

**NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
December 12, 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, December 12, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

**Members Present**

Mr. Greg Robitaille, President  
Ms. Lori Goldstein, Vice President  
Ms. Cathy Albrecht (*arrived at Closed Session*)  
Mr. Alan R. Dolinko  
Mr. F. Malcolm Harris  
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

**Also Present**

Ms. Niki Dizon, Director of Communications; Mr. Peter Tragos, Assistant Principal, Northfield Campus; 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; Mr. George Sanders, Director of Human Resources; Mr. Colby Vargas, President New Trier Education Association, Social Studies Department; Mr. Jason Dane, Kinetic Wellness Department; Mr. Matt Sloan, Science Department; Mr. Mike Napoleon, Kinetic Wellness Department; Mr. Peter Rosheger, Music Department; Mr. Dan Licata, English Department; Mr. Mike Hill, Technology Department; Mr. Eric Johnson, Technology Department; Mr. Dave Conway, Facilities Manager, Northfield Campus; Mr. Marty Platten, Pepper Construction Co; and members of the press and community.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

**I. CALL TO ORDER – 6:00 p.m.**

Mr. Robitaille called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 6:00 p.m. in Room C234. Roll call was taken. All members were present except Ms. Albrecht. 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 and of discussing student discipline and other matters relating to student discipline. Ms. Goldstein seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

**Adjournment to Closed Session – 6:01 p.m.**

**II. Closed Session – 6:00 p.m. — A201A**

*Student & Staff Recognition Program – 7:00 p.m. – Room C234*

## **BUSINESS MEETING**

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

Mr. Robitaille re-called to Order the meeting of December 12, 2016 of the New Trier High School Board of Education at 7:34 p.m. All members were present. Mr. Robitaille noted that the Board had returned from Closed Session and from the Student & Staff Recognition Program.

### **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 November 21, 2016, open and closed session. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Mr. Myefski

The motion passed.

### **V. Communications**

Mr. Robitaille invited anyone from the audience who wished to address the Board to please come forward and fill out a communications request form from the back table. 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 the events and activities of the freshman campus that included the Identity Project on December 7, the Freshman/Sophomore musical *Grease*, and the Staff vs. Senior Helper basketball game. Winter Break begins on Saturday, December 17. Placement testing for next year's freshmen is completed. Academic Life is scheduled for the first week after Winter Break and semester exams take place Wednesday through Friday of the second week of January.

Ms. Denise Dubravec, Principal of the Winnetka Campus, shared information on student events at the Winnetka Campus which included the Tri-Ship Tree Sale, with a record day of sales totaling \$12,000; donations to the Northwestern University Settlement House providing for gifts for sixty-nine families; and donations to the Chicago Food Depository totaling 46,448 meals. New Trier Junior Ellie Sweet will return from her semester in Washington as a Senate Page. She was chosen valedictorian of her page class and Senator Mitch McConnell spoke at their graduation. The Automotive Challenge students came in fifth place in the national Quaker State Competition. The Winter Music Festival was held on Sunday, December 11. The staff Chili Cook-off was won by Paul Easton. Ms. Dubravec highlighted a family technology night to be held on January 31 that will include a panel discussion with students from K-12; the discussion is targeted to all parents K-12 in our township. Chief Technology Officer Stephanie Helfand and Jacqui Pritchard and staff from the sender schools are presenting the informational meeting.

Mr. Robitaille acknowledge Music Department member Peter Rosheger in the audience and extended his compliments and commendation for the stellar performances at the Winter Music Festival.

Dr. Timothy Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, noted the ECGC Parent Group hosted an evening presentation on 'How can we talk to our children about race?' The presentation was well attended and ran over the allotted time by half an hour. Students are selecting their workshops for the All School Seminar Day on February 28. Dr. Hayes announced the keynote guest speaker for the Winnetka Campus will be Colson Whitehead, author of the National Book Award-winning *The Underground Railroad*. Andrew Aydin, National Book Award co-author of *MARCH*, will speak at the Northfield Campus. Dr. Hayes noted that *MARCH* is a memoir graphic novel of the life of Representative John Lewis. Dr. Hayes is hoping that Rep. Lewis will be able to come to New Trier either the week before or after the Seminar Day to speak with students. Dr. Hayes also reported that his department is gathering data for the biennial School Climate Survey. This survey is required by the state, to be sent to students, staff and parents. The survey used is the Comprehensive School Climate Inventory and he is hoping to get the

responses back the week after Winter Break.

Dr. Paul Sally, Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, indicated that planning for Academic Life is occurring within the Departments. The first informational night is just around the corner on January 4.

Mr. Christopher Johnson, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, noted there were two FOIA requests since the last Board of Education meeting in November. The first was a request for information on retired teachers and the second on a Special Education issue. The first is closed out and the second is almost completed.

**B. Public Hearing 2016 Tax Levy**

Mr. Robitaille called to Order the Public Hearing on the 2016 Tax Levy. Mr. Johnson provided a PowerPoint presentation on the 2016 Proposed Levy, explaining the process and the statutory guidelines regarding tax levies. He reviewed the terms used in tax levies and noted the timeline that began with the review of the Preliminary Levy at the October 17 Board Meeting. The Levy was then placed on display until the December Regular Board meeting which provides the Public Hearing on the Proposed Levy and the Final Levy Adoption. The calculation of the 2016 Levy is based on the 2015 tax extension multiplied by the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The District receives payment in two installments. Mr. Johnson explained the tax cap and the fact that we must use the December 2015 CPI of .7% to determine the levy. The 2016 Proposed Property Tax Extension is \$99,284,302. Board discussion followed on the growth of the expenses of the Education Fund and whether the tax cap will keep pace with it. Mr. Johnson responded to questions and Mr. Robitaille noted that the Board's Finance Committee is comfortable with the District's financial outlook for the next three years. Projections beyond that are not predictable and likely to change. Mr. Robitaille asked the attending audience if there were any comments regarding the 2016 Proposed Levy. No one indicated they wanted to address the Board. Mr. Dolinko moved and Mr. O'Donoghue seconded the motion that the Board adjourn the Public Hearing on the 2016 Tax Levy. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

**C. 2016 Tax Levy Approval**

Mr. Dolinko moved that the Board approve the Resolution Levying Taxes for the Year 2016 in the amount of \$99,284,302 to be distributed as follows:

Education Fund	\$86,377,342
Operations & Maintenance Fund	\$ 7,446,323
Transportation Fund	\$ 1,389,980
IMRF	\$ 2,045,257
Social Security	\$ 2,025,400
<b>Total Extension:</b>	<b>\$99,284,302</b>

And that the Board approve the related resolutions, including the Resolution to abate a portion of the Debt Service Fund Levy and the Resolution to abate a portion of the loss and collection supplement. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. 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. Harris, Mr. Robitaille

NAY: None

The motion passed.

#### **D. Profile of the Class 2016**

Dr. Paul Sally presented the Profile of the Class of 2016, which is an in-depth look at the graduating senior class from the previous year. It is a summary of students' test scores, course taking patterns, college matriculation, support services, leadership experiences, senior project, and Service. He highlighted the significance of the report's ability to dispel myths on New Trier students' experiences. Dr. Sally noted an increase in the number of AP classes taken, that students are well prepared academically for college, and he presented data from the alumni survey. Dr. Tim Hayes shared information on the use of the Support Services by the Class of 2016, finding no consistent pattern from class to class as to which services were most used. He noted the many opportunities for students to learn and explore leadership in and out of school and the unique experiences Senior Project provides. Dr. Sally indicated that the Profile Report has areas for further exploration, including years of data that can be used to determine any patterns in testing and extracurricular reports, course-taking patterns, service, and leadership. Further study may also assist in enhancing our Support Services to better meet the needs of students. Board Discussion followed with members commenting on the course level-taking patterns of students and the fact that students of all levels are attending excellent, selective colleges. The report also helps refute the misperception that AP courses are essential to admission to selective colleges. Board and administration discussed sharing this information with students, advisers, and parents.

#### **E. Extracurricular Participation Report**

Dr. Tim Hayes presented the Extracurricular Participation Report for last year, 2015-2016. This report includes information that is gathered from many sources and departments, such as the Athletic Department, the Performing Arts Department, Student Activities, and the Booster Club (which provides intramural participations). Overall participations in the school's extracurricular programs are at 85% of students which is down by one percentage point from the previous year. When counting participation outside of school, the participation level rises to 95% of students, leaving only 5% of students that are not active in any school or outside extracurricular activities. Dr. Hayes noted that over the past five years, participations have been very consistent. New Trier's unique position is that it offers an incredible number of opportunities to choose from. He said preparing the report helps to monitor participation in all of the programs, helping make decisions about additions or deletions of activities. Monitoring participation also allows the school to focus on the 5% who do not participate in anything extra. Board discussion followed as members commented on intramural sports, the increase in Performing Arts participation, and the low level of drops and cuts in the Athletic department offerings. Dr. Yonke highlighted the Board support for hiring the necessary number of coaches needed for such a large program, and she commented on their skill at making the sport and participation interesting for large numbers of students. She also noted that the Booster Club support of the intramural program is extraordinary.

#### **F. Construction Update Report**

Mr. Christopher Johnson presented the Construction Update Report for December. He invited Dave Conway and Marty Platten of Pepper Construction Co. to assist and review the work site photos for the Board. Mr. Johnson provided a Phase II Project Summary which noted the steel erection is progressing with completion to be late January or early February; the concrete slab placement is in progress on the lower levels; the building will be temporarily enclosed; the Concourse slab will be placed in the next two weeks (four to five month ahead of Phase I); work on the skylight will begin in January and the MEP coordination is complete on the lower level through the second floor. Mr. Platten provided narrative for the aerial photos of the construction work being done. Mr. Robitaille asked if the Project would still meet the September deadline. Mr. Platten affirmed that it would. Mr. Johnson opened the floor to questions on the Change Order #16 to be approved later in the Consent Agenda. Mr. Johnson, Mr. Conway, and Mr. Platten responded to Board members' comments and questions on various change order items and the contingency.

#### **G. Student Information System Selection Process**

Ms. Stephanie Helfand, Chief Technology Officer, reported on the work of her department to evaluate the Student Information Systems we have presently and to determine future needs. eSchool, our current system, needs to be updated to a new version, or we need to switch to a completely new system. The current version of eSchool is coming to the end of its life cycle, as are some of the other supporting programs used with student records. The Student Information System is complex, providing large amounts of data on attendance, course selection, master scheduling, grade reporting, assessments, IEP management, social work, state reporting, student discipline, transcripts, health services and registration. The goal of a new system is to improve access and efficiency, reduce complexity, and reflect our school values. The timeline for evaluation and implementation began in March 2016 by evaluating the District needs and

available solutions; by March 2017, the District needs to purchase a new or upgraded SIS. In June 2017 training on the new system begins; by August 2017 the transfer of usage to the new system will begin; and in July 2018 the first full year of implementation will be complete. The Steering Committee and Organizing Committee were helped by the work of seventeen Process Subcommittees of staff volunteers who assisted in the review and analysis process. Open Forums also aided in the analysis. Vendor demonstrations will occur in January and February with eSchool, PowerSchool, Skyward, and Infinite Campus. Board discussion followed with Ms. Helfand and Mr. Johnson responding to Board members' comments and questions on a work flow analysis, an estimate of the total financial costs, the efficiencies that will be achieved with a new system, and the improved controls that will be included.

## **VI. Administrative Items**

### **A. Treasurer's Report for October 2016**

The monthly Treasurer's Report included three years of Cash Flow Statements, the October Financial Statement, the Cash and Investment Report, and the October Investment Statement. Mr. Christopher Johnson provided a brief update, noting the increase in receipts at this time of year that is related to the Student Fee Bills that were mailed out and the payments being collected. The District investments are invested according to the District Investment Plan.

### **B. Financial Reports for October 2016**

Mr. Johnson reviewed the Financial Report for October 2016, noting that both revenues and expenditures are trending lower than last year though the variance continues to decrease as the year progresses. The budget indicates a surplus of approximately \$470,000 for 2016-2017 at this time. Operating revenues are 9% lower than last year and overall expenditures are 4% lower than last year. He explained that the revenues appear lower due to an adjustment in classification of the Bond revenue from the Education Fund to the Debt Service Fund, which is not in the Operating Funds.

### **C. IMRF Unfunded Accrued Actuarial**

Mr. Johnson presented a report on the IMRF Unfunded Accrued Actuarial Liability of the District. In his PowerPoint presentation he reviewed the amount paid to IMRF by employees, 4.5%, and by the District, 8.66%. He also discussed the AAL or the Actuarial Accrued Liability, the AVA or the Actuarial Value of Assets, and the UAAL or the Unfunded Accrued Actuarial Liability. Mr. Johnson stated the District's options are to maintain the status quo or to use all or some of the District's funds in the restricted IMRF/SS fund to pay down the District's UAAL.

By implementing such a change, the net result to the District is a savings of \$162,500 per year if most of the UAAL is paid off. IMRF restrictions allow for the use of 75% of the fund to be used to pay down the District's UAAL of \$2,530,193. Mr. Johnson noted that if this is done in 2016, then IMRF will recalculate the rate used going forward on the balance left in the UAAL. Board discussion followed on the District's payments to IMRF, changes in the rate of calculations, and the fund's performance in the investment markets. Board members also expressed consensus that to pay 7.5% interest with only 1% income to balance was fiscally unwise. Mr. O'Donoghue moved and Mr. Harris seconded the motion that the Board approve the recommendation authorizing the District use restricted reserve funds to pay \$2,290,931 of the \$2,530,193 IMRF UAAL in calendar year 2016. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

## **VIII. Consent Agenda**

- Bill List for the Period November 1-30, 2016
- Personnel Report & Addendum
- Ratification of Change Order #16

Mr. Robitaille asked if any Board member would like to remove any items from the Consent Agenda for separate discussion. No one requested any Consent Agenda items needing further discussion. Mr. Dolinko

moved and Mr. Harris seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Bill List for the Period of November 1-30, 2016; the Personnel Report and the Addendum; and the Change Order #16, as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

**IX. Board Member Reports**

Mr. O'Donoghue noted for the *Technology Committee* that discussion included work on the new Technology Newsletter and the Student Information Systems that were discussed earlier this evening.

Ms. Goldstein reported that the *New Trier Parents Association* will meet tomorrow, December 13. The annual District Dialogue will take place in January. The Association will also be discussing calendars and matching winter and spring break with the Township sender schools. Ms. Goldstein noted the NSSSED discussions included the amendments to the articles of agreement among the Co-Op members. Board discussion followed on the amendment which dictates members' abilities to leave the co-op. Board members shared their reactions on the need and benefits of the co-op, the punitive nature of the amendment and the nature of co-ops. Ms. Goldstein will provide the Board's feedback to the NSSSED Board and keep the board informed on further developments for the cooperative members.

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

- Calendar of Events

Dr. Yonke reviewed the important calendar events in December and January which include Winter Break December 17 through January 2; first semester exams on January 11, 12 and 13; the last day of first semester on January 17; and the next Board of Education Regular meeting on Monday, January 16, 2017.

-Requests for Staff Research & Future Agenda Items

Mr. O'Donoghue asked for a report on NSSSED. Mr. Myefski recommended that staff should look into Public/Private Partnerships process while preparing the report on NSSSED.

**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 9:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

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Gregory Robitaille, President