Learning Center is \$28,181. For a placement at the North Shore Academy it is \$49,756 per student per year. Private Day schools average \$43,000 per student per year, and Residential

placement averages \$55,000 per student per year for tuition and \$100,000 per student per year for Room and Board. Ms. Ambuehl commented on the difficulty of predicting high school special education needs based on only the information sent from the sender schools, since occasionally special needs and issues begin with the onset of adolescence. With the goal of keeping the costs down, her department takes actions such as emphasizing the exhaustion of local services before supporting outside placement; holding quarterly instead of annual IEP meetings to review progress; and focusing on the need for transition to post-high school opportunities in the local community. Board discussion followed with Ms. Ambuehl responding to Board members' questions. She explained the areas eligible for reimbursement by the state but also noted that Illinois has drastically cut the Room & Board reimbursement from 100% to 50-60% for the coming year. The District is also able to receive reimbursement for special education costs through IDEA grants which Ms. Ambuehl applies for and which can underwrite the costs of our students at North Shore Academy. Other questions focused on the increase in the cost of residential placements, transportation, and the details of the \$800,000 overage in the Special Education budget.

D. Current Trends in Athletic Training

Mr. Dale Grooms, Head Athletic Trainer, began his presentation honoring the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge, noting a staff member at New Trier who has ALS. He then pointed out that New Trier received the 1st Team Safe Sports School Award by the National Athletic Trainers' Association. He noted that there were over 2,300 student injuries treated last year which includes over 9,000 treatments. Mr. Grooms described the in-house rehabilitation services his department provides with the goal of keeping students in school, easing stress on families, and keeping the coaching staff informed of student recovery. He reviewed members of the Athletic Training staff, and he highlighted the Sports Medicine Club sponsored by trainers Kristin Romani and Jordan Anderson. He also presented current information on concussions, which included their causes, symptoms, treatment, return-to-play protocols, and the number of concussions at New Trier since 2010. Mr. Grooms noted that coaching techniques have changed to minimize the possibility of concussion, and smart phones now have apps to enhance communication with staff and the athletic trainers. Board discussion followed as Mr. Grooms responded to Board members' questions on topics of new coaching techniques, IHSA mandates, and concussion recognition.

VII. Administrative Items

A. Financial Reports for July 2014

Ms. Cheryl Witham reviewed the financial reports and cash flow statements for July 2014. She noted that at the end of July available cash was \$95.4 million and that some property tax receipts had come in. The Investment Portfolio report shows \$58 million in certificates of deposit garnering a .538% interest rate and \$7 million is invested in government agencies with a better interest rate of 1.276%. The District's investment portfolio is split among three main financial institutions with 43% at PMA, 28% at North Shore Community Bank and 14% at RBC.

B. Financial Recognition

Ms. Witham reported that the District has been awarded the Certificate of *Excellence in Financial Reporting* from the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) for the eleventh straight year. Also, the Government Finance Officers Association of the U.S. & Canada awarded us with the *Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting* for the tenth consecutive year. These national awards recognize conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government reports.

VIII. Consent Agenda

- Bill List for the Period July 1-31, 2014
- Personnel Report
- Recognition of Schools

Mr. Dolinko asked Board members if there were any items on the Consent Agenda that should be addressed in a separate discussion. There were no requests for separate discussion. Mr. Fischer moved to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Bill List for the Period of July 1-31, 2014; the Personnel Report; and the Application for the Recognition of Schools. Ms. Goldstein 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.

IX. Board Member Reports

Mr. Fischer reported that the *New Trier Education Foundation* Golf Outing will be on Monday, September 8. They have a complement of golfers but there is still room to join them for the dinner at Westmoreland Country Club. Their Silent Auction for this event is currently active on their website and they are looking forward to the planning of next year's Achievement Awards ceremony. The Facilities Steering Committee has no real update to report. They will be starting the next phase of the design process.

Ms. Goldstein stated that the *Community Engagement Committee* met for discussions on how best to educate the community on the facilities project.

Mr. Robitaille noted the Dr. Yonke presented an overview of the Facilities Project to the Village of Winnetka Board meeting and the project was very warmly received. He stated they saw this as a positive step forward and expressed an eagerness to cooperate and help in any way.

There were no committee meetings for Mr. Harris, Mr. O'Donoghue or Mr. Myefski.

Mr. Myefski requested an overall schedule update for the Winnetka Facilities Project. Mr. Robitaille noted that it will easily be provided.

Mr. Dolinko attended the Opening Institute Day at the Winnetka Campus for returning staff and faculty. The *Booster Club* will be meeting early in September and the next *Finance Committee* meeting is on October 22. The *Traffic & Parking Committee* will also be meeting soon.

X. Board Members' Calendar of Events

- Calendar of Events

Dr. Yonke reviewed the meetings and events of the next three weeks noting that the week of September 8 is very busy with the Golf Outing, the Technology Committee meeting, the Booster Club meeting, the Parents' Association meeting, the All School Forum, and the Fine Arts Association meeting. She also highlighted that the Fine Arts Association has changed the time of their meetings to the morning and Mr. O'Donoghue may not be able to attend. The next regular Board of Education meeting is on Monday, September 15 in three weeks and Rosh Hashanah is September 25.

Mr. Myefski questioned the Calendar Study-Holidays item under 'not yet completed.' Discussion followed. The research request related to the student request to change the school calendar regarding Columbus Day and Veteran's Day. Dr. Yonke also noted the 2015 Calendar will be delayed as we wait to find out if the Referendum passes since construction could impact start and end dates of the school year.

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

Mr. Robitaille proposed two topics to be added to the list for staff research which included an updated report on the teacher performance evaluations and an overall presentation of the scope and functionality of the business enterprise systems and the student systems. Dr. Yonke pointed out that the teacher evaluation report is scheduled to be presented to the Board in September. Mr. O'Donoghue also requested an update of the technology listing of projects and priorities. Mr. Myefski inquired about the status of Wendy Serrino's presentation on technology programming and coding in the curriculum. Mr. Sally responded that his department is working through the issues with summer grants and new course proposals and expected to be able to present their response to the Board in the near future.

Ms. Kelly added that Mr. Robitaille had found a typographical error in the minutes to the Regular Meeting of July 21, 2014 open session. The correction needs to be made under the Consent Agenda for the discussion of the Financial System Replacement. Mr. Fischer's motion should read "that the Board approve the *Financial System Replacement*." Mr. Dolinko asked for a motion to reconsider the approved open session minutes of July 21, 2014. Mr. Fischer so moved that the Board reconsider the minutes to the July 21, 2014 meeting, open session. Mr. O'Donoghue 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. Robitaille, Mr. Dolinko

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Mr. Myefski

The motion passed.

The Board members all agreed to the correction to the open session minutes of the July 21 Regular meeting. Mr. Fischer moved that the Board accept the correction and approve the amended open session minutes of the July 21, 2014 Regular meeting. Mr. O'Donoghue 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. Robitaille

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Mr. Myefski, Mr. Dolinko

The motion passed.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

Alan R. Dolinko, President