

**NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

November 18, 2024

**New Trier Township High School
7 Happ Road, Room C234
Northfield, IL 60093**

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<https://www.newtrier.k12.il.us/boardofeducation>. Please refer to these webpages if you would like more information on an item.*

A **Regular Meeting** of the Board of Education of New Trier Township High School District 203, Cook County, Illinois was held at New Trier High School – Northfield Campus, 7 Happ Road, in Room C234 on Monday, November 18, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

Members Present

Ms. Kimberly Alcantara
Mr. Avik Das
Mr. Keith Dronen
Ms. Jean Hahn, President
Ms. Courtney McDonough
Ms. Sally Pofcher
Ms. Sally Tomlinson, Vice President

Administrators Present

Dr. Paul Sally, Superintendent
Dr. Christopher Johnson, Associate Superintendent
Dr. Joanne Panopoulos, Asst. Supt. for Special Ed and Student Services
Dr. Peter Tragos, Asst. Supt. for Curriculum & Instruction
Mrs. Denise Dubravec, Principal – Winnetka Campus/Assistant Supt.
Mr. Paul Waechtler, Principal – Northfield Campus

Also Present

Dr. Renee Zoladz, Director of Human Resources; Ms. Niki Dizon, Director of Communications; Mr. Myron Spiwak, Director of Business Services; Ms. Molly Lombardi, Social Studies Department Faculty and Teachers’ Association President; Ms. Meg Garton, English Department Faculty; Mr. Dan Paustian, Assistant Principal – Graduating Class Team, Class of 2027; Ms. Beth Dirkes, Administrative Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction; Mr. Mike Hill, Technology Department; Mr. Jeff Bailey, Technology Department; Mr. Eric Johnson, Technology Department; Ms. Lindsey Ruston, Board of Education Secretary; students; members of the press and community.

BUSINESS MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER – 5:30 p.m. – C234

Ms. Hahn called the Regular Meeting of November 18, 2024, of the Board of Education to order at 5:30 p.m. in room C234 at the Northfield campus. Roll call was taken, and all members were present. Ms. Hahn asked for a motion to move to Closed Session. Mr. Das moved that the Board of Education adjourn to closed session for the purpose of the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors, or specific volunteers of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor, or a volunteer of the District or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity; security procedures, school building safety and security, and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public, or public property; and the placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students. Mr. Dronen seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Mr. Das, Mr. Dronen, Ms. McDonough, Ms. Pofcher, Ms. Tomlinson, Ms. Alcantara, Ms. Hahn

NAY: none

The motion passed.

II. CLOSED SESSION – 5:30 p.m. – A201A

III. BUSINESS MEETING – Open Session – 6:30 p.m. – C234

Ms. Hahn called the Regular Meeting of November 18, 2024, of the Board of Education to order at 6:30 p.m. in room C234 at the Northfield campus. Roll call was taken, and all members were present.

IV. Minutes and Reports

***A. Regular Meeting of October 21, 2024 (open and closed session); Special Meeting of October 28, 2024 (open and closed session); Special Meeting of October 29, 2024 (open and closed session); Special Meeting of October 30, 2024 (open and closed session); and Special Meeting of November 1, 2024 (open and closed session)**

Ms. Hahn asked for any comments or adjustments on the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 21, 2024 (open and closed session); Special Meeting of October 28, 2024 (open and closed session); Special Meeting of October 29, 2024 (open and closed session); Special Meeting of October 30, 2024 (open and closed session); and Special Meeting of November 1, 2024 (open and closed session). There were no requests for changes to the minutes. Mr. Dronen asked to pull the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 21, 2024 (open and closed session) as he was not in attendance and wanted to abstain. Ms. McDonough moved, and Mr. Das seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 21, 2024 (open and closed session). Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Ms. McDonough, Ms. Pofcher, Ms. Tomlinson, Ms. Alcantara, Mr. Das, Ms. Hahn

NAY:

ABSTAIN: Mr. Dronen

The motion passed.

Ms. McDonough then moved, and Ms. Tomlinson seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of October 28, 2024 (open and closed session); Special Meeting of October 29, 2024 (open and closed session); Special Meeting of October 30, 2024 (open and closed session); and the Special Meeting of November 1, 2024 (open and closed session). Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Ms. Pofcher, Ms. Tomlinson, Ms. Alcantara, Mr. Das, Mr. Dronen, Ms. McDonough, Ms. Hahn

NAY:

The motion passed.

Ms. Hahn noted that the agenda would be adjusted so that the appointment of the Superintendent would be shared prior to the reports from the campus principals. Ms. Hahn began by sharing comments about Dr. Sally's plans to retire after three decades of distinguished service to New Trier in the roles of math teacher, department coordinator, associate superintendent of curriculum and instruction and for the past eight years, as superintendent. After further comments, she noted that the impact of his professional achievements will continue to benefit generations of students, sharing Dr. Sally's true legacy will undoubtedly be the deep personal connections he has made with those who have had the great good fortune to work with him. The Board embarked on a nationwide search for the next superintendent and were supported by the consulting team, HYA; they also received valuable input from the community. The search produced a pool of talented and successful school leaders. Among this exceptional field, one candidate stood out, Dr. Peter Tragos. Ms. Hahn described him as a life-long learner, compassionate educator, and dedicated servant leader. Dr. Tragos, now in his 27th year at New Trier, began as a teacher in the social studies department, where he also served as an adviser and president of the education association. He went on to serve as the assistant principal for the Northfield campus, and since 2017 as the assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction. She went on to share that he has played an integral role in the implementation of several initiatives under the District's Strategic Plan. After additional comments, Ms. Hahn noted Dr. Tragos' partnership with the Carnegie Foundation, the Aspen Institute, and America Succeeds Educational Advisory Panel. Ms. Hahn went on to share concluding comments.

Following Ms. Hahn's comments, each Board member shared their comments and congratulations with Dr. Tragos. Dr. Sally then shared comments of his own.

Ms. McDonough moved, and Mr. Das seconded the motion that the Board of Education appoint Dr. Peter Tragos for the position of Superintendent, effective July 1, 2025. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Ms. Pofcher, Ms. Tomlinson, Ms. Alcantara, Mr. Das, Mr. Dronen, Ms. McDonough, Ms. Hahn

NAY: none

The motion passed.

Dr. Tragos then shared remarks with the Board. The Board then took a brief break to congratulate Dr. Tragos and enjoy some refreshments.

B. Report from Campus Principals and FOIA Report

The meeting resumed with Mr. Paul Waechtler, Principal for the Northfield Campus, who shared the following student events and program updates from that campus:

- First, Mr. Waechtler congratulated Dr. Tragos on his appointment. Next, he shared a quote from Roland Barth, “The nature of relationships among the adults within a school has a greater influence on the character and quality of a school and on student accomplishment than anything else.” This quote inspired Mr. Waechtler to find ways to encourage a culture where people want to work with kids. This led to working with Mr. David Hjelmgren, Social Studies Department Faculty, who hosted trivia games for his department during covid. Recently, Mr. Hjelmgren hosted one for all Northfield staff during the lunch periods. Almost 80 people were in attendance and had a chance to be on a team with people they may not normally interact with.
- An adviser room door decorations contest recently took place for Adviser Room Olympics.
- Ms. Lori Worth, Eighth Grade Transition Coordinator, and Mr. Waechtler presented to families who currently attend private school and are considering coming to New Trier. There were about 75 people in attendance. A few upperclassmen are also part of the presentation and answer questions that families may have.
- The Academic Assistance Center (AAC) had over 1500 visits in the first quarter. He thanked Ms. Steph Moretta, AAC Coordinator, tutors and students.
- Halloween decorations on campus were provided by Pep Club. The daycare also does a parade around part of the campus.
- Parent Teacher Conferences are next week, and Mr. Waechtler wished the Board a happy Thanksgiving.

Mrs. Denise Dubravec, Principal for the Winnetka Campus/Assistant Superintendent, shared the following student events and program updates from the Winnetka campus:

- Mrs. Dubravec also congratulated Dr. Tragos on his appointment.
- Several science and engineering teachers presented at the national conference on science education in New Orleans.
- She shared about a couple of opportunities that teachers provided for their students outside of the classroom.
- Many students came together to honor veterans in a Veterans Day Ceremony.
- There are 77 teams signed up for intramural basketball through the Booster Club.
- Ms. Sarah Leuchtner, alum, had an exhibition of selected works on display in the Brierly Gallery. Art classes also did some work with her.
- Fall college signing day took place last week with 54 seniors being recognized.
- The girls’ tennis team are state champions, which included a doubles championship. Girls field hockey are also state champions.
- Latin Club took first place in an upper division competition.
- Girls’ swim and dive medaled in every category, placing second in state overall. A relay team and individual were state champions in their events.
- Mr. Ben Crane was the first individual state champion in boys’ cross country since the 1970s. Over the weekend, he competed in the Nike Cross Regionals Midwest in Indiana and placed first. He will attend BYU next year to run. He will also go on to compete in a national race.
- Upcoming events include the Frosh-Soph musical, *Seussical*. The production of *Our Town* will also take place and is directed by Ms. Nina Lynn. Mr. Ed Zwirner, English Department Chair, and Ms. Elizabeth Bennett, Music and Theatre Department Chair, will host dinner, a book discussion, and a show where attendees will discuss the book, *Tom Lake*, and will then go see *Our Town*.

Dr. Johnson gave the FOIA report, noting that there have been three requests since the last Board meeting, all of which have been closed. One related to election information, one for information on a current bid, and one on student records to which the requester was referred to the proper process. Dr. Johnson congratulated Dr. Tragos as well.

Dr. Tragos shared that last month, ten administrators and faculty leaders attended the Leadership Institute for Transformative Education (LiftED) conference, hosted by St. Vrain Valley School District in Longmont, Colorado and the Colorado Education Initiative. St. Vrain is a pre-k through 12th grade school district with 33,000 students serving 13 communities across 411 square miles. New Trier was one of 16 districts from 12 states who was invited to participate in the conference and learn from St. Vrain’s model of innovation around career-connected learning and

pathways. Ms. Jill Cervantes, Post High School Counseling Department Chair, Ms. Michael Christensen, Social Studies Department Chair, Mr. Darius Sanchez, Science Department Coordinator, and Ms. Kerri Simons, Adviser Chair and Faculty Senate president-elect attended including six administrators. There were keynote speakers, student panels, breakout sessions, and various site visits within the district. The group brought back some lessons that they learned and will work further on.

Dr. Sally noted that November 15th was School Board Member Day and shared his thanks for the Board's commitment to students and connection to the community.

V. Communications

Ms. Hahn invited anyone from the audience who wished to address the Board to come forward and fill out a yellow communications request form and give it to Ms. Niki Dizon, Director of Communications. Ms. Dizon noted there were no requests for public comment.

VI. Special Orders of Business

Ms. Hahn moved the Presentation from Winnetka Campus Student Leaders ahead of the FY 24 Audit.

C. Presentation from Winnetka Campus Student Leaders

Mrs. Dubravec began the presentation from the Winnetka Campus Student Leaders. This is a continuation of the student voice presentations that the Board heard last year where students share their personal experiences and perspectives as high school students at New Trier. Presenters focused on their leadership and reflected on their journeys from being led to taking on leadership roles within the school. Each shared how these experiences have shaped them and what each has learned about themselves as well as the impact they have made on their peers and programs. Each student has also received training in the *Be Brave, Be Kind, Be Proud* program in order to develop a community where everyone feels welcome, seen, and heard. Ms. Sophie Bloom began her presentation and shared her journey to becoming vice president of student council. She was followed by Mr. Kevin Huang, who is co-head of Science Olympiad, which is one of the largest academic clubs, at New Trier this year. Next, Mr. Neil Sanderson, editor-in-chief of the New Trier News shared his journey of leadership followed by Ms. Kennedy Glinn, who is a senior captain for the field hockey and softball teams. Ms. Glinn also serves as the president of the New Trier Mental Health Advisory Board and leads the school's chapter of Erika's Lighthouse. Finally, Ms. Amelia Hoffmann, who was the student director of the fall play, *Almost Maine*, presented. Mrs. Dubravec thanked the students for sharing their experiences and insights.

Ms. Pofcher told the students that they are very inspiring, all have interesting and different paths, and she shared her appreciation for their candor in what they have learned as leaders.

Ms. Tomlinson noted that while student leadership was often shared during the presentations, in those stories, she heard about servant leaders. She went on to share examples about servant leadership that she heard from each student.

Referencing Dr. Lisa Damour, who the school works with regarding teenage mental health, Ms. Tomlinson quoted her: "extreme emotional intensity is a natural part of growing up and that adults should help teenagers manage that discomfort." Ms. Tomlinson inquired what the students do to find emotional support in school and if they had a message for the Board and school where they could enhance support. Each student shared where they find support such as through sponsors, friends, alumni, as well as the group itself they participate in.

Ms. McDonough loved hearing how the students are building community and fostering relationships. She reminded the students how impactful the things they are doing are in terms of the culture of New Trier. They are making a huge difference by modeling resilience, perseverance, and kindness while having fun and encouraging others.

Ms. Alcantara commended the students not only for what they do for the school and community, but also for being wonderful presenters.

Ms. Hahn thanked the students for sharing their experiences. The Board enjoys hearing from student about their experiences. She shared a few additional comments.

B. FY 24 Audit

Dr. Johnson introduced Mr. Scott Duenser, audit partner at the Wipfli accounting firm, to present the fiscal year 2024 audit. The Wipfli firm has been the District's auditor for four fiscal years. The District's previous auditor, RSM, serves as the technical accounting consultant who assists in implementing new standards and drafting financial reports, so it is fortunate to have two experienced teams of financial professionals assisting in making sure that the District reports accurate and fair financial information. Dr. Johnson also thanked Mr. Myron Spiwak, Director of Business Services, for coordinating the audit process with his office. Overall, the report shows that the financial health of the District is strong in its operating funds. Dr. Johnson will talk more about the specific results in the context of the 5-Year Plan in January. He also shared that the District has received the ASBO and GFOA certificates which acknowledge the District's strong financial results and reporting.

Mr. Duenser noted that all audit procedures are complete along with a draft report that has been through an initial review with a final report forthcoming. He does not anticipate any material changes to the draft, the only piece missing is the opinion which he expects will be an unmodified or clean opinion meaning that all financial statements are fairly stated in all material. He does not anticipate reporting any deficiencies or material weaknesses in the District's financial reporting systems, however, he noted a financial statement audit's primary focus is not to report or comment on internal controls. He went on to share highlights from the report, noting the District is well funded and in a strong financial position. Mr. Duenser shared that there continues to be inflationary pressure and then shared comments about pension and post-employment liabilities. Mr. Duenser thanked Mr. Spiwak for his work in providing necessary information.

Ms. Tomlinson noted that although there is a \$400 million hole in terms of retirements and pensions, New Trier is fully funded in its part of the obligation, therefore, Mr. Duenser's earlier caution was only if Illinois changes its policies. Dr. Johnson replied that New Trier has met its obligation to TRS, however that system is chronically underfunded. He stated that barring any legislative change, which would have to consider the finances of all Illinois school districts, New Trier has done its part. Mr. Duenser shared additional comments. Mr. Dronen added that he has heard about the potential cost shift for years, but it has not happened and there currently is not any talk of it at the state level. Discussion continued between Mr. Dronen and Dr. Johnson. Ms. Hahn thanked the business department for their work, noting that a sound budget and good financials in an inflationary environment is no small feat.

D. New Course Proposals

Dr. Tragos presented the new course proposals which will be voted on at the December meeting and will be a part of the 25-26 school year. Dr. Tragos provided an overview of the process, noting there are three new course proposals, four major course revisions, and 11 minor revisions. The process is part of a continuous cycle of curriculum review and improvement and provides new opportunities for students while going through a thorough vetting process. All new courses are aligned with the strategic plan. He went on to share highlights of each new course which include the New Trier Internship Program, Game Design 1 & 2, and Aerospace Engineering PLTW. He then shared the major course revisions in art and applied arts. The 11 minor revisions involved name or semester changes. Dr. Tragos then invited questions and comments from the Board.

Ms. Tomlinson noted how she loves that the school is offering students more opportunities to take risks by offering semester-long courses. She also likes the ability to offer pass/fail classes so if the topic does not resonate with a student, it does not impact their GPA. Second, the focus on career-connected learning comes across loud and clear, but Ms. Tomlinson is concerned about the Internship Program and ensuring the expectations are set for the outside world, so they are robust, meaningful, and challenging. Dr. Tragos agreed with Ms. Tomlinson, noting that the intention is to build an internship program like that.

Ms. Hahn noted that her understanding with the career pathway was that it was going to be focused on human centered design and inquired if the internships would be as well. Dr. Tragos replied that the internship could be in a variety of fields and students will have experiences through human centered design methodology.

Ms. Hahn then inquired how these new courses are communicated to students aside from the program of studies. Dr. Tragos responded that it is shared with adviser chairs and advisers to share out to students. Each teacher also talks with their individual classes about the new classes that are available to them the following school year in their respective department.

Ms. Alcantara noted that there may be more students interested in the Internship Program than the school has been able to develop spaces for. Dr. Tragos noted that it may be possible, however, there is a time commitment for

students to be out of school that not all students can commit to. Dr. Tragos also said there may be opportunities for internal internships as well.

VII. Administrative Items

Treasurer's Report for October 2024

Dr. Johnson presented the Treasurer's Report for Report for October, which is the fourth month of the fiscal year. Tax collections continued for the second installment of payments, and the pace continues to outpace last year with over \$3 million in collections this month. State revenue is as expected, and interest income continues to be at or above projections. The weighted portfolio yield for PMA, which is the bulk of the District's portfolio, is at 4.83% and long-term investments are at 3.62%. The fund balances for all accounts are \$122,639,000.

Financial Report for October 2024

Dr. Johnson presented the Financial Report for October 2024. Operating revenue for the first four months of the year was \$66,480,000, or about 1,000% higher than last year's \$4 million. This is due to the timing of the tax payments. Property tax distributions began in November last year so the large variance in that category will decrease beginning next month. Other revenue categories were similar to last year. The adopted budget for operating revenue is 4.2% higher than last year.

Operating expenditures were \$32,800,000 or 14.71% higher than last year. This variance is primarily a timing difference, as several large invoices in technology and special education were paid earlier in the year compared to last year. The District will monitor this difference closely. The adopted budget for operating expenditures is 6.64% higher than last year. Fund book balances for all accounts were \$129,700,000 as of October 31st.

***C. Public Hearing: 2024 Tax Levy**

Ms. Hahn called the public hearing on the 2024 tax levy to order at 8:12 p.m. Dr. Johnson noted it is filed in November and is for taxes collected by the District in 2025. It is a two-step process that began with the approval of the preliminary levy in October and the final levy, which was up for approval at this meeting. Dr. Johnson noted there are no changes from last month. It is based on the extension from the previous year times the 2023 CPI of 3.4% plus the estimated value of tax revenue from new property. The levy funds the 24-25 and 25-26 school years. It also complies with the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL) which limits the increase to the lesser of 5% or CPI. The value of the new property is unknown until June and is therefore estimated. The proposed levy is higher than the actual levy to ensure that new property can be taxed. The projected increase in the levy for this year is 3.12% based on currently issued debt. That amount will be revised once all the bonds are issued at the conclusion of that process by the assessor in February. The final amount will be determined by the county once the new property is known in June. The debt service levy will be updated once the bonds have been issued. The average homeowner should experience an increase of less than or about 3.4% on the New Trier portion of their tax bill. While the value of one's home may increase, particularly in a reassessment year, the District levy does not increase by that amount and the District's tax rate will fall as the value of one's property rises. Dr. Johnson went on to share further details about this topic.

Dr. Johnson then discussed the programs that the levy dollars support. The District is proud of its history of balanced budgets and after the 2003 referendum, the District committed to five years of no referendum, and that original commitment has extended to 21 years. He spoke about how the levy has supported the District's facilities work, maintained appropriate reserves, and any future funding changes. The levy will play a key role in presenting a balanced budget for the 25-26 school year.

Dr. Johnson thanked the Board and community for their support. Ms. Hahn inquired if there were any public comments, of which there were none. She then invited questions and comments from the Board.

Mr. Das moved, and Ms. Tomlinson seconded the motion that the Board of Education adjourn the public hearing on the 2024 Tax Levy. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Ms. Alcantara, Mr. Das, Mr. Dronen, Ms. McDonough, Ms. Pofcher, Ms. Tomlinson, Ms. Hahn

NAY: none

The motion passed.

***D. 2024 Tax Levy Approval**

Ms. Pofcher moved, and Mr. Das seconded the motion that the Board of Education adopts the resolution approving the 2024 Levy in the amount of \$132,522,618 to be distributed as follows:

Fund	Amount
Educational	\$115,957,291
Operations and Maintenance	\$9,276,583
Transportation	\$3,313,066
Municipal Retirement	\$1,987,839
Social Security	\$1,987,839
Total Extension:	\$132,522,618

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Mr. Das, Mr. Dronen, Ms. McDonough, Ms. Pofcher, Ms. Tomlinson, Ms. Alcantara, Ms. Hahn

NAY: none

The motion passed.

***E. Consideration and action on a resolution authorizing a supplemental tax levy to pay the principal of and interest on outstanding limited bonds of the District**

Dr. Johnson presented on the consideration and action on a resolution authorizing a supplemental tax levy to pay the principal of and interest on outstanding limited bonds of the District. Periodically, the District issues bonds paid from the District’s Debt Service Extension Base (DSEB) which is part of the overall tax levy. The amount the District can levy with the DSEB increases each year using the same formula as the other tax-capped funds according to the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL) and can increase by the lower of CPI-U or 5%. This year it is 3.4%. Before issuing any debt, the Finance Committee carefully reviews the parameters for each bond issuance, including annual debt service, with its financial advisor. When this information is reviewed, it includes a projection of the amount of available capacity in the DSEB based on assumed CPI increases, which are typically 2%. The bonds are then sold with annual debt service that is consistent with these assumptions, with payments to be made over the life of the debt because the actual CPI is not known at the time that the bond is issued, the levy must be adjusted in some years to increase by the actual amount of CPI since it is known. The DSEB represents about 2% of New Trier’s total tax levy, and this resolution will ensure that this small portion of the levy increases by CPI at the same rate as the other PTELL-capped funds.

Ms. Pofcher moved, and Mr. Das seconded the motion that the Board of Education approves the resolution authorizing a supplemental tax levy to pay the principal of and interest on outstanding limited bonds of Township High School District Number 203, Cook County, Illinois. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Mr. Dronen, Ms. McDonough, Ms. Pofcher, Ms. Tomlinson, Ms. Alcantara, Mr. Das, Ms. Hahn

NAY: none

The motion passed.

***F. Consideration and action on a resolution providing for the issue of not to exceed \$25,000,000 General Obligation School Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), for the purpose of altering, repairing, renovating and equipping the District’s facilities at the Northfield Campus, Winnetka Campus, Transition Center and Duke Childs Field and improving the sites thereof, providing for the pledge of certain revenues to the payment of said bonds and the levy of taxes to pay such bonds if the pledged revenues are insufficient to make such payment and authorizing the sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof**

Dr. Johnson presented on this item, noting that the Board of Education approved the next phase of the North/Tower Building Renovation at the August 19th, 2024, Board meeting as well as health/life safety improvements, primarily focused on plumbing, at both campuses. As part of the project approval, the Board also approved the financing plan for the project. This project will renovate large portions of the Winnetka Campus’ North Building (1st floor) and the Tower Building (2nd floor), improving spaces for science, campus administration and student services. The plumbing projects will replace aging water mains and heating systems. The final step is to approve the issuance of Alternate Revenue and Health Life Safety Bonds. This funding plan has previously been reviewed by the Finance

Committee and presented to the Board. The alternate revenue bonds of \$25 million will comprise the majority of the project funding for the Winnetka Campus North and Tower Buildings.

Ms. Pofcher moved, and Mr. Das seconded the motion that the Board of Education approves the resolution providing for the issue of not to exceed \$25,000,000 General Obligation School Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), of Township High School District Number 203, Cook County, Illinois, for the purpose of altering, repairing, renovating and equipping the District's facilities at the Northfield Campus, Winnetka Campus, Transition Center and Duke Childs Field and improving the sites thereof, providing for the pledge of certain revenues to the payment of principal and interest on said bonds and the levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay such principal and interest if the pledged revenues are insufficient to make such payment and authorizing the sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Ms. McDonough, Ms. Pofcher, Ms. Tomlinson, Ms. Alcantara, Mr. Das, Mr. Dronen, Ms. Hahn

NAY: none

The motion passed.

***G. Consideration and action on a resolution providing for the issue of not to exceed \$10,000,000 General Obligation School Bonds for the purpose of altering, reconstructing and repairing school facilities and purchasing and installing equipment therein for fire prevention and safety, energy conservation and school security purposes, providing for the levy of taxes to pay said bonds, and authorizing the sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof**

Dr. Johnson then presented on this item, noting that there will be a concurrent project to the Winnetka campus North and Tower Buildings which is to improve some plumbing and heating systems at the Winnetka campus and plumbing work at the Northfield campus. To fund this work, the District plans to use Health Life Safety (HLS) bonds of up to \$10 million that will primarily be focused on the plumbing project and heating systems which qualify for HLS funding. Dr. Johnson invited questions and comments from the Board.

Ms. Hahn inquired if these were the bonds that the District had to apply to the state for, which Dr. Johnson confirmed and noted the District has received approval from the state to issue the bonds. Ms. Hahn then inquired if this was the first time the District used this process. Dr. Johnson replied that the District had used HLS bonds last in 2016, but there was a legislative change over the summer and the District is availing itself of that change to issue the bonds to complete this important work at both campuses.

Ms. Alcantara moved, and Mr. Das seconded the motion That the Board of Education approves the resolution providing for the issue of not to exceed \$10,000,000 General Obligation School Bonds of Township High School District Number 203, Cook County, Illinois, for the purpose of altering, reconstructing and repairing school facilities and purchasing and installing equipment therein for fire prevention and safety, energy conservation and school security purposes, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, and authorizing the sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Ms. Pofcher, Ms. Tomlinson, Ms. Alcantara, Mr. Das, Mr. Dronen, Ms. McDonough, Ms. Hahn

NAY: none

The motion passed.

VIII. Consent Agenda

- Bill List for Period, October 1 - 31, 2024
- Personnel Report (Appointments, Change of Status, Retirements, Stipends - Appointments, Stipends - Separation, Stipend List for Fall 2024 and Administrative Contract for Associate Superintendent)
- School Maintenance Project Grant Approval
- United Radio Contract

Ms. Hahn inquired if any members wanted to pull an item off the Consent Agenda - no one chose to do so. Mr. Das moved that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda, which includes: Bill List for Period, October 1 - 31, 2024; Personnel Report (Appointments, Change of Status, Retirements, Stipends - Appointments, Stipends - Separation, Stipend List for Fall 2024 and Administrative Contract for Associate Superintendent); Authorize the Illinois State Board of Education School Maintenance Grant application process in the amount of \$50,000 and reserve funds for the projects as required by the grant provisions; and the agreement with United Radio Communications and authorize the Associate Superintendent to execute the agreement. Ms. Alcantara seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Ms. Tomlinson, Ms. Alcantara, Mr. Das, Mr. Dronen, Ms. McDonough, Ms. Pofcher, Ms. Hahn

NAY: none

The motion passed.

IX. Board Member Reports

Ms. McDonough shared that the **New Trier Parents Association (NTPA)** meeting was rescheduled for tomorrow.

Mr. Dronen noted that the **Booster Club** will meet tomorrow.

Ms. Tomlinson thanked Ms. Liz Hennessey from Raymond James for keeping the **Finance Committee** up to date on potential policy changes with the new administration in Washington. She also thanked Dr. Johnson for reviewing the various scenarios and options that the District could take advantage of or react to when it issues bonds in the future.

On November 12th, Ms. Tomlinson, Ms. Hahn, and Mr. Das attended the **Parent Community Advisory Committee (PCAG)** meeting where they participated in table discussions about potential cell phone policies. While many schools instituted policies at the start of the school year, New Trier has taken a more holistic approach to determine the best direction. Participants reviewed the District's current policy, research on the subject, school and community surveys as well as open dialogue. The cell phone policy committee will refine its thinking based on feedback from PCAG and bring a recommendation to the Board's March meeting.

Ms. Alcantara shared that the **New Trier Fine Arts Association (NTFAA)** met on November 13th. Two summer scholars presented their experiences that were funded by NTFAA grants. The committee also received an update on the annual appeal fundraising efforts and progress towards their grants, social media outreach for the various fine arts groups, plans to sell New Trier Arts supporter booster signs, and other outreach events. They also received updates from Post High School Counselor, Mr. Bob Zigmund as well as Mrs. Dubravec. The next meeting is on December 11th.

Mr. Das met with the **TrueNorth Leadership Council** on November 13th. He noted the collaboration between TrueNorth's Early Childhood program and the Chicago Botanic Garden Nature Preschool. This partnership allows those at TrueNorth to engage in outdoor activities and recognizes that connecting with nature has a significant calming effect, in general, but especially in young learners. There is an ongoing effort to work through a potential withdrawal of a member district as laid out in the by-laws. The superintendent's contract was also renewed. The next meeting is January 22nd.

Ms. Pofcher noted that the **Facilities Steering Committee** was rescheduled, but work is ongoing related to solar and other projects at Winnetka. The EV charging stations are also online at the Northfield campus.

X. Calendar of Events & Board Members' Requests for Staff Research and Future Agenda Items

Dr. Sally highlighted the following events:

- Next Monday and Tuesday, parent-teacher conferences will be held. The remainder of the week is Thanksgiving break. Having parent-teacher conferences during this week is new this year and feedback will be gathered from parents and faculty on this change.
- *Seussical* will take place this Thursday and Friday.
- *Our Town* will take place on December 4th, 5th, and 6th.
- The Winter Music Festival is on Sunday, December 8th.
- The next Board meeting will be on Monday, December 9th. The Board Recognition Program will take place prior to that meeting.

Ms. Hahn inquired if there were any requests for staff research or future agenda items, of which there were none.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Das moved, and Ms. McDonough seconded the motion, to adjourn. Upon a voice vote being taken, all members indicated they were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsey Ruston, Secretary

Jean Hahn, President