

BOARD BRIEFS

*News from the New Trier Township High School District 203
Board of Education Regular Meeting
September 19, 2022*

Be Brave, Be Kind, Be Proud Focuses on Relationships, Sense of Self

New Trier has launched a new initiative this year that defines what it means to be a Trevian through a simple but powerful motto and logo: Be Brave, Be Kind, Be Proud.

Representatives from the Adviser Program presented an overview of the initiative to the Board and explained how staff and students will spread awareness of the initiative throughout the year. They also discussed how this initiative, along with implementing restorative practices, will keep the school community strong and supportive for all students.

The three directives in the initiative represent the kind of community New Trier aspires to create. “Be Brave” focuses on the student and their own actions, such as advocating for themselves, being their authentic selves, and being resilient through failure. “Be Kind” focuses on how students treat each other and themselves, including a commitment to avoid harming others through words and actions and listening to other perspectives to seek understanding. “Be Proud” connects students to the whole New Trier community in actions such as involvement in activities or service and taking care of school facilities.

New Trier coaches, sponsors, and extracurricular leaders spent a significant part of this year’s opening institute day learning about the initiative and how to implement it in their program to help students shape a positive culture within teams, clubs, performances, and across the school. Since students are the most important part in implementing this type of initiative, a group of student leaders from activities, athletics, and performing arts came together to help them understand the initiative and its impact, give feedback, and discuss how to work with their coaches and sponsors to best promote it to fellow students.



Be Brave, Be Kind, Be Proud is an important and visible part of this year’s goals for the Culture, Climate, and Equity framework within the District’s strategic plan, [New Trier 2030](#). The initiative will help ensure New Trier’s school community is one in which all students feel that they belong.

The presenters noted that even within strong, cohesive communities, mistakes are made and conflict arises. The school’s work on restorative practices will set a course of action when this happens. Rather than just doling out consequences for an action that has disrupted a community, restorative practices ask students to address and repair relationships that have been damaged by their actions so the community can continue to be supportive for all.

Click for the [Board presentation on Be Brave, Be Kind, Be Proud](#).

Board Approves FY2023 Budget

The Board approved a \$125.7 million operating budget for fiscal year 2023 that is balanced and will support the District’s strategic mission and vision, using the resources provided by the

community judiciously to offer the best possible education for New Trier students in all facets of learning, including academic, extracurricular, and special education.

The District is able to provide its students with these continued opportunities thanks to the support of Township residents. Property taxes account for the largest source of District revenues, about 90 percent.

The District last asked taxpayers to increase its operating rate in 2003, committing to not propose another tax rate referendum for five years. That commitment has now been extended to 19 years, with no need for a tax rate referendum in the foreseeable future due to the District's strong fiscal stewardship.

The budget funds the District's deep and broad curriculum, robust extracurricular program, and individualized student support systems including the Adviser Program, Post-High School Counseling, and other academic and social-emotional services.

The FY2023 budget also includes transfers of funds for the District's 15-Year Facilities Plan, which has included significant renovations at both campuses, and funding for the Winnetka Campus East Side Academic and Athletic Project.

Salaries and benefits account for the District's largest source of expenditures at 79 percent. Community members have consistently named attracting and maintaining a high-quality teaching staff as a top priority. About 98 percent of teachers have a master's degree or higher, far exceeding the state average of 61 percent, and 79 percent of teachers have achieved Master Teacher or Leader Teacher status.

The District has won numerous awards for its fiscal management and transparency in reporting, including the 18th consecutive Certificate of Excellence Award in Financial Reporting and Certificate of Achievement Award in Financial Reporting from two separate government finance organizations. Click for the [FY 2023 Budget Presentation](#).

Other News from the September 19 Meeting

- The Board welcomed five foreign exchange students attending New Trier this school year. The students come from Japan, Italy, Brazil, and Germany. They told the Board about the differences between their home schools and New Trier and shared the activities they have joined so far. New Trier partners with AFS for its exchange program, and each student spends a full academic year living with a host family in the community.
- Associate Superintendent Chris Johnson updated the Board on the East Side Academic and Athletic Project. Anyone driving by the Winnetka Campus can see the significant progress on the project. Much of the exterior work in different trades is nearing completion, with the concrete contractor in the last phases of work, the final installations of the steel structure planned in the coming weeks, and ongoing masonry and roofing work. Exterior window installation is planned for October. You can watch the ongoing construction by visiting the [East Side Project web page](#).

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://nth.s.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>