

**NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
September 19, 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, September 19, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

Members Present

Mr. Greg Robitaille, President
Ms. Lori Goldstein, Vice President
Ms. Cathy Albrecht
Mr. Alan R. Dolinko
Mr. John Myefski
Mr. Patrick O’Donoghue

Administrators Present

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

Members Absent

Mr. F. Malcolm Harris

Also Present

Ms. Niki Dizon, Director of Communications; Mr. Peter Tragos, Assistant Principal, Northfield Campus; Mr. George Sanders, Director of Human Resources; Ms. Stephanie Helfand, Chief Technology Officer; Mr. Myron Spiwak, Business Services Director; Mrs. Linda Knier, Director of Academic Services; Mr. Gerry Munley, Assistant Principal , Winnetka Campus; Mr. Scott Williams, Assistant Principal, Winnetka Campus; Ms. Athena Arvanitis, Director of Student Life; Ms. Ellie Ambuehl, Director of Special Education; Ms. Nina Lynn, Speech and Theatre Department Chair; Mr. Colby Vargas, President New Trier Education Association, Social Studies Department; Ms. Mary Beth Barrett, Science Department; Ms. Deborah Donley, Post High School Counseling; Mr. Spiro Bolos, Social Studies Department; Mr. Jason Dane, Kinetic Wellness Department; Mr. Mike Hill, Technology Department; Mr. Eric Johnson, Technology Department; Ms. Linda Hanson, School Exec Connect; Mr. Rob Martinelli, Pepper Construction Co., Mr. Dan Fogel, New Trier Caucus Chair; Ms. Jennifer Spinney, Ms. Kathy Dodd, Ms. Corinne Guarraia, Ms. Dale West Wyant, Mr. & Mrs. Andy McCausland, Ms. Katie Seigenthaler and members of the press and community.

BUSINESS MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER – 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Robitaille 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 Mr. Harris. Mr. Dolinko moved to 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. Mr. O’Donoghue seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

Adjournment to Closed Session – 6:32 p.m.

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

BUSINESS MEETING

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

Mr. Robitaille re-called to Order the meeting of September 19, 2016 of the New Trier High School Board of Education at 7:30 p.m. All members were present except Mr. Harris. Mr. Robitaille noted that the Board had returned from Closed Session.

IV. **Minutes**

Mr. Robitaille asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Dolinko moved and Mr. O'Donoghue seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on August 22, 2016, open and closed session, and the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education held on August 12, 2016, open and closed session. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

V. **Communications**

Mr. Robitaille extended an invitation to anyone wishing to speak to the Board during the Communications portion of the meeting, asking speakers to fill out the Public Communication Request form and pass it forward to the Board table. He called Kathy Dodd and Corinne Guarraia forward who thanked the Board for the new ELS space at the Winnetka Campus. Mr. Dan Fogel also addressed the Board, reminding the viewing audience that Board elections are scheduled for April 2017. He noted that there will be four Board vacancies.

VI. **Special Orders of Business**

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

Mr. Peter Tragos, Assistant Principal of the Northfield Campus, reviewed the activities of the month to welcome the Class of 2020. To that end, Mr. Tragos noted transition events such as the Activities Assemblies on September 7 and 8 during advisories and during lunch times; welcoming parents with the Freshman Adviser Parent Nights on September 6 and 7 and the Interim Progress Reports for a more formal feedback for parents and students. The First Quarter ends on October 28. Future events include the Freshmen Mixer on October 5, the Freshman-Go-To-School Night on October 6, and Spirit Week and the Pep Rally on October 14.

Ms. Denise Dubravec, Principal of the Winnetka Campus, noted the excitement at Winnetka on the Opening Day. She thanked Niki Dizon for the wonderful Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony on September 14, marking the opening of the new spaces at the Winnetka facility. Also, eleven recipients of the Alumni Achievement Awards were announced. The Alumni Achievement Award Dinner will take place on March 16. Ms. Dubravec also shared that 26 students qualified for the National Merit Semifinalist status. The All School Forum discussions were about the new spaces at Winnetka and she noted all the positive feedback she heard from students and parents about the facilities project. Most were thrilled with the openness and natural light of the spaces and the calming environment.

Dr. Tim Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services noted that the ECGC will sponsor a presentation tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m. at Northfield in room C234 on "*Teens & Sleep*". FAN will also host a program with a meet and greet in the Cornog on September 23 at 6:15 p.m. The topic of the program is "*Raising Moral, Community-Minded Kids in a Secular Age*".

Dr. Paul Sally, Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, reported on the summer Book Sale. He noted that it was the roughest start for a book sale with Follett, with long lines and insufficient amount of text books. The New Trier Book Store is outsourced to Follett and there was a management change by Follett at New Trier over the summer. Dr. Sally assured the Board that the issues are being addressed with Follett and anticipate a better effort and book sale for next year.

Mr. Chris Johnson, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, noted there were four FOIA requests since the last Board of Education meeting. The first is for the records of a specific special

education student; next is information on the structure and programming of specific courses; third is information on collective bargaining agreements and salary information; and the last seeks information on special education data reporting related to a specific student. The first is completed and closed out. The other three remain in process.

B. Foreign Exchange Students

Ms. Athena Arvanitis, Director of Student Life, introduced the four Exchange Students attending New Trier for the 2016-2017 school year. Marti Carol Adroher is from Spain and is hosted by Kathy and Chris Tucker of Wilmette; Manon Cuenot is from Switzerland and is hosted by Jeanne and Verd Nolan of Northbrook; Jorge Preciat Rivas is from Mexico and is hosted by Kelly Costello and Mark Bickford of Wilmette; and Momoka Suu is from Japan, and she is hosted by Jackie and Ron Pomerantz of Glenview. The students thanked the Board of Education for the opportunity to study at New Trier and shared their first impressions of the school and living in the United States. The Board and Ms. Arvanitis thanked the host families for their hospitality and wished the students well in their studies and extracurricular activities.

C. Lagniappe Potpourri Presentation

Ms. Kerri Simons, Assistant Faculty Sponsor of Lagniappe-Potpourri 2016 introduced the two co-heads of this year's show "*Pop! When the Bubble Bursts*". Ms. Katherine Gjertsen and Ms. Kat Eschel reviewed the all student-directed musical production, which will be performed September 21, 22 and 23 in the Gaffney Auditorium. An ensemble cast of students presented a musical dance vignette from this year's show.

Dr. Yonke pointed out that Tim Estberg, former Music/Speech & Theatre Department Coordinator and faculty member, spent many years as the lead sponsor of Lagniappe. He passed away on August 28, 2016. Dr. Yonke noted that Mr. Estberg and his enthusiasm for this student production are much missed.

D. Black Box Theatre Update

Ms. Nina Lynn, Department Chair of the Speech & Theatre Department, announced a major new plan for public outreach in fundraising for the Raise the Stage Capital Campaign for the Black Box Theatre. Ms. Lynn noted that there will now be direct appeals to audiences for all performances this year from the stage and in the lobby to participate in the campaign. Online ticket sales will also provide an opportunity to donate to the campaign. Ms. Dale West Wyant equally announced community wide direct mail and email solicitations for the campaign and presented a check, their second payment, to the Board for \$250,000. She noted that this payment brings their paid balance to \$650,000 of the \$1M goal. Upon completion of the fundraising effort, the theatre will be named the Hayes-McCausland Theatre in honor of Mary Catherine Hayes and Sarah McCausland, New Trier Performing Arts students.

E. Superintendent Search Process & Profile Development Presentation by School Exec Connect

Ms. Linda Hanson, consultant with School Exec Connect, reviewed the Superintendent Search process which begins with gathering feedback and information from an on-line community survey and seventeen focus groups made up of faculty, staff, students, administrators and community leaders. The Focus Groups and Survey questions sought opinions on the District's strengths and challenges as well as District priorities and important characteristics to seek in the new superintendent. The information is used to create a New Superintendent Profile that will guide the Board and the Interview Committees as they develop interview questions for candidates. Data was collected from 162 Focus Group attendees and 379 on-line survey respondents. Ms. Hanson summarized qualities of the New Superintendent Profile and reviewed the next steps in the search process. The timeline includes Board First Interviews in October and Second Interviews of the top three candidates in early November. The Board plans to make a final decision on November 9 and to present a finalist for approval at the December 12, 2016 Regular Meeting. Board discussion followed as Ms. Hanson responded to members' questions and comments. Topics in discussion included the need for confidentiality and using the Profile as a guide to find the best candidate. Mr. Robitaille noted it is the Board's consensus to move forward with the search using the School Exec Connect New Superintendent Profile.

F. Public Hearing: 2016-2017 Final Budget

Mr. Robitaille opened the Public Hearing on the 2016-2017 Final Budget. Mr. Chris Johnson provided a presentation on the Final Budget showing an overview of the revenues and expenditures with a focus on the Operating Funds. He reviewed the sources of revenue, of which 91% come from property taxes and highlighted the major expenditures which are salaries, benefits, purchased services, and supplies. The budget process for this year utilized the Skyward Business System and HR system to track expenses more

accurately and implemented increased collaboration with departments to budget more accurately for their needs. He also noted a focus on actual expenditures over past years to assist in a more accurate budget. Cost containment work also played a significant role. In summary, he noted the 2016-2017 Final Budget is balanced, with revenues at \$105,557,007 exceeding expenditures of \$105,085,594 in Operating Funds by \$471,413. The Capital Projects, Life Safety and Bond & Interest Funds are included in the Final Budget. Mr. Johnson invited comments and questions. Board discussion followed, highlighting that the Budget is balanced using actual data, implementing Skyward, and focusing on cost containment. Discussion also reviewed the transfers of moneys from the Education Fund to the Operations & Maintenance Fund and the employee benefits in health insurance. Mr. Robitaille opened the floor to Public Comment. Mr. Dan Fogel inquired where the financial information is located on the school website. He was directed to the financial page which includes all the budget documents. There were no other comments on the budget. Mr. Dolinko moved and Mr. O'Donoghue seconded the motion to adjourn the Public Hearing on the 2016-2017 Final Budget. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

G. 2016-2017 Final Budget Approval

Mr. Robitaille asked for a motion to approve the Final Budget for 2016-2017. Mr. Dolinko moved and Ms. Albrecht seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the Resolution Adopting the 2016-2017 Final Budget and that the Board of Education call for a Public Hearing at the October 17, 2016 Board meeting prior to the Board's consideration of a resolution to transfer moneys from the Education Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund for the purposes previously discussed. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

VI. Administrative Items

A. Treasurer's Report – August 2016

Dr. Yonke noted that the Treasurer's Report and the Financial Report for August was not ready to be posted in time for the meeting. She stated that due to a number of reasons including a vacancy in a key Business department position, the reports could not be completed; however, they should be able to be posted by the end of the week and also presented at the October 17 Regular Board of Education meeting.

B. Financial Reports – August 2016

Financial Reports for August will be posted by the end of the week and also presented at the October 17 Regular meeting.

C. Construction Update Report

Mr. Chris Johnson provided a narrative report on the Winnetka Campus Facility Project. He summarized the progress to date in which he noted that Pepper Construction was working on the punch list provided by Wight & Co. on Phase I of the project. This process should be completed in the next sixty days. Phase II demolition is completed and excavation has started. We have not encountered any soil or foundation issues as occurred in Phase I. Phase II structural steel will commence in late September and Phase II will start building enclosure in January 2017. Mr. Johnson also reviewed the work completed on the Health Life Safety Maintenance and Renovation projects. The ELS classroom space is open, the restroom renovations are completed, and the upgrade to the Mammoth unit heating system is completed. These projects have all been below budget. Mr. Rob Martinelli reviewed construction photos while responding to Board members' comments and questions. Board discussion followed on contingency planning while incorporating information learned from Phase I. A presentation on the contingency funds is planned for the October 17 Regular Board of Education meeting.

D. 2016 Testing Report

Dr. Paul Sally presented the Testing Report for 2016, sharing the newest data on student achievement on

the ACT. New Trier students continue to perform remarkably well as indicated by the test performance of students in specific capstone courses in English and Math. The average New Trier score in English is 28.3 and the average Math score is 27.4. He noted these highlights will be added to the Profile report that is sent to colleges. The report also looks at student growth over the course of testing from the fall of freshman year to senior year, specifically in the PLAN and ACT tests. This is the last class that will have taken the official PLAN test so the student growth measure will have to be modified to account for the change. He noted that 75-85% of students are making the college readiness benchmarks and new attention will be on identifying and assisting the 15-20% of students not meeting the benchmarks. The average number of ACT tests taken per student has declined while their average scores have increased. This change is seen as a positive redirection of time and effort for students as well as an effort to ease stress and anxiety levels. Board discussion followed as Dr. Sally responded to members' questions and comments on level 2 performance and national averages, the benefits of four years of high school math on post-secondary college success, and linking activities and services received to college successes.

E. Summer School Report

Mr. Scott Williams provided the Summer School Report for 2016. He noted that the number of students taking Summer School classes decreased by 91 yet the percentage of Student Body enrolled in Summer School only dipped to 41.3% from 42.2% in 2015. Mr. Williams highlighted the number of students enrolled in Science classes at 161, as compared to 287 in 2015. He attributed the drop to the curricular and prerequisite changes in the Science Department and felt the lower summer numbers were positive in helping students achieve a more balanced and healthy lifestyle. Financially, the Summer School program is intended to break even on costs and expenses; this year the program ended with a small surplus of \$12,266. The Summer School staff is recommending a tuition increase of 2% for 2017 to cover anticipated salaries and benefits, as well as increased custodial and utility costs. Board discussion followed as Mr. Williams responded to Board members' questions on costs and enrollment and the new civics course requirements.

VIII. Consent Agenda

- Bill List for the Period August 1-31, 2016
- Personnel Report and Addenda
- Ratification of Change Order #12
- Recognition of Schools
- Notice to Remedy
- ISBE Compensation Report

Mr. Robitaille asked if any Board member would like to remove any items from the Consent Agenda for separate discussion. None of the Consent Agenda items were singled out for discussion. Mr. Dolinko moved that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Bill List for the Period, August 1 through 31, 2016; the Personnel Report; that the Board of Education of New Trier Township High School District 203 ratifies Budget Change Order #12 to the contracts managed by Pepper Construction Company, and furthermore, deducts the amount of \$357,027.00 from the West Side Project Construction Contingency line item, all in the best interest of the District; the Application for Recognition of Schools; the Adoption of the Resolution Authorizing Notice to Remedy; and the ISBE Compensation Report. Mr. Myefski seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

IX. Board Member Reports

Ms. Goldstein reported for the *New Trier Parents' Association* noting that this year the publication of a parent/student directory will be electronic instead of print. A new parent-to-parent guide book is also available in print form this year. The NTPA Kickoff parent party will be on September 23. Ms. Goldstein also reported for *NSSSED* highlighting that the NSSSED newsletter was posted to BoardDocs in the weekly letter. She noted the new Superintendent (Dr. Kurt Schneider) is meeting with all the member districts. She, Dr. Yonke, Chris Johnson, Mr. Robitaille, and Ellen Ambuehl will be meeting to discuss NSSSED issues.

Ms. Albrecht reported for the *New Trier Education Foundation* that the Annual Benefit Golf Outing on September 12 was a great success. Over 110 golfers participated and the event generated gross revenues of

\$127,000. The Foundation's Alumni Achievement Awards Dinner will take place on March 16, 2017. Eleven distinguished alumni will be honored. Ms. Albrecht also reported for the *Community Engagement Committee* on the Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony on September 14, 2016. There were at least 350 attending guests to view the new spaces of the Winnetka Campus. She thanked Niki Dizon for all her efforts in coordinating this event.

Mr. Greg Robitaille noted the *Booster Club* met last week. Athletic Director Augie Fontanetta shared his vision for the Athletic Department and facilities development. The Booster Club reserved a moment of remembrance to honor Tim Estberg at their meeting. Online donations for the Booster Club have increased and the Club is eager to pay off the remaining \$35,000 of the Tackle the Turf fund campaign by year-end. The annual Booster Bash is scheduled for January 21, 2017, at the BMW dealership.

X. Calendar of Events & Board Members' Requests for Staff Research and Future Agenda Items

- Calendar of Events

Dr. Yonke reviewed the calendar of events which included the Lagniappe Potpourri student production on September 21, 22 and 23. September 23 and 26 are the first of the paired Early Dismissal/Late Arrival dates. October 6 will be the Freshman Go-To-School Night. Homecoming events are on Friday, October 14 with the football game and staff dinner, and the Homecoming Dance is on Saturday, October 15. The next Regular Board of Education meeting will be October 17.

-Requests for Staff Research & Future Agenda Items

There were no new requests for staff research or future agenda items.

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 9:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

Gregory Robitaille, President