

**NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
March 16, 2015
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, March 16, 2015 at 7:30 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
Campus Mr. Greg Robitaille
Northfield Campus

Administrators Present

Dr. Linda L. Yonke, Superintendent
Mr. Timothy Hayes, Assistant Superintendent
for Student Services
Mr. Paul Sally, Associate Superintendent
for Curriculum & Instruction
Ms. Denise Dubravec, Principal – Winnetka
Mr. Paul Waechter, Principal –

Also Present

Ms. Niki Dizon, Director of Communications; Mr. George Sanders, Director of Human Resources; Ms. Ellen Ambuehl, Director of Special Education; Mr. Gerry Munley, Assistant Principal, Winnetka Campus; Mr. Peter Tragos, Assistant Principal, Northfield Campus; Mr. Christopher Johnson, Chief Information Officer; Mr. Randy Oberembt, Athletic Director; Mr. Todd Maxman, President, New Trier Township Education Association, Social Studies Department; Mr. Spiro Bolos, Social Studies Department; Mr. Erik Saszik, Mathematics Department; Mr. Andrew Dockett, English Department; Mr. Dave Conway, Northfield Campus Facilities Manager; Mr. Steve Linke, Winnetka Campus Facilities Manager; Ms. Athena Arvanitis, Director of Student Life; Mrs. Linda Knier, Director of Academic Services; Ms. Teri Rodgers, Social Studies Department, Ms. Kerry Brennan, Social Studies Department; Mr. Mark Hines, Modern and Classical Languages Department; Mr. Mac Guy, English Department; Mr. Chris Pearson, Senior Boys Adviser Chair; Ms. Stephanie Gamauf, Senior Girls Adviser Chair; Ms. Kat O’Reilly, Art Department; Ms. Felissa Onixt, Art Department; Mr. Daniel Hart, Ms. Naomi Suzuki, Modern and Classical Language Department; Mr. John Runkle, Kinetic Wellness Department; Ms. Kay Boling, Special Education Department; Ms. Mary Beth Barrett, Science Department; Mr. Marc Tadelman, Kinetic Wellness Department; Ms. Elizabeth Blodgett, New Trier Educational Support Professionals Association; Mr. Larry Grote; Mr. David Powell, Wight & Co.; Mr. Kevin Havens, Wight & Co.; Ms. Wendy Watt, Wight & Co.; Mr. Jay Ripsky, Pepper Construction; Mr. Robert Martinelli, Pepper Construction; Ms. Pat Sumrow, Winnetka Campus Project Facilitator; Ms. Cathy Albrecht, Mr. Wes Baumann, Ms. Karen Culatta, Chicago Tribune; members of the press and community.

BUSINESS MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Dolinko called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:33 p.m. Roll call was taken. All Board members were present. Cheryl Witham, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations was absent. Mr. Dolinko noted the Board’s Student and Staff Recognition Program preceded the start of this meeting. All were invited to stay or enjoy refreshments out in the hallway.

II. Closed Session – NO CLOSED SESSION

BUSINESS MEETING

III. Open Session – 7:30 p.m. – C234

Mr. Dolinko called to Order the meeting of March 16, 2015 of the New Trier High School Board of Education at 7:33 p.m. 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 February Regular meeting. Mr. Fischer moved and Mr. Harris seconded the motion to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on February 17, 2015, open and closed session. Mr. Dolinko asked if there were any further comments or corrections to the minutes. None being presented, a roll call vote was taken and the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Mr. Myefski

The motion passed.

V. Communications

Mr. Dolinko invited members of the Community to address 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, reported on events at the freshman campus which included the Turnabout Dance on March 7. This event took place at the Winnetka Campus; however, it is the first dance that freshman are able to attend. Winter Carnival welcomed township families to participate in activities and games on February 20. Last week was declared "Random Acts of Kindness" Week by the Pep Club along with Tri-Ship, Girls Club and Student Senate. This student initiative raised money for supplies given to veterans groups as well as sending out cards. The Frosh/Soph play is *Leaving Iowa* and runs this week Wednesday, March 18 through Saturday, March 21. Our teams and kinetic wellness classes have been able to take advantage of the new turf field, even with 2 feet of snow on adjacent fields. The Freshman Science Olympiad team placed 6th in regional competition and will represent New Trier at the State level. PARCC testing is scheduled for Wednesday, March 18, with freshman Algebra and English students being tested. Mr. Waechtler thanked Peg Stevens, Linda Knier, and Peter Tragos for all their work preparing for these exams. Looking ahead, he noted that Wellness Week will kick off with the Trevian Trot the first week after Spring Break.

Ms. Denise Dubravec, Principal of the Winnetka Campus, began her report with appreciation to the New Trier Foundation and Niki Dizon for the successful Alumni Achievement Award Benefit Dinner on March 12. Many of the honored alumni took opportunities to speak with students about their varied experiences and memories of their time at New Trier. The New Trier Symphonic Wind Ensemble has been chosen to be the featured performance at the National Band Association's November conference. This organization honored the Ensemble with a Blue Ribbon Award last year. Winter Carnival raised approximately \$21,000 for Habitat for Humanity. The seniors are preparing for their annual online auction to also benefit the charity. Students celebrated the "Roots of New Trier" with food and performances from world cultures. The International Club sponsors this event with the participation of numerous other student clubs. Ms. Dubravec noted the Turnabout Dance was a hit and the Performing Arts show "Fiddler on the Roof" was phenomenal. She extended kudos to the students and faculty directors for the exceptional performances.

Mr. Tim Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, attended the Habitat for Humanity celebration with Chris Pearson. He recounted the highlights of the evening which included meeting the family who owned the first house that New Trier seniors built approximately fifteen years ago. Over the years New Trier students have provided fifteen houses in Waukegan and fifteen houses in the Philippines. Mr. Hayes noted the huge benefits of seeing and meeting the people this student outreach program touches in the community. Mr. Hayes also extended his thanks and appreciation to our parent community for responding to the Comprehensive School Climate Survey. He noted that 40% of our parents have replied to the survey which is a tremendous response rate and will help in the planning for improvements to our school climate.

Dr. Yonke highlighted the fourth Alumni Hall of Honor event and the positive impact it brings to our staff and students. Honorees shared their experiences which often featured exceptional teachers

influencing their lives. She noted with pride the numerous and varied vocations of our alumni in academia, law, government, the arts, and diplomatic service. Dr. Yonke also hailed the incredible musical performances of our music and theatre programs as shown in the recent “Fiddler on the Roof”. She congratulated faculty and students for their stellar efforts.

Dr. Yonke presented the report on FOIA requests received since the last regular Board of Education meeting. Dr. Yonke noted that there were twenty-three FOIA requests, thirteen from one person. Three were denied and all but two have been completed. Information requested ranges from administrative travel reimbursements, activity fund accounts, administrative contracts and email addresses.

B. Design Development Presentation – Wight & Co.

Dr. Linda Yonke introduced David Powell, Kevin Havens, and Wendy Watt of Wight & Co. to provide a presentation on the Design Development phase of the Winnetka Campus Facility Project. It was an opportunity for the Board members and the community to view the progression from the Schematic Design to the Design Development phase, including the budget alignment and the project schedule update. Mr. Powell reviewed the process that began with the unanimous village approval of the Special Use Permit and Zoning variations, meetings with work groups, individual user interactions, science symposiums in the science labs, and frequent cost containment meetings. Mr. Havens showed a virtual tour of the exterior of the buildings noting landscape and streetscape views. Ms. Watts reviewed the interior space designs beginning with the lower level plans through the fourth floor. She highlighted key features of each level and the unifying effect of the concourse space. Mr. Havens also directed attention of the design spaces from the floor plans to the architectural renderings to better visualize the renovated areas. Facilities Steering Committee member Greg Robitaille commented on the collaborative work of Wight and staff members to develop a design that truly reflects what the users want. He noted it is a tribute to all who were involved in the process. Fellow committee member Peter Fischer agreed with Mr. Robitaille. Board discussion followed on such topic areas as wall and floor finishes, carpeting, acoustics and noise reduction, windows, transparency, security, staff space versus student instructional space, main drive pavers, terrazzo floors, color, ADA requirements, ceiling tile maintenance, winter paver maintenance, classroom furniture, roof decks and art studios, and cafeteria size and seating.

C. Facilities Steering Committee Update – Construction Budget Estimates

Dr. Yonke reviewed the short history of cost estimates for the Winnetka Facilities Project and presented an update on the current budget estimates. Costs were formally estimated at the three major phases of the project which were the Concept Design, the Schematic Design, and now at the Design Development this past February. As the design becomes more specific, the cost estimates are more accurate and more carefully aligned. The Facilities Steering Committee recommended for the Design Development stage that the District hire an independent party estimate. The Concord Group has provided this service for the District. Both Pepper Construction and Concord submitted their initial cost estimates which were \$106.1M and \$103.4M, respectively. Further meetings and scrutiny again brought the estimates to within \$2M, less that 2% of the overall budget. Successive discussions have focused on further reductions and areas for cost containment. Dr. Yonke noted the budget is now at \$102.8M and is being carefully reviewed line by line. The Facilities Steering Committee met last week and concluded there were several paths to mitigate the remaining \$2.5M and specifically recommends patience on further cuts until all the bid packages are in. She stated that almost all bids will have been submitted by August 2015. Also, Ms. Witham has invested the Bond sales and Reserves which will earn \$1M that can be returned back to the project. Changes in flooring could result in a cost reduction of \$100,000 to \$500,000. The fixtures, furniture and equipment budget has room for reductions as does changes to the permeable paver pattern, an alternate chiller and AV system changes that could be more than \$150,000. Committee members Mr. Fischer and Mr. Robitaille concurred with Dr. Yonke’s summary. Board discussion followed with members voicing concern over the budget cuts and their timing, the project phasing, investment proceeds, and the commitment to bringing the project in on time and on budget.

VII. Administrative Items

A. Financial Reports for February 2015

Ms. Witham was absent from the meeting. Mr. Dolinko noted members had time to read her reports for February and asked if there were any questions about them. Mr. Robitaille noted higher expenditures in February by about \$1M in the Education Fund and queried if these were usual

periodic expenses. Dr. Yonke and Mr. Hayes reported it might likely be tied to stipend payments. Mr. Robitaille also inquired about the Investment Portfolio report on the amounts invested from the Bond proceeds and Reserve investments. All were in agreement to save their questions for Ms. Witham at the next Regular Board of Education meeting in April.

VIII. Consent Agenda

- Bill List for the Period February 1-28, 2015
- Personnel Report
- IHSA Renewal 2015-2016
- Asbestos Bid
- Decommission Resolution Correction

Mr. Dolinko asked if any Board member wished to remove items of the Consent Agenda for separate discussion. No requests were made for independent discussion. Mr. O'Donoghue moved and Mr. Myefski seconded the motion that the Board approve the Consent Agenda which includes:

- the Bill List for the Period of February 1-28, 2015
- the Personnel Report
- the IHSA Renewal for 2015-2016
- that the Board approve and award a contract to NorthStar contracting in the amount of \$422,250 for the Spring Break asbestos abatement of the Tech Arts Building
- the Decommission Resolution Correction

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 unanimously.

IX. Board Member Reports

Mr. Myefski reported for the *Technology Committee* which discussed the District's inventory of printers and copiers and what process should be used to manage them. Office 360 was also discussed as was the declining use of laptops.

Mr. Robitaille summarized discussions from the *Finance Committee* meeting of last week. The Committee examined the assumptions of the Five-Year Plan and the impact of adding the CPI into the forecast. Discussions also included salary schedules for faculty and staff. He indicated that presently, the plan is showing red ink down the road; however, much more work on the assumptions will be done before final figures can be brought to the Board. Mr. Robitaille also recounted the conversations the Committee had regarding the Long Term Facility Plan. It was noted that over the next five years there are facility projects separate from the present Winnetka Campus Project that may total in the \$25-30M range. He outlined that many are Health Life Safety projects and the funding requirements for them, as well as revenue sources available in 2016 and 2018. The District also has revenue from long term licenses that along with internal budgets will combine to cover the funding of these projects.

Ms. Goldstein reviewed the issues discussed at the *New Trier Parents Association* meeting which focused on the graduation party budget and a presentation by the All School Wellness leaders. The *New Trier Fine Arts Association* has been busy with numerous student productions and the sales of pins and yard signs. The *ECGC* parent group had a round table discussion, TED talk, and an outside facilitator for discussions on self-awareness and being genuine. *NSSED* sponsored a presentation for parents of autistic children and highlighted the meeting with all the member superintendents. Their transportation contract with SEPTRAN is under review and they purchased a new student information system from Tyler Technologies.

Mr. Fischer reported the *All School Forum* discussed food service issues.

Mr. Dolinko noted the activities of the *Booster Club*, which included recruitment for next year's Board, a recap of successful fundraising efforts, and work on the balance due of the Tackle the Turf commitment. After Mr. Dolinko shared some Booster Club concerns on the new calendar, Board discussion followed

on all manner of calendar issues such as PARCC testing, start days, semesters, swim meets, continuity of instruction, semester exams, and calendar assessment committees.

X. Board Members' Calendar of Events

- Calendar of Events

Dr. Yonke noted that the PARCC tests begin tomorrow. She stated that other area high school Superintendents report that the testing is generally going very well. The Frosh/Soph play, *Leaving Iowa*, will be performed Wednesday through Saturday, March 18 through 21. Spring Break begins Saturday, March 28 and classes resume on Monday, April 6. The Consolidated General Election is on Tuesday, April 7 when our three open School Board seats will be filled by Lori Goldstein, Patrick O'Donoghue, and Cathy Albrecht. Dr. Yonke issued an open invitation to the Trevian Trot on Sunday, April 12. This is the starting event for Wellness Week.

There will be a Special Board meeting in late April or early May to seat the new Board members, probably the week of April 27.

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

Mr. Dolinko noted there were no new or additional requests for research or future agenda items.

Mr. Harris asked if the Alumni Award Dinner had been taped. Dr. Yonke responded that it was taped and that some of the inspiring alumni speeches may be shared with students during adviser rooms and with staff members.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

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 9:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

Alan R. Dolinko, President