

BOARD BRIEFS

*News from the New Trier Township High School District 203
Board of Education Regular Meeting
July 11, 2022*

iPads to Remain New Trier's 1:1 Student Device After District Evaluation

New Trier students will continue to use iPads as their primary 1:1 technology tool following a yearlong evaluation process that included surveys of students, families, and staff and the pilot use of other devices in courses across different academic disciplines

The District formed a Mobile Device Evaluation Committee of students, staff, teachers, and administrators during the 2020-2021 school year to assess how well the iPad aligned with the district's strategic plan goals in student learning, engagement, and personal growth. Chief Technology Officer Michael Marassa and Instructional Technology Manager Jacqui Pritchard presented the results of the mobile device evaluation to the Board.

In spring 2021, the committee surveyed students, parents, and faculty about their technology use. About 70% of students and 64% of parents agreed that the iPad was the most effective mobile learning device to support students' learning, while teachers were split almost evenly on that question. About 40% of students reported purchasing a laptop to supplement their iPad, with many reporting that the iPad was not ideal for writing essays.

Based on survey and teacher feedback, the District selected two Windows devices to pilot in the 2021-2022 school year: the HP X360 Student Edition and the Microsoft Surface Pro 7+. The devices were used in science, math, applied arts, health, Spanish, and journalism classes.

In certain courses, particularly those that required a lot of writing, the devices were effective in supporting instruction. However, students noted that the Windows devices required several extra steps to submit work. Only 25% of students involved in the pilot reported the devices easy to use, and 45% said they were difficult to use.

Some other reasons cited in support of the continued use of iPads included the importance of iBooks in the curriculum and the established use of iPad apps to easily submit assignments in Canvas, New Trier's learning management system. In addition, students coming into New Trier from Township sender schools have generally used iPads as their 1:1 learning tool.

After reviewing the results of the pilot and surveys, the committee recommended continuing with iPads as New Trier's 1:1 mobile learning device, while also recommending the District continue to find new ways to best use iPads. Click for the [Mobile Device Evaluation Presentation](#).

Many Voices, One New Trier: Strategic Plan Theme for 2022-2023

New Trier's annual blueprint toward achieving goals outlined in the District's strategic plan, *New Trier 2030*, contains a number of action items centered around the theme "Many Voices, One New Trier."

The Board approved the 2022-2023 Annual Plan after a presentation from Superintendent Paul Sally.

Sally said the District is committed to advancing several initiatives within the strategic plan's six framework areas: 1- Intellectual, Engagement, Growth, and Readiness; 2 - Personal Engagement, Growth, and Well-being; 3 - Culture, Climate, and Equity; 4 - Leadership Across the School; 5 - Community Engagement, Partnerships, and Governance; and 6 - Finance, Facilities, and Human Resources.

The theme of "Many Voices, One New Trier" incorporates different aspects of the Annual Plan, including continuing to build community and pride in the school, a focus on Belonging Through a Culture of Dignity, elevating student voices, and collaborating with staff, students, families, community members, and alumni on District goals.

Some of the areas of focus for the year include expanding and making more visible the District's work in promoting critical thinking and civil discourse, a student-centered campaign named "Be Brave, Be Kind, Be Proud" that incorporates student growth and restorative practices, and the continued alignment and improvement of student support systems to address complex needs, particularly needs that intensified during the pandemic.

Click for a full list of the [2022-2023 Annual Plan Initiatives](#).

Board Approves Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2023

The Board approved a balanced tentative operating budget for Fiscal Year 2023 that fully funds all programs and is projected to leave the District with a slight surplus.

The \$124 million operating budget reflects the continuation of normal operations after the budgetary challenges of operating during the COVID-19 pandemic in Fiscal Year 2021. The District expects a significant decrease in federal funding in the upcoming fiscal year with the conclusion of COVID-related relief grants and reimbursements.

The District committed to funding the East Side Academic and Athletic Project without asking taxpayers for additional money through a referendum. One of the ways the District was able to make this commitment was by making annual debt payments on a bond issue through the transfer of money from its operating funds. After the annual transfer of approximately \$3 million for the debt service, the operating fund surplus for the year is projected to be \$463,783. In addition, the District has committed about \$10 million from reserves for facilities projects FY23, which is possible because of years of strong financial stewardship from the District.

Property taxes make up the majority of the District's revenue, about 91%. Salaries and benefits make up the largest portion of District expenditures, about 79%. The majority of salary expenses are collectively bargained with three employee associations in a collaborative process meant to attract and retain high quality staff while controlling costs. Salaries will increase approximately 3.47% in Fiscal Year 2023.

Final budget approval is scheduled for the September Board of Education meeting. Click for the [Fiscal Year 2023 Tentative Budget Memo](#).

Other News from the July 11 Meeting

- Superintendent Paul Sally briefly reviewed the District's work to ensure that the school is safe and secure and to connect students with mental health resources in light of the July

4th parade shooting in Highland Park. Sally shared a statement of support for the Highland Park community and the friends, families, and neighbors affected by the tragedy. At the August Board of Education meeting, the District will give a comprehensive report about the school's safety and security plans, including these four important layers of security: community partners; connection, support, and prevention; physical security measures and daily procedures; and emergency procedures and readiness.

- The Board approved a recommendation from the Naming Committee to designate the Winnetka Campus Library and Library Commons as the **Linda L. Yonke Library and Library Commons**. Yonke served as New Trier's Superintendent from 2006 to 2017 and was integral in the District's long-term facilities planning process, leading major projects including the Winnetka Campus West Side Project and the opening of the B Building at the Northfield Campus. Community members and former colleagues nominated Yonke in recognition of her exemplary work as superintendent not just on facilities, but also on curriculum and professional standards, expanding extracurricular opportunities, building student support systems, and other student-centered initiatives. Winnetka Campus Principal Denise Dubravec noted that naming the library in Yonke's honor is particularly appropriate because she is a voracious reader who led community and staff Book Clubs and is always reading two, three, or four books at a time. A dedication ceremony will be planned for this fall.
- Associate Superintendent Chris Johnson updated the Board on summer construction work, including the first phase of renovation at the new Special Education Transition Center in Glencoe, where the installation of walls, plumbing, and electrical has begun. The center will open at the beginning of the school year. Johnson also said that many trades are on site making progress on the East Side Academic and Athletic Project, including installation of structural steel and masonry work in the coming weeks. You can watch construction live by [clicking here](#) or visiting the [East Side Project web page](#).

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>