

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

**October 21, 2024**

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

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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, October 21, 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  
Mr. Peter Tragos, Asst. Supt. for Curriculum & Instruction  
Mrs. Denise Dubravec, Principal – Winnetka Campus/Assistant Supt.  
Mr. Paul Waechtler, Principal – Northfield Campus

**Also Present**

Dr. Michael Marassa, Chief Technology Officer; Dr. Renee Zoladz, Director of Human Resources; Ms. Niki Dizon, Director of Communications; Ms. Molly Lombardi, Social Studies Department Faculty and Teachers' Association President; Ms. Erika Immel, Library Department Chair; Mr. Marty Laffey, Math Department Faculty; Ms. Tonya Piscitello, Modern and Classical Languages Department Faculty; Ms. Tricia Nameth-Rich, Special Education Department Faculty; Ms. Kristan Kenney, English Department Faculty and Equity Liaison; Dr. Chimille Tillery, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Ms. Michael Christensen, Social Studies Department Chair; Mr. Dean Pinos, Social Studies Department Coordinator; Mr. Alex Zilka, Social Studies Department Faculty; Ms. Laura Malia, Social Studies Department Faculty; Ms. Maricor Chang, Library Department Faculty; Ms. Meg Garton, English Department Faculty; 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 October 21, 2024, of the Board of Education to order at 5:32 p.m. in room C234 at the Northfield campus. Roll call was taken, and all members were present, except for Ms. Alcantara and Mr. Dronen. 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; the placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students; and litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular District has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the District finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the closed meeting minutes. Ms. Tomlinson seconded the motion. Ms. Alcantara joined the meeting at 5:33 p.m. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: none

ABSENT: Mr. Dronen

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 October 21, 2024, of the Board of Education to order at 6:34 p.m. in room C234 at the Northfield campus. Roll call was taken, and all members were present except for Mr. Dronen.

## **IV. Minutes and Reports**

**\*A. Regular Meeting of September 16, 2024 (open and closed session); Special Meeting of October 7, 2024 (open and closed session); Special Meeting of October 16, 2024 (open and closed session); and Special Meeting of October 17, 2024 (open and closed session)**

Ms. Hahn asked for any comments or adjustments on the minutes of the September 16, 2024 (open and closed session); Special Meeting of October 7, 2024 (open and closed session); Special Meeting of October 16, 2024 (open and closed session); and Special Meeting of October 17, 2024 (open and closed session). There were a few requests for changes to the minutes from Ms. Hahn which were incorporated. Ms. McDonough moved, and Mr. Das seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 16, 2024 (open and closed session); Special Meeting of October 7, 2024 (open and closed session); Special Meeting of October 16, 2024 (open and closed session); and Special Meeting of October 17, 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:

ABSENT: Mr. Dronen

The motion passed.

## **B. Report from Campus Principals and FOIA Report**

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

- Parent-Adviser Conferences recently took place, and parents had either in-person or virtual meeting options. It is a great opportunity to continue to build partnerships with families.
- Adviser room teambuilding continues with senior helpers and advisers doing a great job of building community.
- Over 650 students attended the Freshman Mixer. The evening included a DJ along with inflatable games, pizza, and snacks. Mr. Waechtler thanked Mr. Mark Howard and Ms. Sue Ellen Haak, adviser chairs, Dr. Tim Hayes, Activities Coordinator, Mr. Scott Williams, Assistant Principal for the Class of 2028 and senior helpers for their work on this event.
- Adviser Room Olympics has begun, with the first competition being Tug of War. They will continue all year long with a variety of activities. Ms. Nomura, Ms. Gompers and Mr. Van Mersbergen were the winning adviser rooms.
- Freshman Go-to-School Night recently took place which provides families an opportunity to walk their student's schedule and meet teachers. He thanked teachers for creating engaging activities for families.

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

- The Class of 1954 recently celebrated their 70<sup>th</sup> high school reunion at New Trier. Other recent class reunions included the classes of 1960, 1964, 1974, 1979, and 1984.
- Recently, Mrs. Dubravec and Mr. Waechtler, who are a part of a large high school consortium, met with fellow members in Cherry Creek, Colorado. She shared information about their visit. Ms. Pofcher asked for clarification on the number of students who attend the district, to which Mrs. Dubravec replied that 52,000 students attend the K-12 unified district. Mrs. Dubravec also shared that all the schools in the consortium use the Standard Response Protocol for emergencies, which is the same protocol that New Trier uses and was discussed at the September Board meeting.
- Homecoming recently took place which included the Night Rally and dance.
- Mrs. Dubravec, along with Dr. Sally, Mr. Rai Pavely, Director of Campus Safety, and Mr. Angel Villaluz, Director of Technology, hosted an evening presentation for parents entitled, "Understanding New Trier's Emergency Operations Plan."
- Students from ELS and Transition held their annual mum sale.

- Mrs. Dubravec shared about the Class of 2025's service-learning projects. They are partnering with Salute Inc. and Midwest Veterans Closet.
- The girls' cross-country team fundraised \$10,000 for the school's Special Olympics program. The team also took second in the conference.
- New Trier won ABC7 Chicago's flyover trophy.
- The 1974-1975 girls' volleyball IHSA champions were recently honored. They were the first to win the state tournament for girls 50 years ago. She thanked Mr. Augie Fontanetta, Athletic Director, for his work on the event.
- Fall sports are concluding with the boys' golf team placing third. Mr. Logan Keeter took fifth individually and Mr. Liam Kelly was the individual state champion. Ms. Grace Leber placed third for the girls' team.

Dr. Sally and Dr. Peter Tragos, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, shared information about Consortium 2037 that New Trier hosted at the end of September. This is a superintendents' consortium that New Trier has been part of for a long time. Between this group and the principals' consortium that Mrs. Dubravec spoke about earlier, New Trier is in contact with about a dozen high performing high schools around the country. The philosophy for the consortium is to bring in experts in different areas that are of interest to the schools while sharing individual best practices. One day focused on student mental health and the group heard from Dr. Lisa Damour. The second day focused on the future of learning. The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning joined the group and shared about how they are rethinking the Carnegie Unit or how they might measure learning differently from seat time in the way they award credit. They are also working with post-secondary institutions to think differently about the way that students report their successes or potential versus a transcript that reflects courses and grades. College and university admissions officers and administrators were also in attendance. This allowed for a robust conversation amongst all attendees. Finally, Mrs. Dubravec assembled a panel of students who shared with the consortium what it is like to be a senior in the midst of college applications.

Dr. Sally shared that on October 15<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Tragos presented to the parents' association on the Profile of the Class of 2024. There were about 25 parents in attendance. It is presented annually to this group of parents and Dr. Sally noted that the feedback that came out of it two years ago is the reason that the timing of the report was adjusted.

Dr. Johnson gave the FOIA report, noting that there have been six requests since the last Board meeting, all of which have been closed. They included two related to copies of a previous FOIA, two related to security information, one related to employment contracts, and one related to copies of an official notice.

## **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. Hahn stated that due to the number of issues which must be considered at the Board Meeting, commenters should limit their statement to three minutes per Board Policy 2-230. Likewise, if a comment requires a response, either Ms. Hahn or an administrator will contact the commenter in the days following the meeting. Questions and comments should address the Board of Education as a whole only. No comments should be directed to an individual Board member, audience, principals, or other staff members. No complaints against individual employees are allowed during a Board of Education Meeting. She also asked that the audience refrain from clapping or a response of any kind regarding people's comments. There was one request for public comment.

1. Mr. Van Gilmer shared words of encouragement regarding equity, diversity, and belonging.

## **VI. Special Orders of Business**

Ms. Hahn noted that the agenda would be adjusted so that the Class Size Report would be shared prior to the New Trier 2030 Update on Culture, Climate, Equity, Belonging, and Civil Discourse.

### **A. Class Size Report**

Dr. Tragos, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, presented the Class Size Report. It offers perspective on the District's class size and its allocation of resources. The report also helps the District monitor its staffing levels and evaluate staffing allocations to make informed decisions about staffing and sectioning for the upcoming school year. Dr. Tragos then spoke to demographic information, noting that McKibbons' projection for this year was 3,648 students in attendance, as of October 1<sup>st</sup>, the District's official enrollment exceeds that by 10 students for a total of 3,658 students. It is a net decrease of 84 students compared to the previous year. In 2020, the October 1<sup>st</sup> enrollment data was 4,076 students. Compared to this October 1<sup>st</sup>, that is a net decrease of 418 students

over four years. The District has been navigating this over the past six years. The report highlights the average class size, median class size, and classes outside the norm of 15-30 students. Dr. Tragos thanked those who assisted with the report, they included: Mr. Dan Weidner, Associate Principal for Academic and Administrative Services, Ms. Katharine Kapustiak, Application Support Specialist, and Ms. Gail Gamrath, Associate Principal – Northfield Campus. He noted that Dr. Johnson in his budgeting sets targets that are very student-centered while staffing and hiring can be seen by the work of Dr. Zoladz, Director of Human Resources.

Dr. Tragos shared the first highlight – the average class size for this school year is 22.4, which is in the range of where the District has been over the past six years. Next, he focused on the median class size, which is new to the report. He provided context for this addition to the report, noting that during negotiations in 2023, with an agreement between the Board and the Association that whenever practicable, the median class size should not exceed 23. Dr. Tragos reported that the goal was reached. He also shared that 50% of all classes across the school are between 20 and 25 students. Three departments are below the median – art, modern and classical languages, and theatre, while three departments are above the median – applied arts, business education, and social studies. He shared that there are reasons for each of these situations and noted that he works with department leaders when deciding how many classes to offer given the number of student who signed up. The last part of the report that he spoke to was small and large sections. Small sections are defined as those classes that are less than or equal to 14 students and large sections are those that are greater than or equal to 30 students. The number of small sections across the school is 36 while there are nine classes of large sections. He shared further information around this and then invited questions and comments from the Board.

Ms. McDonough inquired about the increase in the number of large classes going from 0.4% to 1.0%. He gave an example of a “bad break”, noting that 60 students enrolled in AP Stats were broken up into two classes of 30. He shared additional details about this increase. Ms. McDonough then inquired if a teacher has one of these large section classes, if an effort is made to balance their student load in other classes. Dr. Tragos replied that department leaders work to balance overall teacher load, depending on the flexibility available.

Ms. Hahn, referencing Future Programming, and when looking at the classes where there are 30 students or so, many of those classes seem to be leaning towards what could be potential career pathways and human centered design. She inquired if this information helps guide that work and thinking about how that programming is structured. Dr. Tragos replied that it shows the school where there is high interest in certain areas and where to allocate resources as well as how students may be scheduled into some of these classes. Ms. Hahn thanked Dr. Tragos for the report.

## **B. New Trier 2030 Update: Culture, Climate, Equity, Belonging, and Civil Discourse**

Dr. Sally introduced the New Trier 2030 update on culture, climate, equity, belonging, and civil discourse. Dr. Sally noted in the memo that he provided a history of the District’s work in this area since 2019. He then briefly provided details about the work from that time through the 23-24 school year. Mrs. Dubravec provided an overview of the presentation. Ms. Michael Christensen, Social Studies Department Chair, introduced herself along with Mr. Dean Pinos, Social Studies Department Coordinator, Ms. Laura Malia, Social Studies Department Faculty, and Mr. Alex Zilka, Social Studies Department Faculty. Mr. Pinos explained why social studies education is so important right now, noting that 65% of Americans report feeling exhausted by political life while 55% feel angry. Mr. Pinos shared that part of what feeds this exhaustion is a perception gap or a misunderstanding of who we are and what political positions one holds. While many focus on the fringes of the ideological spectrum, the reality is that two-thirds of Americans are somewhere in the middle. He went on to share the responsibilities of social studies teachers and how they are accomplished with students. The hope is that students are then sent out into the world as thoughtful, compassionate citizens who are able to think critically and act deliberately for the collective good. Ms. Christensen shared how the department creates these conditions for civil discourse through relationships, expectations, standards and structures. Ms. Malia and Mr. Zilka shared how all of this is accomplished in the classroom. Mr. Zilka also shared about professional development available on this particular topic.

Next, Dr. Chimille Tillery, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, shared information about the equity liaisons. They work closely with administration and staff to support specific elements of equity initiatives on both campuses. After sharing additional information about their roles, she introduced Ms. Kristan Kenney, English Department Faculty, and Mr. Zilka. Ms. Kenney shared details about the Staff Culture, Climate, Equity, and Belonging Council (CCEB), while Mr. Zilka spoke about the work that has been done by the Council up to this point and their plans for the future.

Dr. Tillery provided an update on the student affinity groups, noting they are support groups, not action ones and participants in the groups share the same social identity. She highlighted several of the responsibilities of the affinity group sponsors. Ms. Maricor Chang, Library Department Faculty, then spoke about the new staff affinity groups as well as her training and work with the Illinois State Board of Education's (ISBE) partnership with Teach Plus.

Ms. Kenney shared that a Student CCEB Council that is just beginning. It will have about 25 students from various groups including members from affinity groups, athletics, and the adviser chair council. These students were interested in participating and recommended by sponsors. It differs from the Affinity Groups as it is action-oriented not a support group. Mr. Zilka went on to talk about the roles and responsibilities of the Council.

Dr. Tillery noted that there are several equity professional development offerings available for faculty this year. She also shared about professional development specific to the monthly observances.

Dr. Sally thanked the group for presenting, noting it is a multipronged approach to obtain the District's two main objectives of ensuring that everyone feels that they belong and that every student hears and considers perspectives different from their own. Dr. Sally then invited questions and comments from the Board.

Ms. Tomlinson thanked the group for their presentation. She shared her thoughts on the estimated proportion of people who hold extreme views and how Mr. Pinos shared it is a misconception. She noted this can make it frustrating and discouraging to engage with people, sharing that people get their information from different sources. Ms. Tomlinson noted it is challenging work and in hearing how many students are engaging in poll observations, she has moved from discouraged to hopeful and will remain hopeful knowing that this group is helping young people figure out how to grapple with these tough conversations.

Next, Ms. Tomlinson shared an anecdote from when she was in advertising about a colleague who was formerly in the Army. Whenever he was asked to do something, he would inquire about the resources he would be given for the task. He used this in his civilian work to understand how important the objective was to the overall mission. Ms. Tomlinson then applied that thinking to the District's CCEB work and how committed the school is with this effort as it relates to the mission. After further comments, she shared her belief that New Trier is philosophically committed to this concept and noted the ways in which it is, noting particularly that the District is infrastructurally committed. It has gone from Seminar Day to rethinking adviser groups, revising and enhancing professional development, and including more student voice. The challenge for those in the room is how to ensure that everyone is on board with committing to this. She concluded by thanking the group for all that they have done.

Dr. Tillery gave a quick plug to the Teachers' Association leadership, noting her collaborative work with Ms. Molly Lombardi, Association President.

Ms. Pofcher looks forward to reading the book shared in the presentation. After further comments, Ms. Pofcher noted that this will be constantly evolving work, as a person is constantly evolving. She encouraged people to lean into the difficult conversations with a spirit of flexibility and growth between staff members and between students. It is beautiful, nuanced, hard work and is foundational to the characteristics of a learner. After additional comments, she noted that the District is importantly defining the intangibles of a New Trier graduate and that over time all these initiatives will elevate the way it articulates its graduates, mission, among other things because this work underpins all of them.

Ms. McDonough thanked the group for the commitment, time, and effort they have put into this. She shared her appreciation of the District that when it recognizes that things are not going the way they should, that it takes the time and is vulnerable enough to figure out how to do things better. She is excited and hopeful to build on the great work that has been done in the past while taking it in a new direction.

Ms. Alcantara thanked the group for their work. She also thanked Dr. Sally for the memo which included a timeline of where the District started with this work. She hopes that the District can reflect on that history and how this work has evolved while continuing to learn from what works and what does not.

Mr. Das shared introductory comments about staff and the affinity groups and went on to inquire how staff are being socialized to recognize the affinity groups as a resource for them or to what extent that the Staff CCEB and others are fulfilling the commitment to support one another's belonging and exposure to different perspectives. Dr. Tillery replied that the staff affinity groups are just getting started and shared how the facilitators are supporting one another

in this new endeavor. They will also listen to feedback from participants and learn along the way. Dr. Sally added that this is a good point about how the District is bringing staff together. In terms of ensuring that everyone is on board, there are extensive and accessible professional development offerings available, which he shared further comments on.

Mr. Das referenced Ms. Tomlinson's comments on the concept of infrastructure, and that there is some infrastructure developing around the teachers who do not age out of the school like students do. He is hopeful that what is implied in the two student-centered purposes is also how critical it is that there is a community being built among the professionals. He is looking forward to hearing more about the uptake of the professional development and saturation of participation by staff in these opportunities as well as how these can be seen as a toolbox for the professionals to support belonging and be exposed to perspectives different from their own and to then go on to model that in the classroom. He is celebrating the landing of the larger structure that he is hoping can be amplified and is inviting the opportunity for faculty to also discuss how they are working together.

Ms. Hahn shared that the Board heard overwhelmingly from the community when they were creating the leadership profile as part of hiring the next superintendent as well as from Mr. Gilmer who spoke earlier, how important it is to attract and retain quality educators. To her, this piece goes a long way to expressing to future New Trier teachers that it is a welcoming place where they will have colleagues, administrative, and community support. She went on to share additional comments, thanking Ms. Kenney and Mr. Zilka for taking up this crucial work. She emphasized that they are never alone in this because in order to be successful, it is incumbent on each of us to engage in this effort to cultivate this environment where every member of the New Trier community feels welcome, trusts that they belong, and knows that they matter. She also thanked administrators for their unwavering commitment to advancing the objectives so clearly articulated by the community and reflected in the strategic plan. She then thanked her fellow Board members and the community for their unrelenting insistence that the District engage in this work on behalf of students as well as their recognition that the path that has been collectively chosen is difficult. Ms. Hahn noted that while she is confident that the school has a sound foundation, talented people, and thoughtfully constructed framework or infrastructure, occasionally, mistakes will be made and feelings hurt, one may feel deeply uncomfortable and encounter some obstacles. It will be ok because when this happens, the school will pick itself up, learn from its missteps, and stay the course. Lastly, Ms. Hahn noted that she looks forward to hearing how parent and community voice will be included.

## **VII. Administrative Items**

### **Treasurer's Report for September 2024**

Dr. Johnson presented the Treasurer's Report for September 2024, the third month of the fiscal year. Cash balances are strong due to the early receipt of property taxes at \$130,976,000. Investment income remains stable, as the normal investment schedule returns thanks to regular distributions of property taxes. Weighted yield for PMA, which is the majority of the District's funds, is 5% and the 5/3 portfolio is at 3.53% and increasing gradually as long-term investments mature and are replaced with higher yield investments. The District saw a typical month of state and federal payments.

### **Financial Report for September 2024**

Dr. Johnson presented the Financial Report for September 2024. Operating revenue for the first three months is \$61,476,000, or 1300% higher than last year due to the substantial distribution of property taxes in July and August. The adopted budget for operating revenue is 4.26% higher than last year and will stabilize as the year goes on.

Operating expenditures were \$21,800,000 or 17% higher than last year. This variance is primarily a timing difference, as several large invoices in technology and special education were paid earlier. One area the District is carefully monitoring is special education outplacement costs. There has been a substantial increase in the rates that the state allows these schools to charge local districts post covid, with some having a 40% increase in just two to three years. The District has begun to analyze this with Dr. Joanne Panopoulos, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Student Services, and Mr. Matt Koulentes, Outplacement Coordinator. Special education leadership has done a nice job as the District has seen a large decrease in the number of outplaced students over three years. The adopted budget for operating expenditures is 6.64% higher than the 2023-24 fiscal year. The fund balances for all accounts were \$137,578,000.

### **\*C. 2024 Preliminary Tax Levy**

Dr. Johnson presented the 2024 preliminary tax levy. 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 which limits the increase to the lesser of 5% or CPI. The value of 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. Dr. Johnson noted that he would share about the debt that is going to be issued later in the meeting. 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, among other areas. 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. He then invited questions and comments from the Board.

Ms. Hahn acknowledged the significant investment the community makes through its property taxes. After further comments, she noted that the return on investment is a high-quality education. She thanked everyone for the work that goes into this.

Ms. Pofcher moved, and Mr. Das seconded the motion that the Board of Education approves the 2024 Tentative Levy in the amount of \$132,522,618 and that a Public Hearing be held at the November 18, 2024 regularly scheduled Board Meeting. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: none

ABSENT: Mr. Dronen

The motion passed.

**\*D. Public Hearing: Concerning the intent of the Board to sell \$25,000,000 general obligation alternate revenue bonds to pay the costs 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 and \$10,000,000 bonds to pay the costs of certain school fire prevention and safety projects**

Ms. Hahn called to order the public hearing concerning the intent of the Board to sell \$25,000,000 general obligation alternate revenue bonds to pay the costs 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 and \$10,000,000 bonds to pay the costs of certain school fire prevention and safety projects at 8:12 p.m. Dr. Johnson went on to present about this, noting that the Board approved the next phase of the North/Tower Building Renovation at the August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting as well as health/life safety improvements, which will primarily focus 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 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 that are original to the North and Tower Buildings as well as the Northfield campus.

The Public Hearing regards the issuance of Alternate Revenue & Health Life Safety Bonds. The alternate revenue bonds of \$25 million will comprise the majority of the project funding for the Winnetka Campus North and Tower Buildings. The Health Life Safety bonds of up to \$10 million will primarily be focused on the plumbing project and heating systems, with a portion allocated to the larger Winnetka Project. This funding plan has previously been reviewed by the Finance Committee and presented to the Board.

Ms. Hahn inquired if there were any public comments, of which there were none. She then invited questions and comments from the Board.

Ms. Pofcher moved, and Mr. Das seconded the motion that the Board of Education that the Board of Education moves to Adjourn the Public Hearing on the Concerning the intent of the Board to sell \$25,000,000 general obligation alternate revenue bonds to pay the costs 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 and \$10,000,000 bonds to pay the costs of certain school fire prevention and safety projects. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: none

ABSENT: Mr. Dronen

The motion passed.

The public hearing was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

### **VIII. Consent Agenda**

- Bill List for Period, September 1 - 30, 2024
- Personnel Report (Appointments, Change of Status, Resignations, Retirement, Stipends - Appointments and Stipends - Separation)
- Policy Revisions - Second Reading - PRESS 115 & 116
- Alltown Transportation Renewal - Regular Service (2025 - 2026)

Ms. Hahn inquired if any members wanted to pull an item off the Consent Agenda, no one chose to do so. Ms. Pofcher moved that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda, which includes: Bill List for Period, September 1 - 30, 2024; Personnel Report (Appointments, Change of Status, Resignations, Retirement, Stipends - Appointments and Stipends - Separation); Policy Revisions - Second Reading - PRESS 115 & 116; and Extend the Alltown Bus Service transportation agreement for the 2025-26 school years and authorize the Associate Superintendent to execute the agreement. Mr. Das seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: none

ABSENT: Mr. Dronen

The motion passed.

### **IX. Board Member Reports**

Ms. McDonough attended the **New Trier Parents Association (NTPA)** meeting on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Chris Mitchell, Associate Principal for Student Services, presented on behalf of Mrs. Dubravec. He shared about the graduating class teams' service projects. The group also discussed Trev Fest and how to fine tune it for more success in years to come.

Ms. Alcantara was unable to attend the **New Trier Fine Arts Association (NTFAA)** at the beginning of October. The next meeting is on November 13<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Alcantara shared that the **Facilities Steering Committee** met on October 10<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Das met with the **TrueNorth Leadership Council** on October 9<sup>th</sup>. There is an ongoing effort to work through the by-laws and conditions for new members to join the Council as well as for members to exit. The next meeting is November 13<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Pofcher noted she also attended the **Facilities Steering Committee**, including discussing funding needs for the 15-year plan.

Ms. Pofcher attended the **Community Engagement Committee**. The storytelling video is underway. The Community Guide has been mailed to homes. There was also the final selection of a new mass communication



system. She then asked Ms. Dizon to clarify the **Parent Community Advisory Group**. Ms. Dizon is assisting Dr. Sally and Ms. Ruston in bringing the group together. Dr. Sally shared that the first meeting is on November 12<sup>th</sup>. He noted there has been interest from the Community Engagement Committee, NTPA as well as other community members. There are three topics that will be covered throughout the year. The first is feedback from the group on cell phones, the second will focus on future programming, and the final meeting will be on culture, climate, equity, and belonging.

Ms. Hahn shared that the **New Trier Educational Foundation (NTEF)** met on September 19<sup>th</sup>. Evanston High School outperformed New Trier in generating donors for the School Spirit Showdown. It was a great event that brought awareness to the good work that both Foundations do.

Ms. Hahn shared about the **Booster Club** meetings in Mr. Dronen's absence. She noted that he attended the September 17<sup>th</sup> and October 15<sup>th</sup> meetings. They discussed the 1974-75 girls' volleyball team. The Booster Club is also planning a benefit scheduled for April 25, 2025.

Ms. Hahn shared an update on the Superintendent search.

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

Dr. Sally highlighted the following events:

- First quarter ended last Friday.
- There will be Special Board meetings on October 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Many concerts will take place in November, please see the Performing Arts calendar for more details.
- The next Board meeting is on November 18<sup>th</sup>.

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 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Lindsey Ruston, Secretary

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Jean Hahn, President