

BOARD BRIEFS

News from the New Trier Township High School District 203

Board of Education Regular Meeting

January 23, 2023

New Director of Safety to Oversee Security Measures Across District

A veteran Wilmette Police officer who has helped develop numerous safety plans for local schools, government agencies, and religious institutions will oversee New Trier's safety and security planning and operations as the District's new Director of Campus Safety.

Raimond Pavely, who has spent 21 years with the Wilmette Police - including as a longtime school resource officer - was approved by the Board for the new position and will begin his duties next month.

New Trier created the new leadership position to strengthen and streamline the District's efforts to provide a safe learning environment for all students and staff. Pavely will refine the District's safety and crisis management plans, create professional development and training programs for security staff and other personnel, collaborate on facility and technology security planning, and act as a liaison between New Trier and outside agencies, including area police and fire officials.

In his role with the Wilmette Police and as a consultant, Pavely has conducted safety site assessments at schools, businesses, and houses of worship and helped develop emergency operations plans. That background along with Pavely's experience working in schools and his familiarity with the New Trier community made him an ideal candidate for the new role, Winnetka Campus Principal Denise Dubravec told the Board.

In other hiring news:

- **Darius Sanchez** will be the next Northfield Campus Science Coordinator starting in the 2023-2024 school year. Sanchez is currently the Science Department Chair at Palatine High School and previously worked as a science teacher and dean of students at William Fremd High School. He succeeds Robyn Ward, who is retiring at the end of this school year.
- Junior Adviser Chair **Trish Sheridan** will take on a new role as one of New Trier's new Graduating Class Team Assistant Principals, starting July 1. The Graduating Class Team Assistant Principals will oversee teams that will include two Adviser Chairs, advisers, and student services liaisons. The teams will follow each graduating class throughout their high school experience, building strong relationships with students and families.
- Math teacher **Cindy Fialka**, art/IGSS teacher **Darrin Jezioriski**, and Modern and Classical Languages teacher **Kerri Simons** will move into new roles as Adviser Chairs in the new Graduating Class Team structure next school year. All three faculty members have vast experience as advisers and in positions that support students. Their assignment to a specific graduating class team is to be determined.

Winnetka Campus East Side Project on Track for August Opening

The Winnetka Campus East Side Academic and Athletic project is on budget and on track for its planned opening at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year, Associate Superintendent Chris Johnson told the Board. When completed, the project will include a new main gym, an auxiliary gym, indoor track, climbing wall, fitness center, and 13 new classrooms.

Johnson said that with the exterior substantially completed and interior work underway, it is becoming more exciting to see the project take shape. Some of the benefits the new facility will offer to students, staff, and the community include:

- New Academic Spaces: 13 new classrooms, replacing inadequate spaces on the East Side of the campus and creating new spaces for teaching and learning
- New Competition Gym, Auxiliary Gyms, and Indoor Track: New multi-use competition gym with flexible, welcoming, and ADA-accessible space, new auxiliary gyms, and a 6-lane, 160-meter track to support the Kinetic Wellness and Athletics programs
- New Weight and Strength/Conditioning Facilities: Unified and expanded strength and conditioning and weight space, used by KW classes, Athletics, and New Trier Extension
- New Climbing Wall and High Ropes Course: A new climbing wall and high ropes course, providing additional space for this popular student program
- Improved Security and Accessibility: Two new welcoming, accessible, and secure entrances for students and visitors, enhanced student supervision, building isolation, and fire sprinklers, as well as better connections to the rest of the campus
- Improved Maintenance and Energy Efficiency: Replaces two of the most dilapidated and antiquated buildings with new spaces that are more efficient to maintain and operate; District is already on track for Silver LEED certification and is working toward Gold
- Expanded Food Service: A new snack bar space offering healthy choices for students

Click for the [East Side Project presentation](#), and follow the project's progress on the [East Side Project web page](#).

Student Attendance a Focus as District Seeks to Partner with Families

New Trier is seeking to partner with families to remind students of the importance of regular school attendance after seeing a significant increase in full- and partial-day absences over the past several years.

Chronic school absenteeism has become a national issue, and New Trier is no exception. While the uptick in absenteeism was exacerbated by the pandemic, New Trier had been monitoring and seeking solutions for an increase in absences even before 2020.

The District believes students need to take care of themselves physically and mentally and stay home if they are ill. At the same time, New Trier wants families and students to understand that being present at school is one of the most important factors contributing to a student's academic success and social-emotional growth.

Superintendent Paul Sally said administrators will come back to the Board next month with a presentation and some preliminary steps the District can take to support students and families in improving attendance.

Other News from the January 23 Meeting

- The District has begun its planning for the 2023-2024 budget, setting a calendar and parameters for a budget process that is scheduled to be finalized in August. Associate Superintendent Chris Johnson presented initial budget assumptions based on a conservative analysis of the District's five-year financial projections. Johnson said if no major variables change, he expects to present a balanced budget with a projected operating funds surplus for approval in the summer. Click for the [2023-2024 Budget Planning memo](#).

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>