

**NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
February 15, 2016
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, February 15, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

Members Present

Mr. F. Malcolm Harris, President
Mr. Greg Robitaille, Vice President
Ms. Cathy Albrecht
Mr. Alan R. Dolinko
Ms. Lori Goldstein
Mr. Patrick O’Donoghue

Administrators Present

Dr. Linda L. Yonke, Superintendent
Mr. Paul Sally, Associate Superintendent
for Curriculum & Instruction
Ms. Cheryl Witham, Assistant Superintendent
for Finance & Operations
Mr. Christopher Johnson, Assistant Superintendent
for Finance & Operations
Mr. Timothy Hayes, Assistant Superintendent
for Student Services
Ms. Denise Dubravec, Principal – Winnetka Campus
Mr. Paul Waechtler, Principal – Northfield Campus

Members Absent

Mr. John Myefski

Also Present

Ms. Niki Dizon, Director of Communications; Mr. Gerry Munley, Assistant Principal, Winnetka Campus; Ms. Ellen Ambuehl, Director of Special Education; Mr. Peter Tragos, Assistant Principal, Northfield Campus; Mr. Myron Spiwak, Director of Business Services; Mrs. Linda Knier, Director of Academic Services; Ms. Athena Arvanitis, Director of Student Services; Mr. George Sanders, Director of Human Resources; Ms. Stephanie Helfand, Chief Information Officer; Mr. Scott Williams, Assistant Principal for Student Services; Ms. Elizabeth Blodgett, New Trier Educational Support Professionals Association; Mr. Steve Linke, Winnetka Campus Facility Manager; Mr. Spiro Bolos, Social Studies Department, President New Trier Education Association; Mr. Terry Phillips, Mathematics Department; Mr. Colby Vargas, Social Studies Department; Mr. Mike Hill, Technology Department; Mr. Eric Johnson, Technology Department; Mr. Rob Martinelli, Pepper Construction Co.; Ms. Elizabeth Hennessy, Wm. Blair & Co.; and members of the press and community.

BUSINESS MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER – 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Harris called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 6:32 p.m. Roll call was taken. All members were present except Mr. Myefski. Board Secretary, Lou Anne Kelly was absent from the meeting. Mr. Dolinko moved and Ms. Goldstein seconded the motion that the Board appoints Mr. Greg Robitaille as interim Board Secretary until Ms. Kelly returns to her duties. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

Mr. Dolinko moved 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 discussing 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 litigation, when an action against,

affecting or on behalf of the particular District has been filed and is pending before a court of administrative tribunal, or when the District finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the closed meeting minutes. Mr. Robitaille seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

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

II. Closed Session – 6:30 p.m. — A201A

BUSINESS MEETING

III. Open Session – 7:30 p.m. – C234

Mr. Harris re-called to Order the meeting of February 15, 2016 of the New Trier High School Board of Education at 7:36 p.m. Roll call was taken again by Mr. Robitaille, interim Board Secretary for Lou Anne Kelly. All Board members were present except Mr. Myefski. Mr. Harris noted that the Board had returned from a Closed Session meeting. He welcomed those in attendance. Mr. Harris invited anyone who wished to address the Board during the Communications 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. Harris asked if there were any comments or corrections to the minutes. None being offered, he requested a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Dolinko moved and Mr. Robitaille seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on January 18, 2016 Open and Closed Session. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

V. Communications

Mr. Harris invited anyone from the audience that wished to address the Board to come forward. No one wished 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 occurring at the freshman campus that included Frosh/Soph musical *Footloose* which was a big success. Mr. Waechtler noted that it was the last play in the McGee Theatre. The Navigating New Trier Conferences were held with four year academic planning taking place with students and their parents. February 15-19 was the Pep Club's Random Acts of Kindness Week at Northfield with each day offering encouragement and appreciation from the Pep Club, Tri-Ship, and Girls Club. The state mandated PARCC testing will take place the week of April 4-8 after Spring Break. Monday will see two sections of Language Arts tests while the rest of the week will have testing in the morning and regular classes in the afternoon.

Ms. Denise Dubravec, Principal of the Winnetka Campus began her report with appreciation to Gerry Munley, Peter Tragos, and Tatyana Shostak for their work on the enrollment process. She was happy to report that in the first two weeks of sign-ups all but eighteen students had class schedules. Ms. Dubravec also reported that Social Studies teachers Lindsey Arado and Alex Zilka escorted thirty-eight students to Davenport, Iowa, to experience first-hand the election process of the Iowa Caucus. Also, Social Studies teacher Michael Christensen sponsored four New Trier students in the first National Ethics Bowl. New Trier came in third place. The National Merit results have been posted with thirty-eight New Trier Semi-Finalists and thirty-four Finalists. John Healy, a 2015 New Trier graduate received a perfect score on the AP Microeconomics exam. He now attends Vanderbilt University. He was one of fifty-four students in the world to receive a perfect score on that exam. Ms. Dubravec recounted the athletic achievements of the

varsity and junior varsity teams as well as awards and honors to faculty (Mark Colgrove and Colby Vargas) and administrators (Randy Oberembt). In conclusion, she read a letter from New Trier Alum Jack Steinberger who donated his Nobel Prize medal in Physics to the school.

Mr. Christopher Johnson, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations shared that the District received four Freedom of Information Act requests since the last Regular meeting. Two have been completed on taxi service information and plumbing back flow devices, and the remaining two are in process. These are for information on guidelines and procedures for what students can record in classrooms and substitute teacher information.

Dr. Yonke welcomed Mr. Johnson to the Board table as he is transitioning to his role as Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations. Ms. Witham is leaving earlier than anticipated as she has accepted another position.

Mr. Tim Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services reported on two speaking presentations he conducted with Kris Hummel, of the Student Assistance Department. The presentations were to the ECGC Parents and the Wilmette PTO on the topic of healthy behaviors for kids and navigating through adolescence. He also highlighted that on February 24 the school will be participating in the Youth Risk Behavior Survey. This survey is provided by the Centers for Disease Control. Mr. Hayes noted that there are links on the Kinetic Wellness web page for viewing the survey, opting out of the survey and other important information on healthy behaviors.

Mr. Paul Sally, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, noted that while students had the day off for Presidents' Day, the teachers participated in Institute Day activities which included learning cohort meetings on measuring student growth and discussions on curriculum and pedagogy. Mr. Sally also reported that the State has officially chosen the SAT as the college assessment for high school students. He stated the Administration is firming up plans for parent communications regarding this change. It is unlikely that the change to SAT will occur this year. Mr. Sally also shared his thoughts on a presentation he participated in at the Winnetka Elementary School District for parents regarding the mathematics curriculum. He noted it was a good presentation with the Superintendent and math teachers about the beneficial changes in their new math curriculum. It was well attended with about fifty parents who appreciated the opportunity to learn about the changes and how it will prepare their students for the math curriculum in high school.

Mr. Harris congratulated Mr. Robitaille on learning that his daughter was among the New Trier National Merit Finalists.

B. Choir Opera Presentation

Ms. Nina Lynn, Chair of the Media, Speech & Theater Department introduced New Trier senior Alyson Weber to present a musical number from the Choir Opera presentation of *Legally Blonde: the Musical*. Performances begin on Thursday, March 3 and run through to Sunday, March 6 in the Gaffney Auditorium on the Winnetka Campus.

C. Black Box Committee Update

Dr. Yonke invited members of the Black Box Committee to come forward and present an update on the committee's work and progress. Mrs. Katie Seigenthaler thanked the Board for their approval last May to raise funds to outfit the Black Box theatre at the Winnetka campus. The Board's approval included naming rights for the theatre if the Committee raised \$1 million for the construction costs of the Black Box Theatre. The theatre will be named in honor of Mary Catherine Hayes (Class of 2010 and Mrs. Seigenthaler's daughter) and Sarah Christina McCausland (Class of 2013, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew McCausland). Mrs. Seigenthaler provided a PowerPoint presentation on their "Raise the Stage" capital campaign sharing information on the progress of the solicitations and planning for future prospects. She also shared renderings of the donor wall honoring the patrons of the theatre as well as Mary Catherine and Sarah. Mr. McCausland spoke of the inspiration in the community response in coming together. Ms. Dale West Wyant, the capital campaign committee chairman, acknowledged the assistance of Nina Lynn, Renee Mosley, Mark Hoversen, Cheryl Witham, Tim Hayes, Dr. Yonke, and Niki Dizon and thanked each of them. Ms. Wyant presented Board President Mac Harris a check in the amount of \$400,000, an amount greater than their payment schedule and four months before the due date. She shared that there is an equal amount in pledges; however the campaign will continue to meet the goal and raise an additional \$25K for

the donor wall. Dr. Yonke and Board members shared their appreciation and thanks for all the hard work and vision for the New Trier community.

D. Construction Update

Dr. Yonke briefly reviewed the progress of the Winnetka Facility Project construction since the last Regular Board meeting in January. She noted the construction is on track with only minor adjustments due to the winter weather; the primary building structure is complete; wall assemblies continue south to north on the west side; roof work is progressing; substantial progress is occurring inside on the first and second floors; and the lower level still has concrete work to do. Upcoming milestones include the interior build-out and the north entry curtain wall installation. Mr. Rob Martinelli also provided commentary on the work with photos showing the project's progress. Dr. Yonke and Mr. Martinelli responded to Board members' comments and questions.

E. Prevention, Identification & Intervention for Students in Crisis

Mr. Timothy Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services provided a report on the prevention, identification and intervention for students in crisis at New Trier. He reviewed the resources and methods used to be more responsive to students experiencing struggles either academically or emotionally. In the area of prevention, he noted three assets that help to track potential students in crisis, which were the Advisor Program, the Kinetic Wellness Health Curriculum and the extensive Extracurricular Program. To assist in the area of Identification, a list of students receiving grades of D or F are maintained as well as monitoring daily attendance. Communication with parents is important as is the implementation of the Trevian Tip line, in which anonymous tips can be submitted to help identify a student who needs help. For those students identified in need of assistance, a referral to the Response to Intervention team follows. They then create a plan to help the student. The Teacher Assistance Team also reviews information on struggling students and considers recommendations made by outside evaluators to determine if any school based supports would benefit the student. The Guided Assistance Program (GAP) aids students who are struggling academically with study skills over a ten week period. For students with social/emotional concerns, the Social Work Department provides individual or support group assistance as needed. Mr. Hayes noted several areas in need of addressing: finding additional indicators of students in crisis; communicating the options available to parents when their student is struggling; coordinating with outside support for transitioning the student back into their mainstream. Mr. Hayes invited questions and comments from Board members and responded with the assistance of Ms. Ellie Ambuehl, Director of Special Education. Board discussion followed on the grade listings, the Trevian Tip line, Erica's Lighthouse, professional development, adviser training, and parent communication.

VII. Administrative Items

Mr. Chris Johnson, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations noted that typically the Board is provided with a monthly Financial Report. He stated there will be a delay in producing this report as the Business office has transitioned to a new recording format. Mr. Johnson anticipated no material changes as a result of this new format change. Financial Reports will be ready and presented to the Board at the March 2016 Regular meeting.

A. Scholarship Allocation Report

Mr. Johnson provided the 2016 report for the New Trier Scholarship Trust Fund. He noted that the fund has been awarding scholarships to New Trier students for 67 years. The investments for the Fund are held with Vanguard and managed by Richard Drake of CastleArk Management, LLC. This year, total assets in the Fund as of December 31, 2015 were \$2,314,626.79. The allocation amount for Board approval is based on a trailing average method which takes 6% of the average of the total assets for the past four years. This year the amount for scholarships is \$135,871. Mr. Drake recommends liquidating part of the S&P 500 Index Fund and part of the Long Term Bond Fund, which will bring the investment portfolio within the Fund guidelines. Mr. Dolinko moved and Ms. Goldstein seconded the motion that the Board approve the maximum allocation of \$135,871 for scholarships for the 2016 graduating class and that these funds be withdrawn from the S&P 500 Stock Fund Index and the Long Term Bond Fund. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

B. Budget Process and Updated 5-Year Projections

Mr. Chris Johnson provided a Budget Update report, noting that several variables have changed and are affecting the Five-Year Projections that the District maintains for budget planning purposes. The last update to the projections was in October 2015. The budget deficit predicted last fall was \$177,000. Due to numerous variables that include the Consumer Price Index (CPI), Technology Fees, Administration salaries, Special Education Tuition, Physical Plant Services salaries, IMRF employer rate, the Annual Financial Report and teacher retirements the budget deficit is now predicted at \$589,847. Mr. Johnson is recommending continued pursuit of cost containment efforts to close the projected deficit and present a balanced budget by this summer. He provided further explanation and details of the variables and how they positively or negatively impacted the projections. He noted the Administration and the Finance Committee are looking at further potential changes that could negatively impact the District revenues. These include a two-year tax levy freeze, a shift of the state’s portion of the teacher pension costs to local districts, a realignment of state funding to direct more resources to be based on need and a reduction in the Special Education funding. A Cost Containment Committee was established in the fall of 2015. This Committee of teachers, department chairs, facilities staff, and administrators are meeting each month with the goal of creating recommendations for reducing expenditures in areas other than personnel. Board discussion followed as Mr. Johnson responded to Board members’ questions on state pension reform, CPI, labor costs and projection models.

C. Consideration and action on a resolution authorizing and providing for an Installment Purchase Agreement for the purpose of paying the cost of school facilities improvements in and for the District and for the issue of not to exceed \$4,950,000 General Obligation Debt Certificates (Limited Tax), Series 2016C, evidencing the rights to payment, providing for the security for and means of payment, and authorizing the sale of said Certificates to the purchaser thereof.

Mr. Chris Johnson reviewed the background for the issuance of these debt certificates to fund maintenance and renovation projects at both campuses that were approved at the November 2015 Regular meeting. The Winnetka projects include restroom repairs and improvements, building automation system improvements, tennis court repairs, concrete repairs, and asbestos abatement. Projects at the Northfield campus include tennis court repairs, concrete repairs, and energy conservation improvements. The bonds will be sold at a competitive sale in February and will include the 2008B refunding bonds and the 2016A bonds for Health Life Safety that were approved at the January 2016 Regular meeting. The District presented to Moody’s on January 13, 2016, to receive a bond rating. Moody’s issued an Aaa rating for the bond issuance, which is the highest rating possible. The debt certificates will be repaid with operating revenue from the NTTEC funds on an annual basis. Mr. Johnson responded to Board members’ questions. Mr. Dolinko moved and Mr. Robitaille seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the Resolution providing for an Installment Purchase Agreement for the purpose of paying the cost of school facilities improvements in and for the District and for the issue of not to exceed \$4,950,000 General Obligation Debt Certificates (Limited Tax), Series 2016C, evidencing the rights to payment, providing for the security for and means of payment, and authorizing the sale of said Certificates to the purchaser thereof. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

D. Student Fee Approval – 2016-17

Mr. Chris Johnson presented a report on Student Fees which support curricular and extracurricular programs as well as other expenses. He highlighted the discussions the Board had in 2012, when a new fee structure was implemented. At that time, the Board agreed to a structure in which fees would be assessed equitably to all students. These changes improved collections, increased transparency about the fees the District charges, and clarified the purpose of those fees. Mr. Johnson reviewed the General Fees assessed to all students and noted that fees have not increased in the years since the changes were implemented. He recommended a modest increase of 4% for the 2016-2017 school year, as costs and expenses have increased over that same time. Mr. Dolinko moved and Ms. Goldstein seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

VIII. Consent Agenda

- Bill List for the Period January 1-31, 2015
- Personnel Report & Addenda
- Ratification of Change Orders
- Asbestos Removal Bid Approval
- Resolution to Appoint District Treasurer
- Board of Education Meeting Calendar 2016-2017

Mr. Harris asked if any Board member would like to remove items from the Consent Agenda for separate discussion. Mr. O'Donoghue selected the Asbestos Removal Bid Approval for separate discussion. Mr. Dolinko moved that the Board approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Bill List for the Period of January 1-31, 2015 as presented; the Personnel Report and the Addenda thereto; that the Board ratifies the Budget Change Order #5 to the contracts managed by Pepper Construction Company; and furthermore, deduct the amount of \$126,251 from the West Side Construction Contingency line item, all in the best interest of the District; and approve that work commence to underpin the intersecting foundation of the existing Tower and former Tech Arts buildings in the amount of \$247,000, all in the best interest of the District; and that the Board further approve the Resolution to Appoint a District Treasurer; and that the Board approve the Board of Education Regular Meeting Dates July 2016 –June 2017. Ms. Albrecht seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

Mr. O'Donoghue inquired if this was the last of the asbestos abatement work. Mr. Steve Linke, the Winnetka Campus Facility Manager responded that it was the last large amount of needed asbestos work. He noted that there will be further abatement but on a much smaller scale and limited in scope. Discussion followed on the funding source and contractor experience. Mr. O'Donoghue moved that the Board approve and award a contract in the amount of \$586,000 for the summer asbestos abatement of the Cafeteria and Music Buildings. Mr. Dolinko seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

IX. Board Member Reports

Ms. Albrecht reported that the *New Trier Education Foundation* met on February 2. Discussion included the work done by the recently hired marketing consultant, which will be presented at the March 29 meeting. Budget discussions are looking at filling the deficit left on the biannual basis when the Alumni Achievement Awards event is not scheduled. The *ECGC* Parent Round Table discussed teen drinking, with Mr. Tim Hayes presenting information and survey statistics on substance abuse. The next *ECGC* presentation will be March 9 on "Seven Principles of Healthy Connections and Love".

Mr. Al Dolinko stated the *Booster Club's* 2016 Booster Bash was a wonderful evening. He noted that although attendance was down compared to last year, revenue for the event was about the same. Booster members were eager to complete their commitment on the Turf Project and anticipated a significant check to be written later this year. Looking ahead he noted that the spring sports season begins on February 29 as the Booster Club winds up a successful Intramural winter sports leagues.

Ms. Goldstein reported for the *New Trier Parents Association* which held its annual meeting on January 29. Dr. Yonke presented at the District Dialogue on the book *How to Raise an Adult*. It was well attended with over fifty parents present for the discussion. The Association's regular meeting was last week with a presentation on the Social Service Board. The Freshman Parent Party had over 200 parents in attendance. The

Association's College 101 Program will be on February 24 and the Winter Carnival is on February 25. The *All School Forum* also met last week with five students leading the discussion on technology at New Trier. The lively discussion included what worked, what didn't work, and the advantages of the different devices. News from the *NSSSED* meeting included the hiring of a new superintendent. Dr. Kirk Schneider will take over at NSSSED effective July 1. Co-op members are considering timeline guidelines for district members considering withdrawal from the co-op. An increase in enrollment is requiring reconsideration of their space needs.

Mr. Harris also attended the *All School Forum* and was impressed with the availability and variety of technology devices used by the students in their classes.

X. Board Members' Requests for Research & Calendar of Events

- Calendar of Events

Dr. Yonke reviewed calendar events which included the Spring Dance, Saturday, February 20. Winter Carnival is on Friday, February 19. The next Regular Board of Education meeting is on Monday, March 14. It is also a Board Recognition Program evening. Spring Break begins on Saturday, March 19. The Music Italy trip will leave on Friday, March 18.

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

There were no requests for research or future agenda items.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

F. Malcolm Harris, President