

New Trier Board of Education Briefs

Posted by Nicole Dizon on Wednesday, Feb 19 at 3:52 PM in ALL NF and WKA Parents and Students (Exclude Township Math), All New Trier Staff, Board of Education Briefs



Board Briefs

News from the 2/18/25 Board of Education Meeting



New Trier Students Show Leadership through Service

New Trier students engage in genuine service to their communities every day, making important connections with others while developing leadership skills and a commitment to giving their "lives to the service of humanity."

Five students told the Board how their work with New Trier service clubs and projects has enriched their school experience and helped them build communities with peers and with members of the organizations they serve.

Senior Charlie Braatz is a leader in the Class of 2025 service project, Serve with DigNiTy, benefiting service members and veterans through a partnership with Salute Inc. and The Midwest Veterans Closet. Braatz said the entire senior class has come together to make bags of food for distribution and lead fundraisers like the upcoming Winter Carnival on Feb. 21.

For junior Mikaella Cord-Cruz, taking on a leadership role in Student Council has meant serving the school, her classmates, and causes like hurricane and fire relief. She said that New Trier's strong belief in student-led service has given her and fellow students ownership over work that makes a difference, from making welcome bags for transfer students to creating posters celebrating the school's monthly recognitions.

A recent nail-biter of a Special Olympics basketball game was one of the highlights of the year for senior John Walther, who has found friendship and purpose volunteering for Special Olympics and as part of the Enriching Lives through Service (ELS) club. In addition to bonding with his peers with special needs, Walther said students in the clubs show leadership sponsoring fundraisers and events like a Valentine's Day party and skating party.

Students interested in working with service organizations outside of school have many options thanks to Social Service Board, which connects with partner organizations to offer volunteer opportunities after school. Junior Giles Judy said board members also volunteer with one of the 15 service partners that support populations from young children to refugees to the elderly.

Finally, senior Ana Nedelcu spoke of her work building community and helping the environment in Surf Sweep Club, which engages in local beach clean up and advocacy. Nedelcu said that since Surf Sweep is a newer club, students have developed leadership skills by organizing events, recruiting new members, and partnering with local organizations and policymakers.

The Board thanked the students for helping them understand how New Trier supports service work in and outside of school.



Dr. Chimille Tillery



Dr. Nashwa Mekky



Mr. Dan Paustian

New Trier to Welcome New Chief HR Officer; New Roles for Two Administrators

New Trier's administration will welcome a new Chief Human Resources Officer and see two current administrators take on new roles beginning July 1.

The Board of Education approved the appointments of Dr. Chimille Tillery as Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Nashwa Mekky as Chief Human Relations Officer, and Dan Paustian as Associate Principal for the Northfield Campus.

"These three administrators are experts in their field and will help us further the goals of our strategic plan, *New Trier 2030*," said Assistant Superintendent Peter Tragos, who will become the District's next Superintendent on July 1. "The hiring committees were impressed with not only their expertise, but their collaborative and student-centered approach to their leadership. All three stood out in a very strong field of applicants."

Dr. Chimille Tillery has served as New Trier's Director of Curriculum and Instruction since 2018, overseeing professional development, new teacher induction and mentorship, student teaching, and testing. She is co-chair of the Instructional Leadership Team and administers curricular initiatives including new course proposals, instructional and professional growth grants, AP

auditing, and organization of the Program of Studies and Summer School guide.

Prior to joining New Trier's administration, Tillery was an Assistant Principal at Highcrest Middle School in Wilmette, Science Department Chair at Homewood-Flossmoor High School, and a science teacher at Simeon Career Academy and DuSable High School. She succeeds Dr. Peter Tragos, who was named Superintendent.

Dr. Nashwa Mekky is an accomplished educational leader with 26 years of experience in talent acquisition and management. She currently serves as Chief People, Equity, Culture, and Ethics Officer at the Illinois Math and Science Academy (IMSA).

With certifications as a Professional Human Capital Leader in Education (pHCLE) and a Chief School Business Official (CSBO), Mekky brings a wealth of school leadership experience to New Trier. She previously served as Principal of Howe Elementary School in Beach Park, Associate Principal at Caruso Middle School in Deerfield, and as an elementary school teacher in Arlington Heights and Chicago. She succeeds Dr. Renee Zoladz, who is retiring.

Dan Paustian has been New Trier's Assistant Principal for the 2027 Graduating Class Team since the creation of Graduating Class Teams in 2023. In that role he oversees student services, the adviser program, attendance, discipline, and restorative practices and serves as a key leader and resource for students, families, and staff.

Prior to being named Assistant Principal, Paustian was New Trier's Social Work Coordinator for the Northfield Campus. He supervised Social Work faculty and developed and implemented new structures to support all students with global strategies as well as specific interventions for students who need more support. He succeeds Gail Gamrath, who is retiring.

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://nthsmediaspace.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>
