

**NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
September 18, 2017  
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 18, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

**Members Present**

Mr. Greg Robitaille, President  
Ms. Lori Goldstein, Vice President  
Ms. Cathy Albrecht  
Mr. Keith Dronen  
Ms. Carol Ducommun  
Dr. Marc Glucksman  
Mr. Patrick O’Donoghue

**Administrators Present**

Dr. Paul Sally, Superintendent  
Mr. Peter Tragos, Assistant Superintendent for  
Curriculum & Instruction  
Mr. Christopher Johnson, Assistant Superintendent  
for Finance & Operations  
Ms. Denise Dubravec, Principal –  
Winnetka Campus  
Mr. Paul Waechtler, Principal –  
Northfield Campus

**Also Present**

Dr. Stephanie Helfand, Chief Technology Officer; Mr. Myron Spiwak, Business Services Director; Mr. Gerry Munley, Assistant Principal, Winnetka Campus; Mr. George Sanders, Director of Human Resources; Ms. Niki Dizon, Director of Communications; Mrs. Linda Knier, Director of Academic Services; Mr. Augie Fontanetta, Athletic Director; Mr. Dave Conway, Northfield Campus Facilities Manager; Mr. Steve Linke, Winnetka Campus Facilities Manager; Mr. Jason Dane, Kinetic Wellness Department, New Trier Education Association President; Mr. Scott Williams, Assistant Principal for Student Services; Ms. Gail Gamrath, Assistant Principal of the Northfield Campus; Ms. Athena Arvanitis, Director of Student Life; Mr. Colby Vargas, Social Studies Department; Ms. Sarah Kropski, NTESPA Co-President, Music Department & Media Speech & Theatre Department; Ms. Nina Lynn, Media, Speech & Theatre Department Chair; Mr. Marty Laffey, Mathematics Department; Ms. Marianne Breen, New Trier Educational Foundation; Mr. Pon Angara, New Trier Educational Foundation; Mr. Mike Hill, Technology Department; Mr. Eric Johnson, Technology Department; Mr. Marty Platten, Pepper Construction Co.; Mr. David Buyer, Mrs. Susan Schmidt and members of the press and community.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

**I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:00 p.m. – Rm. C234**

Mr. Robitaille called the Regular Meeting of September 18, 2017 of the Board of Education to order at 7:01 p.m. in Room C234. Roll call was taken and all members were present. He noted the new start time for the Board meetings as 7:00 p.m.

**II. CLOSED SESSION – NO CLOSED SESSION**

**BUSINESS MEETING**

**III. Open Session – 7:00 p.m. – C234**

Mr. Robitaille called to order the meeting of September 18, 2017, of the New Trier High School Board of Education at 7:01 p.m. He also noted the Board did not have a closed session meeting this evening and the Board is meeting for the first time, in open session. All members were present.

**IV. Minutes**

Mr. Robitaille asked for any comments or questions on the Minutes. None being raised he asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on August 28, 2017; and of the Special Meeting of August 28, 2017. Ms. Ducommun moved and Ms. Albrecht seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 28, 2017 open and closed session and the minutes of the Special Meeting of August 28, 2017 open session. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Mr. Dronen, Ms. Ducommun, Dr. Glucksman, Ms. Goldstein, Mr. O'Donoghue, Ms. Albrecht, Mr. Robitaille

NAY: none

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 wished to address the Board.

**VI. Special Orders of Business**

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

Mr. Waechtler was addressing Freshman parents at the Freshman Parent Advisor Night. Ms. Denise Dubravec, Principal of the Winnetka Campus, provided the Northfield Campus update. She highlighted the ceremony for the naming of the Jan Borja Building on September 4. Jan Borja was principal of the Northfield Campus when the campus re-opened. Dr. Sally also commented on the wonderful event honoring Jan Borja, teacher, advisor, administrator and principal. He noted the many attending the event included retired staff who had worked with Ms. Borja. The Freshman Mixer will be on October 4. This is an all-freshman dance and is the first dance of the year.

Ms. Dubravec also reported on the events at the Winnetka Campus. She noted that as of Friday, September 15, there are 3978 students enrolled at New Trier. The breakdown by class is: 992 seniors; 929 juniors; 1028 sophomores and 986 freshmen. Thirty-five students have made the National Merit Semi-finalist list. These students will move on to the next phase of the competition. Ms. Lorri Starck-King, Chair of the Modern & Classical Languages Department, announced that 120 students received the state Seal of Biliteracy. Students who earned a score of 4 or 5 on a foreign language AP test and a score of 21 or higher on the ACT English test received the honor. The Seal of Biliteracy will appear on the student transcript and diploma. Class reunions for the classes of '52 and '67 took place with building tours included as part of their festivities. The Neighborhood BBQ took place on September 14 and the Traffic & Parking Committee will next meet on October 17. The Illinois Swimming & Diving Association has honored Bruce Kimball as the 2017 inductee into the Diving Coach Hall of Fame. In other news, senior Jack Cable won the competition "Hack the Air Force." Jack found 40 vulnerabilities, which put him in first place.

Mr. Tim Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, reported that parents will be invited to participate in focus group discussion as part of our Adviser Room Program Study. The discussions will take place October 16, 17 and 18. For the student portion of the focus groups, an email will be sent to parents informing them of the focus groups and allow them to opt their student out of the study, if the wish. He noted that the student show Lagniappe Potpourri will be performed September 26, 27 and 28. The Student Activities Fair will take place on September 28 for students interested in finding more information on student clubs, sports and performing arts. Spirit Week starts on October 2.

Mr. Peter Tragos, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, reported that there was a workshop on Friday, September 15 hosted by the Kinetic Wellness Department with Erica's Lighthouse for early identification and intervention awareness for teen depression and mental illness.

Mr. Christopher Johnson, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations reported that there was one FOIA request since the last Regular Board of Education meeting. It was on student participation in football over the last nine years. It has been completed and there are no outstanding requests open.

**B. Foreign Exchange Students**

Ms. Athena Arvanitis, Director of Student Life presented five exchange students who will be studying at New Trier for this academic year of 2017-2018. Ms. Arvanitis extended a special thank you to Ms. Beth Drucker, the community liaison for assisting in placing the exchange students in their host families' homes. Ms. Hilda Ludanes is from Norway and her host family is Beth and Dan Croley of Glencoe; Ms. Felicie Michel is from Belgium and her host family is Mande and Dave Mischler of Wilmette; Ms. Erica (Else) Rensen is from the Netherlands, her host family is Joy and Tim Doelman of Glencoe; Ms. Anne Rothermund is from Germany, her host family is Marilyn and Marc Falkenberg of Wilmette and Mr. Aurelien Sapin is from France and his host family is Cheryl and Paul Leamon of Glencoe. On behalf of the

Board of Education and the New Trier community, Mr. Robitaille welcomed the students and thanked the host families. He encouraged them to get involved and thanked them in advance for all the learning that our students will gain from them.

### **C. Lagniappe Potpourri Presentation**

Ms. Nina Lynn, Department Chair of the Media, Speech & Theatre Department introduced the 2017 student production of Lagniappe Potpourri: *Not What You Think*. Student co-producers, Grace Verhoog and Alex DeTrempe, provided background on the all student production. Members of the cast offered a sneak-peek of one of the sketches from this year's Lagniappe. Performances will be presented Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, September 26, 27 and 28 in the Gaffney Auditorium at the Winnetka Campus. All performances begin at 7:00 p.m.

### **D. New Trier Educational Foundation – Presentation of Green Roof Check**

Mr. David Buyer, along with Ms. Susan Schmidt and Ms. Marianne Breen of the New Trier Educational Foundation presented Mr. Robitaille and the Board of Education, a ceremonial check for \$100,000 for the cost of the Green Roof at the Winnetka Campus. Mr. Buyer thanked Ms. Schmidt and Ms. Breen for the fundraising assistance and he thanked all the donors who contributed. He is looking forward to the Foundation's future projects, which include the Entrepreneurship U., the Glass Arts Project and the James Marran Endowment Fund. Dr. Sally and Mr. Robitaille thanked the Foundation for their generous donation to the school and invited everyone to come to the building Dedication on October 15.

### **E. Monthly Construction Report**

Mr. Chris Johnson provided an update on the Winnetka Campus Facility Project Phase II noting that the majority of Phase II is completed and turned over for occupancy. Certain areas are still in progress as anticipated such as the McGee & Black Box Theatres, the Brierly Gallery and various A/V spaces. Most of the remaining items are scheduled to be completed in October and the punch list development is ongoing. The punch list is the formalized process to make any adjustments or corrections that may be observed once construction is complete. He noted the construction budget expenditures, which included Change Order 25 totaled \$160,071. The projected contingency increased from \$731,243 to \$906,336. Unidentified Contingency Usage was reduced by the one-month value of \$140,739. The estimated total cost rose by \$194,425. Mr. Marty Platten of Pepper Construction provided responses to Board members' questions on cost estimates and projected costs.

Dr. Sally noted the real push was to have the building prepared for students and refined estimates will be provided to the Board at the October meeting. Members complimented Mr. Platten on meeting the deadlines and the completion of the project. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Platten both agreed that estimating projected costs from Phase I for Phase II was beneficial at keeping costs down. Determining which party is responsible for the cost of specific change order items will be addressed over the next few months, with the goal of reporting final costs to the Board at the December 2017 meeting. Mr. Johnson also noted that the cost of some capital items was related to district projects beyond the scope of the original project, and that those have been funded by funds earmarked for capital in the district's operating budget.

### **F. Testing Report**

Mr. Peter Tragos, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, provided the ACT Analysis Report for the Class of 2017. While the report highlights student testing on the state and national levels, it also demonstrates student growth. The average composite score for the class of 2017 was identical to the class of 2016 at 27.8. Further, as a testament to the depth of New Trier student's achievement, 82% of New Trier students scored in the top 25% of the nation. The Class of 2017 took the PLAN test as sophomores and then the ACT test as juniors. The student growth measure is the analysis of the growth of the composite score from the PLAN exam sophomore year to the ACT exam junior year. Growth was also measured in the college readiness benchmarks to assess student success in college. The growth measured by our students supports the belief that students in all levels of classes experience a dynamic and engaging curriculum, have excellent teachers, and are dedicated learners. The last highlight showed that for the third year in a row, the number of ACT tests taken per student has decreased. The Class of 2017 averaged 2.8 ACT tests per student. The Class of 2014 averaged 3.1 ACT tests per student. Since our students average performance over that time has increased, this change shows a positive redirection of time and effort for our students. He noted next steps for this report would be to look at those students that did not meet the readiness benchmarks and why and how to go about investigating this measure. Mr. Tragos invited questions and comments from the Board. Discussion followed on the PSAT exams, AP exams, statistical

data, trends from the ACT tests to the SAT tests, comparisons between them, praise to the excellent teachers and students, the importance of communicating the good news of the Class Profiles to the community, test prep data, and gender data.

#### **G. Public Hearing: 2017-2018 Final Budget**

Mr. Robitaille called the Public Hearing for the 2017-2018 Final Budget to order at 8:26 p.m. He reviewed the process for the hearing which included a presentation on the Final Budget by Chris Johnson, the Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations, a time for public comment, and time for Board discussion. He noted that upon closing the Public Hearing, the Board of Education would be asked to vote.

Mr. Chris Johnson provided a PowerPoint presentation with his report that included the legal requirements for Budget Adoption, an overview of Operating Funds Revenues and Expenditures, budget highlights, and a budget summary. The legal requirements included that the School Board must place the Tentative Budget on Public Display for at least thirty days, scheduling a date and time for the Public Hearing of the Proposed Budget, publishing a "Notice of Public Hearing" in a general circulation newspaper within the District, and finally, conduct the Public Hearing on said date and time.

Mr. Johnson reviewed the Revenue Sources for the 2017-2018 Final Budget as local property taxes, the Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax(CPPRT), tuition, fees, earnings on District investments, food service, activities, the bookstore, and other. Mr. Johnson highlighted a Revenue Change for all Illinois School Districts in that the CPPRT was reduced due to reduced collections. The expected District revenue for that has been reduced by \$299,928. He reviewed the major revenue sources and compared revenues by fund.

Mr. Johnson reviewed the expenditure categories, which include salaries, benefits, purchased services, supplies, capital outlay, debt and tuition payments, non-capitalized equipment, and termination benefits. Expenditures are allocated to District Funds based on accounting standards. Expenditure changes in the Education Fund reflected the most recent final hires. The major area of expenditure in the Education Fund is salary and benefits. He highlighted the strong performance and management of the NIHIP Insurance Cooperative, noting that the District Health Insurance expenses have gone down in recent years. Additionally, a decrease in expenditures in this area is partly due to the recent holiday for employee benefit payments.

Mr. Johnson praised the Skyward Business and Human Resources system in building a more precise budget. He also noted an increased collaboration with departments to budget accurately for needs by focusing on actual expenditures for previous years and the continued work of the District monitoring for cost containment. Mr. Johnson highlighted that the District is able to present a balanced budget even during the lowest 4-year period of CPI growth since the 1960's. The 2016 levy for capped funds only increased by 0.7% and the District earned, for the fifteenth straight year, the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from ASBO and the Certificate of Achievement in Financial Reporting for FY16 by GFOA. The Final 2017-2018 Budget is showing total revenues of \$107,344,653 and total expenditures of \$103,871,352. The Budget is balanced and includes a surplus of \$3,473,301 in Operating Funds. He reported that an additional sum of \$3,570,666 will be transferred to other funds.

He also reported that the NTTEC owes the district \$134,000 in FY 19 and FY 20 for construction of the AV Suite at the Winnetka Campus. He indicated that the payment has been recorded as due from that organization, and that fund balance from the Education Fund will be used to make the required payments for this expense, and that the fund will be subsequently reimbursed by NTTEC over FY 19 and 20. This transfer will be included in the amount transferred to other funds. Capital Projects, Life Safety and Bond/Interest funds are included in the Final Budget.

Mr. Robitaille invited anyone from the audience to come forward and address the Board on the 2017-18 Final Budget. No one came forward to speak. Mr. O'Donoghue moved and Ms. Albrecht seconded the motion to adjourn the Public Hearing on the 2017-2018 Final Budget. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Ms. Ducommun, Dr. Glucksman, Ms. Goldstein, Mr. O'Donoghue, Ms. Albrecht, Mr. Dronen, Mr. Robitaille

NAY: none

The motion passed.

#### **H. 2017-2018 Final Budget Approval**

Mr. Robitaille invited Board members to comment on the Budget or pose any concerns or questions to Mr. Johnson. Board discussion followed on the decrease in the regular programming, Special Education, the co-curricular programs and the bi-lingual programs. Mr. Johnson and Dr. Sally responded to Board members' comments. Board members requested a report for the actual figures as soon as the Audit is completed. Mr. Johnson noted they will be provided to the Finance Committee at their next meeting. Questions also were asked about the fluctuations in the Special Education Department to which Mr. Johnson noted the fluctuations occurring are due to the number of Special Education students and their needs and noted the Federal funding that also accompanies these fluctuations. Further discussion followed on the appearance of surplus in the Operating Fund, which then is transferred to the Capital Projects Fund to cover the Winnetka Capital Facilities Project and debt service. Mr. Johnson agreed to adjust the memo to qualify and show the true surplus/deficit after these transfers. Mr. O'Donoghue inquired if any fund transfers are going to the District Debt Service Fund. Mr. Johnson responded affirmatively that the District is paying annually from the Operations & Maintenance Fund on the Debt Service incurred for the NSSED project, which then is lowering amount of taxes extended to taxpayers. Mr. Robitaille requested a motion to approve the Budget. Ms. Goldstein moved and Dr. Glucksman seconded the motion that the Board of Education approves the Resolution to Adopt the Annual Budget for 2017-2018 Fiscal Year and the School District Budget Form, as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Dr. Glucksman, Ms. Goldstein, Mr. O'Donoghue, Ms. Albrecht, Mr. Dronen, Ms. Ducommun  
Mr. Robitaille

NAY: none

The motion passed.

### **VI. Administrative Items**

#### **A. Treasurer's Report for August 2017**

Mr. Chris Johnson provided information on the Treasurer's Report which includes three years of Cash Flow Statements, the August 2017 Financial Statements, the Cash & Investment Report, the August Investment Statements and the Historical Cash Balances Graph. He noted that total receipts for July and August are \$26M, on pace with last year. The State balance owed to the District from last year is \$500,000 and he highlighted that the state has started sending in payments for this year which we will see on the September statements.

#### **B. Financial Reports for August 2017**

Mr. Johnson reviewed the monthly Financial Reports for August 2017, noting that Operating revenues were 1.63% higher as compared to this time last year. Other sources of revenue are also higher due to on time collections of student fees and the work of the Business office. Operating expenditures are 9.94% higher than last year, largely based on the timing of purchases. He highlighted that these figures reflect the unaudited 2017 budget. As the Audit is completed, the District's actual figures will be incorporated.

#### **C. 2018 Summer Project Approval**

Mr. Chris Johnson reviewed the Facilities Projects for 2018 that have been presented and reviewed by the Facilities Steering Committee and the Finance Committee. He noted the issues discussed at the meeting sought to balance the needs for the summer with available resources and long term planning. The recommended projects for Northfield are: improvements to the tennis courts, a restroom/concession/storage building, and a Press Box with bleachers for a combined cost of \$5,759,756. At the Winnetka Campus improvements include office/support renovations for the Admin Services, Advisers, Social Work & Psychology Department and the Technology Department for a cost of \$2,808,522. The Five-Year Plan presented to the Board of Education in November 2016 had this work estimated at \$12.1M. The revised plan for the work is \$8.5M, with \$1M funded by a private donation and \$534,000 funded through one-time use of Athletic Tournament Funds, for a net balance of \$7M to be financed. The Finance Committee reviewed potential financing, and how money could be used based on statutory guidelines and best practices. Mr. Johnson noted that the \$7M will be financed through bonding, but will leave \$23M in

bonding capacity for the long term projects of 2019 and beyond. Board discussion followed on the tennis court renovation, working cash bonds, and the cost for the Winnetka office renovations. Members were not comfortable with the estimated cost and questioned the need for an approval vote at this time. Mr. Johnson noted the Board would be able to weigh in on the exact cost later and that this approval was just to move forward on the 2018 Summer Projects. He stated it would be desirable to be ready in January for the financial markets. Board consensus requested Mr. Johnson to provide further breakdown of the renovation costs but agreed on the worthiness of the project list. It was agreed that more exact costs would be delineated and brought to the Finance Committee in October, and to be considered later in the month by the full Board. No action was taken on this agenda item.

**D. Recommendation to Approve donation**

Mr. Chris Johnson reviewed the tennis court donation recommendation. He noted the District has courts on both campuses. The Kinetic Wellness students use the courts during the school days and the tennis teams as well as the community members use the courts during off hours. The Theodore Eckert Foundation has offered a \$1,000,000 to improve the tennis courts at the Northfield Campus by rehabilitating the existing courts and adding four additional courts. The donation is being facilitated by Tad Eckert who is our Head Boys Tennis Coach and a director of the Theodore Eckert Foundation. Mr. Johnson noted that the Foundation made a similar donation to the Winnetka Park District's Nielsen Tennis Center. Based on the review of the donation by the Donation Committee recommends the acceptance of this donation. Ms. Ducommun moved that the board of Education accepts the donation from the Theodore Eckert Foundation and that the tennis court project be included in the design process with the other planned 2018 facilities work, subject to the District entering into a mutually acceptable donation agreement with the donor and authorizes the Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations to execute such agreement. Ms. Albrecht seconded the motion.

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Ms. Goldstein, Mr. O'Donoghue, Ms. Albrecht, Mr. Dronen, Ms. Ducommun, Dr. Glucksman, Mr. Robitaille

NAY: none

The motion passed.

Mr. Robitaille thanked the Donation Committee for their time and work in reviewing and recommending this generous donation. He also read the following statement from the Donation Committee:

"The Board acknowledges and very much appreciates the efforts of its long time Boys' Varsity Tennis Coach, Tad Eckert, who serves as one of four directors on the Theodore Eckert Foundation Board and whose interest in New Trier tennis was instrumental in arranging for this generous gift by the Foundation. Mr. Eckert has been a part-time, non-tenured employee of the District for 10 years in his coaching capacity. Tad's contributions to New Trier tennis and the success of our program are notable on their own merit. We thought it important to clarify that this very generous gift in support of New Trier's tennis facilities was not solicited by the School District and is not accepted by the Board with the promise of any benefit for the Foundation or Mr. Eckert personally beyond those representations made to the Foundation within the Gift Agreement to spend the donated funds to renovate and construct additional tennis courts and related improvements at the Northfield Campus."

**E. Update on Senate Bill 1947**

Dr. Sally presented a report on the impact of recent school funding legislation in Springfield, Illinois. He noted that many positive outcomes came with the passing of a School Funding Bill 1947 for Illinois schools. The law acknowledges that there be a minimum level of funding for schools, now called adequacy, and it will be based on data and evidence. Different types of students need different levels of resources and each school district's ability to financially support operations is different. The bill looks to a potentially sustainable school funding system that aims to move all districts to adequate levels of funding. However, approximately 80% of Districts are below adequacy. All districts are kept whole based on FY2017. New Trier will be kept whole with our same funding with only minor increases. New dollars will go to the neediest districts first. A funding adequacy target is calculated by the state from 27 elements. These elements are based on research and best practice. The standards set for each of these elements are what is required for adequately educating students. From these elements, the formula infers staffing levels,

extracurricular levels, support levels, and instructional supply levels that will provide an adequate education to each child. Costs are regionalized. A funding adequacy target is calculated from these 27 elements. Those elements include: class size, number of elective teachers, intervention programs, guidance counselors, librarians, secretarial staff, professional development, computer and technology, student activities, maintenance and operations, English Language Learners and Special Education Services. New Trier standards almost uniformly exceed the standards set for adequacy. Each District's local funding capacity (property taxes and CPPRT) is calculated and the current state contribution is added. That local capacity is compared to the adequacy target to calculate an adequacy level. The estimated adequacy level for New Trier is 195% - 200%. Based on our adequacy level, New Trier will be in a tier of schools that will get only small increases in state funding each year. Additionally, added to the state funding bill is a voter initiated referendum. This applies to schools above 110% of adequacy. It allows 10% of the registered voters in a school district to petition for a referendum to reduce taxes for educational purposes up to 10%. For Township District 203 that would be approximately 450 signed petitions. This type of referendum may only be considered in odd number years at the consolidated election in April. Current interpretations are that this type of referendum may only be repeated in six years. The bill also provides "mandate relief" in that Districts can determine the frequency of physical education as long as it meets a minimum of 3 days per a 5-day week.

Districts are also permitted to contract with a third-party to provide driver education services.

Mr. Johnson also highlighted new changes in state funding as an outcome of SB 0042 on pension cost shifting. He noted further information from the state is needed for start dates on the implementation of the Tier 3 pensions and the choices teachers have on their pensions. Board discussion followed on any implications for New Trier, TRS, Tier 2 and 3 pensions and state funding of public education.

#### **F. Board Policy – First Reading**

Mr. Peter Tragos, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, presented information on Board Policy 6-300 Graduation Requirements. New Trier has granted students credits to classes in three categories: Core Academic courses receive 1 credit for a full year; Elective courses receive ½ credit for a full year and are not counted in the weighted GPA; and Elective Major courses receive 1 credit for a full year and are included in the weighted GPA through a contract agreement, which requires students to complete additional assignments and a final exam or project. The issue being addressed in the recommended policy change that of the second category, ½ credit for a full year elective course. Mr. Tragos noted that over the years, course names of "major" and "minor" changed to "core academic" and "elective" since students and staff felt the language somehow devalued the courses and the student experience in the elective courses. Additionally, sending our transcripts to colleges or transferring high schools has required extensive conversation with some institutions to explain that our courses represent a full year's worth of work, despite the ½ credit we were awarding it. Also, a number of our 9<sup>th</sup> grade students are not viewed by the State of Illinois as "on track" to graduate, due to the ½ credit we award elective courses. If we counted electives and Kinetic Wellness classes for a full credit like most schools do, they would be viewed as on track to graduate. Finally, the District's metrics for Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the new school accountability law, will be negatively impacted by our practice. Mr. Tragos, the Administration, and the Policy Committee is recommending the adoption of a one course/one credit standard to all core academic, elective and Kinetic Wellness courses that meet five days per week. It is also recommended to change the minimum credits to graduate from 19 to 23. These policy changes would be effective with the Class of 2022. Mr. Tragos responded to Board members' comments and questions. Most of our peer schools follow a one course/one credit standard and Board members were supportive of the appropriate value placed on all our elective courses and departments.

Mr. Robitaille noted this is the First Reading for this policy and it will be brought back to the Board for review at the October Regular meeting.

#### **G. Summer School Report**

Mr. Scott Williams, Assistant Principal for Student Services presented the Summer School Report for 2017. He noted that again, due to the construction project at the Winnetka Campus, most of the summer school courses were provided at the Northfield Campus. Mr. Williams highlighted enrollment statistics, noting that enrollments overall have leveled off at approximately 42% of total enrolled New Trier students over the past few years. Financially, the Summer School Program seeks to be a net zero operation and self-sustaining. The 2017 Summer School Financial Report showed a positive balance of \$304. Future plans for Summer School show classes returning to the Winnetka Campus for the most part, and athletic programs remaining in Northfield with access to the turf fields. The 2018 Summer School program is requesting a

tuition increase of 2% to keep pace with normal increases in salaries, utilities and custodial services. Mr. Williams invited comments and questions from Board members. Board discussion followed on budgeting, planning, course sectioning and the number of travel trips offered in summer.

### VIII. **Consent Agenda**

- Bill List for the Period August 1-31, 2017
- Personnel Report and Addenda
- Ratification of Change Order #25
- ISBE Compensation Report
- Approval of Financial Advisor Contract

Mr. Robitaille asked if there were any items on the Consent Agenda that should be removed for separate discussion. No one requested items for discussion. Ms. Ducommun moved that the Board of Education Approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Bill List for the Period, August 1-31, 2017; the Personnel Report, which includes Appointments, Resignations, Stipends and Addenda; that the Board of Education of New Trier Township High School District 203 ratifies Budget Change Order #25 to the contracts managed by Pepper Construction Company; and furthermore, deducts the amount of \$160,071.00 from the West Side Project Construction Contingency line item, all in the best interest of the District. The Board of Education also ratifies expenditures of \$12,650.00 to Essex and Capital Improvements Project budget (to be deducted from contingency) and approves the Capital Expenditures of \$62,076.00; the ISBE Compensation Report; and that the Board of Education approves the new Financial Advisor Agreement with Raymond James with the same terms and authorizes the Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations to execute the agreement. Mr. O'Donoghue seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken the members voted as follows:

AYE: Mr. O'Donoghue, Ms. Albrecht, Mr. Dronen, Ms. Ducommun, Dr. Glucksman, Ms. Goldstein, Mr. Robitaille

NAY: none

The motion passed.

### IX. **Board Member Reports**

Ms. Albrecht reported that the *New Trier Educational Foundation* will host its Golf Outing next Monday, September 25. She encouraged all to attend. Dinner reservations are still available. She also noted the Neighbors BBQ at Winnetka on the new Green Roof was well attended. Ms. Dubravec provided tours for any interested neighbors.

Ms. Goldstein provided highlights of the *NSSD* community-wide Focus Groups. Their strategic planning organized the event for all the member districts to discuss the co-op's future and the future for disabled students after high school.

Ms. Ducommun noted the *Parents Association* kicked off the new school year with a new logo. The intent was to have a consistent logo throughout their many communications to parents. Theresa Malin, the Parents Association Treasurer was grateful for the work of the Business Office in assisting with using REV-TRAK for their Fundraising efforts. The Parents Association will hold a kick-off reception on October 6 before the football game at 6:30 p.m. through half-time. The *New Trier Fine Arts Association* is hosting a freshman parent event with staff to introduce the parents to the many Fine Arts opportunities for their students. The Association is fundraising with a Portillo's Day and looking into a corporate donor's program. Ms. Ducommun noted their program should be in line with established Board Policies on donations. Ms. Ducommun also highlighted that Johannah Wininsky was honored with the Illinois National Dance Teacher of the Year award.

Mr. Keith Dronen noted the *All School Forum* meeting will be tomorrow, September 19 at 3:30 p.m.

Mr. O'Donoghue reported about the *Booster Club* meeting, at which there were tours of the athletic facilities. The Booster Club is also seeking multiple ways to support the athletic school programs through purchases of equipment and other needs.

Mr. Robitaille noted that he and Ms. Goldstein will be meeting on Friday, September 22 with the leaders of Winnetka's intergovernmental bodies for discussions on storm-water and TIF.

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

- Calendar of Events

Dr. Sally reiterated that the All School Forum will meet tomorrow, Tuesday. Thursday of this week is Rosh Hashanah and while there will be school, communications have gone out to be sensitive and respectful of these days for those who honor them. Friday, September 22 is the first early dismissal day and Monday, September 25 is the late arrival day. Professional Development will be happening on both days for faculty. Lagniappe will be on September 26, 27 and 28 at 7:30 p.m. at Winnetka in the Gaffney Auditorium. The New Trier vs. Evanston Football game is on Friday, September 28. This is a Thursday, and was rescheduled to honor Yom Kippur. The Freshman Go-To-School Night is on Thursday, October 5. The testing day is on October 11 with the PreACT testing for sophomores and the PSAT testing for juniors. Homecoming is on October 13.

-Requests for Staff Research & Future Agenda Items

Dr. Glucksman inquired on how dynamic the health curriculum is to the emerging trends in training and preparedness for crisis. Dr. Sally noted that it will be looked into and a report will be provided to the Board in the next month or so.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. O'Donoghue moved that the Board adjourn the Regular Meeting. Ms. Ducommun seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote being taken, all members indicated they were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 10:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary

---

Gregory Robitaille, President