

# BOARD BRIEFS

*News from the New Trier Township High School District 203*

*Board of Education Regular Meeting*

*June 3, 2024*

## Graduating Class Teams Focus on Service, Student Voice, Connection

As New Trier ends its first school year with the new Graduating Class Teams student support system, leaders updated the Board on projects and opportunities available to all students to build a sense of community and belonging at the school.

Starting this year every class of students at New Trier was assigned a team of administrators, adviser chairs, and student services liaisons to follow their individual progress, provide support, and communicate with families and teachers. The system strengthens the most important idea behind New Trier's Adviser Program - the adviser at the center of the school/family/student connection - as a team of staff members follows students through all four years of high school and helps the adviser in making sure individual students can reach their goals.

Administrators who oversee the Graduating Class Teams told the Board that the teams have partnered with advisers to get every student involved in the school's "Be Brave, Be Kind, Be Proud" framework through service work, leadership, and student recognition.

Service is a central part of New Trier's mission and its Adviser Program. This school year, each graduating class worked on specific service projects both as a class and in their adviser rooms.

Freshmen were introduced to the concept of service and did adviser room service projects, from collecting toiletries to helping clean up community gardens. Sophomores worked closely with North Chicago Community Partners for the first year of a three-year partnership, creating more than 2,026 care kits in their adviser rooms to help families in need. Juniors volunteered with 22 organizations on 36 projects, resulting in the completion of 2,025 hours of service in a single Day of Service. Seniors partnered with Embarc, a not-for-profit organization that provides experiential learning opportunities to Chicago Public School students.

In addition to the focus on service, the Graduating Class Teams sought to amplify student voice. The Adviser Chairs for each class established an Adviser Chair Council with representatives across adviser rooms sharing feedback and suggestions to improve their New Trier experience.

Finally, each team designed class-specific recognition events for advisers to recommend students who embody the values of "Be Brave, Be Kind, Be Proud." These students attended special events

celebrating the ways both big and small that they had contributed to a climate of connection and belonging at New Trier. Click for the [Graduating Class Teams presentation](#).

## Strategic Planning Update for 2024-2025 School Year

New Trier's work under its strategic plan, *New Trier 2030*, will advance in five major categories during the 2024-2025 school year: Graduating Class Teams; Future Programming; Culture, Climate, Equity, and Belonging; Sustainability; and the Superintendent Transition.

Superintendent Paul Sally told the Board that the District has made significant progress in its goals for the 2023-2024 school year and will build on those goals in the coming years while adding some new areas of focus.

After a successful launch, the Graduating Class Teams will have their first year with the teams moving with groups of students to lend support. This summer, the teams will refine and improve their processes for identifying students who need support, maintain New Trier's progress with consistent student attendance, and partner with the Adviser Program on new initiatives.

Leaders in Future Programming will analyze input from parents, students, staff, and community members to develop proposals to make sure students are prepared for a rapidly changing world of work and higher education. The committee will make recommendations by the end of the year and is considering concepts such as flexible scheduling and career-focused experiential learning including internships and mentorships.

In Culture, Climate, Equity, and Belonging, the District will launch new initiatives to build on New Trier's work in this area over the past five years. The initiatives will increase the number of voices and perspectives guiding the work, give students more voice, and develop more consistent communication with parents and community members representing different backgrounds and viewpoints. Sally said this work will be grounded in the District's commitment to civil discourse and critical thinking. A new council of approximately 18 staff members will guide the work, and the District will present more information about the council this summer.

New Trier has long worked to increase its sustainability practices through an Environmental Committee and facility initiatives such as the installation of solar panels at the Northfield Campus and LEED Gold building standards at the Winnetka Campus. In the next school year, the school will look for ways to formalize this commitment and identify successes, areas for improvement, and ways to incorporate these efforts into the curriculum.

Finally, Sally said the Board and the District will focus on finding and naming his successor as he completes his final year as superintendent before retirement. The search firm Hazard, Young, and Attea will assist in the search and hiring process and will update the Board on this process in July. Click for the [Strategic Plan update](#).

## Other News from the June 3 Meeting

- The Board approved a routine amended Fiscal Year 2024 budget to account for budget changes and information not available when the budget was prepared. The amended budget is balanced. Click for the [FY2024 budget amendment 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>*