

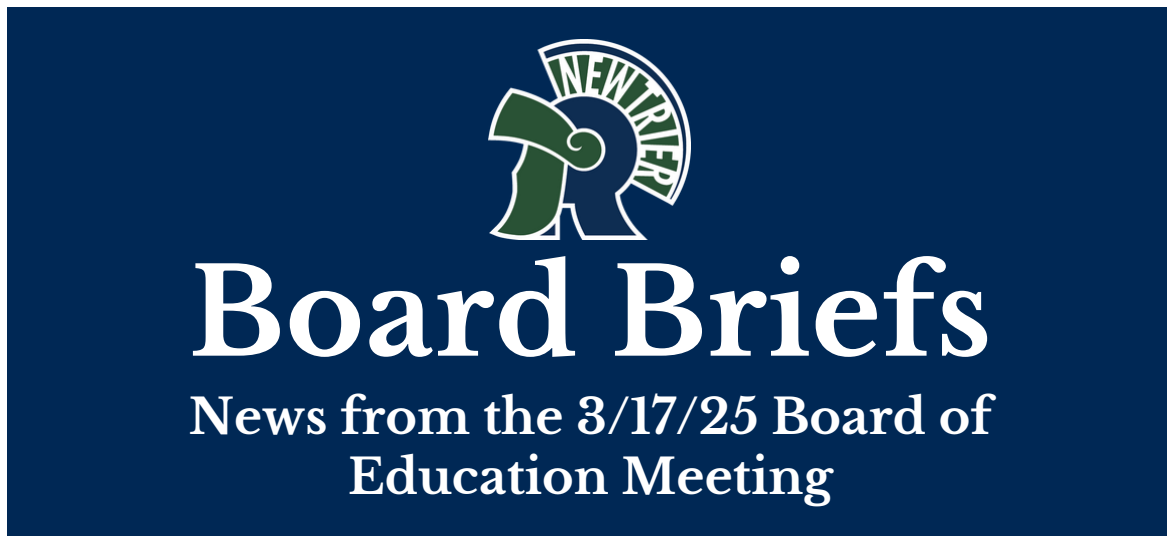


**NEW
TRIER**
TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL
DISTRICT 203

New Trier High School

New Trier Board of Education Briefs

Posted by Communications Department on Tuesday, Mar 18 at 4:51 PM in ALL NF and WKA Parents and Students (Exclude Township Math), All New Trier Staff, Board of Education Briefs

A dark blue rectangular graphic with white text and a logo. The logo is a stylized green and white 'R' with 'NEW TRIER' written in a semi-circle above it. Below the logo, the text reads "Board Briefs" in a large serif font, followed by "News from the 3/17/25 Board of Education Meeting" in a smaller serif font.

Board Briefs
News from the 3/17/25 Board of
Education Meeting



Cell Phones to be Stored during Class Starting in 2025-2026 School Year

Starting next school year, all New Trier students will be required to store their mobile phones in caddies during classes and adviser period as a way to minimize distractions and enhance the learning environment while they are at school.

Members of the Technology Usage Committee spent several months studying research on teen smartphone use, other schools' practices, and focus group and survey data from parents, students, and staff. Winnetka Campus Associate Principal Chris Mitchell told the Board that the goal of the new practice is to increase engagement and focus during class time, while still allowing students the autonomy to access their phones during free periods and lunch time.

A pilot at the freshman-only Northfield Campus has helped teachers and students by removing technological distractions from the classroom such as social media notifications, text messages, and games. Several teachers already use phone caddies at the Winnetka Campus, and peer schools including Glenbrook North and South High Schools and Evanston High School have similar practices.

In addition to requiring mobile phone storage in every classroom, the new plan will also make changes to the District's iPad program. New Trier will continue to restrict the use of non-school related apps on student iPads, such as iMessage and games, to keep the focus on learning when using this classroom tool. This practice is already in place for most 9-11th graders and will be expanded to all students next year.

Student phones will remain in caddies during class time unless a teacher grants permission for educational use, they are part of student's IEP or 504 plan, or they are needed in an emergency as approved by the teacher. Parents can get in touch with students during free periods or lunch, and there will be a designated number to call on each campus if families need to reach students immediately.

2025-26 Cell Phone Plan and FAQ



Student Belonging Council Fosters Inclusion and Community at New Trier

A new Student Belonging Council gives students a chance to lead in building a welcoming community at New Trier where all voices can be heard.

Representatives of the 22-member council told the Board about their work this year toward creating a supportive environment where every student feels valued, respected, and connected. Members come from different year groups and were nominated for the council by Adviser Chairs, the Athletic Director, sponsors, and coaches based on their interest.

The students explained that they first built their own community by attending a half-day retreat focused on listening skills, understanding others' perspectives, and becoming a resource for all students. From there, they have formed committees to focus on different areas, including student outreach, social media, and visual displays around the school. They also will provide input to the Staff Belonging Council, which considers initiatives and actions to support inclusion and belonging at New Trier.

Winnetka Campus Principal/Assistant Superintendent Denise Dubravec said the student council was created in alignment with two of New Trier's strategic goals: promoting student voice and creating a sense of belonging for all students.

The Student Belonging Council sponsors noted that the council and other belonging initiatives not only support the school's mission of inquiry, compassion, and service, but also are grounded in research that shows students have better attendance, better academic outcomes, and higher

post-secondary success rates if they are connected to and involved in their school community.

The Board members complimented the students and sponsors on their leadership and expressed their strong support for this initiative.

Belonging Council Presentation



KW/Athletics Office to be Named in Honor of Beach, Kennicke

The Board approved a recommendation from the Naming Committee to name the Kinetic Wellness/Athletics office suite at the Winnetka Campus in honor of Bonnie Beach and Lee Kennicke, former coaches, advisers, teachers, and leaders who were instrumental in developing those departments and promoting the growth of girls sports at New Trier and across Illinois.

Northfield Campus Associate Principal Gail Gamrath spoke on behalf of a group of current and retired faculty and alumni who proposed the idea. Their testimonials recounted the profound impact both Beach and Kennicke had in enriching the lives of countless students and setting a standard of

excellence for New Trier Kinetic Wellness and Athletics that continues today.

Beach began teaching at New Trier in 1967 and retired in 2001. In addition to leading New Trier to the first ever state championship in girls volleyball, she also was a teacher, adviser, department chair, and head coach for girls volleyball, field hockey, and badminton. She led the unification of separate boys' and girls' Physical Education departments into a singular Kinetic Wellness department, recognizing the importance of teaching students not only physical fitness but also overall health and well-being.

Kennicke's New Trier career spanned from 1972 to 2002, during which she served as a coach, assistant athletic director, and girls' Physical Education department chair at New Trier East. She was assistant coach for the state championship girls volleyball team and was the first head coach for girls swimming and diving, track and field, and badminton. She also created and led New Trier's Student Athlete Leadership Team (SALT), which fosters leadership among athletes. In 1977, when girls' and women's sports were becoming more prominent due to federal Title IX regulations, Beach and Kinnicke also co-founded the Illinois Coaches Association for Girls' and Women's Sports, giving voice and prominence to girls' coaches and teams.

The naming will be commemorated by a plaque outside of the office suite, with a dedication ceremony planned for the fall.

Naming Recommendation

The Trevian Experience: What Makes New Trier Special

A new video that premiered earlier this month gives families, students, alumni, and community members an inside look into the excellent teaching, learning, and relationship-building that happens at New Trier every day. More than two dozen faculty and staff opened their classrooms and activities to the video project, which features five students, two faculty

members, and two administrators talking about what makes New Trier special.



Watch The Trevian Experience

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>

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