

BOARD BRIEFS

News from the New Trier Township High School District 203

Board of Education Regular Meeting

August 22, 2022

New Trier Takes Multi-Layered Approach to School Safety and Security

New Trier's approach to school safety and security includes many layers of prevention and protection, including numerous physical security measures at both campuses, strong partnerships with local law enforcement and social service agencies, emergency planning and preparedness, and relationship-building so students are connected and supported.

Superintendent Paul Sally told the Board that New Trier's safety and security measures fall into four broad categories: 1) Connection, Support, and Prevention, 2) Community Partners, 3) Physical Safety Measures and Daily Procedures, and 4) Emergency Procedures and Readiness.

While the school's work in all categories is necessary to keep New Trier safe, Sally said prevention measures focusing on connection, mental health, and belonging are a priority as they can identify and stop someone before they cause harm to themselves or others. New Trier's emphasis on building strong relationships can be seen in the adviser program, extracurricular opportunities, social work supports, and other connections.

In addition to keeping students connected in school and providing resources for support in and out of school, New Trier instructs students to "See Something, Say Something." Students are encouraged to reach out to trusted adults if they see something concerning on social media, in discussions, or through other means. New Trier also provides an anonymous online reporting form, [TrevTips](#), for students to use.

Family partnerships are also important to keeping New Trier safe, Sally said. The District offers many parent informational programs in partnership with the New Trier Parents' Association. In addition, on New Trier's [School Safety web page](#), parents can access information about community mental health resources, national resources, and prevention resources such as safe firearms storage and free community gun safety kits for firearms owners.

New Trier has strong relationships with the Winnetka and Northfield Police and Fire Departments and regularly collaborates with these partners in addition to conducting annual reviews and safety drills. The District also periodically reviews safety plans with outside consultants and partners with community organizations, parent organizations, and mental health organizations to provide parent, student, and staff programming.

These layers of security are supported by more traditional safety measures, Sally said, including physical security and security staff. While the District does not disclose every safety measure it uses to protect its campuses, visible safety measures include limited entry points, security staff at entrances, ID scanning, a door buzzer system, automatic locking systems, video surveillance,

and a police officer assigned to each campus. Finally, students and staff regularly participate in readiness drills and a review of safety procedures in classrooms and adviser rooms.

Click for the [Safety and Security Presentation](#).

Busy Summer for New Trier Facilities Work

New Trier completed a number of important facilities projects over the summer, including the first phase of work on the New Trier Transition Center in Glencoe.

Associate Superintendent Chris Johnson updated the Board on the facilities work, which also included replacement of the North Building roof, replacement/upgrade of the Bickert Gym basketball backstops, and an upgrade of the Tower Building elevator on the Winnetka Campus.

Johnson told the Board that the New Trier Transition Center in Glencoe opened to students on the first day of school after renovations to create classroom spaces, creation of a retail shop, and installation of ADA accessible bathrooms over the summer. A grand opening ceremony for the Center's One Stop Trev Shop is planned for later this fall.

The Transition Program serves young adults ages 18-22 who qualify for transition services under Illinois law. The program emphasizes a smooth transition to adulthood by teaching life skills such as meal planning and money management, offering vocational training, and helping students access community resources such as transportation and recreational opportunities. Next summer, New Trier will renovate the balance of the space.

In other facilities news, New Trier Board members and administrators participated in a groundbreaking for the Village of Winnetka groundwater project at Duke Childs Field. The partnership with the village will provide flood management in Winnetka and give New Trier the opportunity to upgrade its baseball and softball facilities. New Trier's work on the project is expected to begin in June 2023.

Johnson said significant work continues on the East Side Academic and Athletic Project, which is set to open next school year. Almost all of the foundation walls have been installed, and the last section of steel work is underway. Masonry, carpentry, roofing, and mechanical work are also in progress. Click for the [Facilities Update](#).

2022-2023 School Year Update

Superintendent Paul Sally and the campus principals updated the Board on the opening of the school year and the District themes for the year.

Extracurricular sponsors and coaches came together on one of the opening institute days for professional development with a focus on creating a positive culture and experience for all students and fostering student leadership. Winnetka Campus Principal Denise Dubravec noted that these coaches and sponsors will be key to helping students understand the tenets of the new student initiative: "Be Brave, Be Kind, Be Proud."

Another theme emphasizing the District's strategic planning for the year is "Many Voices, One New Trier." Sally said this theme will be reflected not only in the "Be Brave, Be Kind, Be Proud"

student initiative but also in promoting the District's culture of belonging, in enhanced student mental health supports, in the Freshman Success program promoting academic and social-emotional skills for all freshmen, and in many other programs across both campuses.

As students and families adjust to a new schedule this year, administrators promoted the NT Block Schedule app as a great organizational tool. The app is automatically downloaded to all student iPads and can be accessed through the [App Store for Apple devices](#) or the [Google Play Store for Android devices](#). Students and families can also search for "New Trier Block" in either app store. Students can input their individual schedules into the app, which includes days off, blue/green/anchor days and indicates what period it is during school days.

Click for the [2022-2023 School Year Update](#).

The New Trier Board of Education generally meets on the third Monday of each month, with the business portion of the meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Full videos of Board meetings are available online at <https://nths.mediaspace.kaltura.com/category/BOARD+OF+EDUCATION/>

Information about Board of Education members, upcoming meetings, agendas, minutes, and other documents are available at <https://www.newtrier.k12.il.us/boardofeducation>