

# BOARD BRIEFS

*News from the New Trier Township High School District 203*

*Board of Education Regular Meeting*

*July 10, 2023*

## Graduating Class Teams at Work to Prepare for 2023-2024 School Year

Starting this fall, every class of students will have a team of administrators, adviser chairs, and student services liaisons following their individual progress, providing support when needed, and communicating with families and teachers to help all students reach their goals.

The Graduating Class Teams are a new support structure New Trier implemented in response to the growing need for academic and social-emotional assistance among high school students. Winnetka Campus Principal and Assistant Superintendent Denise Dubravec and other administrators told the Board the teams already have been hard at work this spring and summer training, reviewing student interventions, understanding data systems, and coming to common, student-centered goals as teams.

Currently students stay together in Adviser Rooms all four years, and Advisers move with them at the Winnetka Campus. However, other roles such as Adviser Chairs and student services liaisons have typically changed each year as students moved from freshmen to seniors.

The new teams will follow students all four years of high school, strengthening the most important idea behind New Trier's Adviser Program - the Adviser at the center of the school/family/student connection. With the change, not only will the Adviser understand a student's needs as they move through high school, but that student and their family will have several other staff members following their experience and offering consistent support.

In addition to the Advisers and two Adviser Chairs, each team has a new position overseeing its work - an Assistant Principal specific to the graduating class - as well as liaisons from Social Work, School Psychologists, Post-High School Counseling, Special Education, and multi-tiered supports.

Chris Mitchell, Associate Principal for Student Services, will oversee the Graduating Class Teams, working collaboratively with the two campus Principals, the Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Student Services, and the Director of Special Education.

A primary goal of the new teams will be to identify students early who may need additional support and, when necessary, begin interventions. The teams also will seek strong partnerships with families in establishing expectations for student attendance and providing support for regular attendance. Click for the [Graduating Class Teams presentation](#).

## Superintendent Presents Annual Strategic Plan Goals

As the [New Trier 2030 strategic plan](#) approaches its midpoint, the initiatives the school will undertake in the 2023-2024 school year continue to focus on the school's vision to provide an exceptional educational experience, promote a culture of belonging, and prepare students to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

Superintendent Paul Sally presented the *New Trier 2030 Annual Plan*, highlighting major initiatives in areas including the new Graduating Class Teams, professional learning, and the *Characteristics of a New Trier Graduate*.

The new Graduating Class Teams and their comprehensive vision for supporting students in their academic and social-emotional growth will be at the core of much of the District's strategic work in the 2023-2024 school year. Sally said while it may take some years for the new structure to reach its full potential, the groundwork and analysis presented in the first year will only improve the structure in years to come.

The District also will focus on providing support and time for teachers and staff to hone their craft, inspire each other, and adapt to rapid changes in education and the world. Initiatives such as professional learning collaboratives working together on specific topics aligned with the *Characteristics of a New Trier Graduate* and instructional coaching will help New Trier support the growth of its exceptional teachers and staff.

The *Characteristics of a New Trier Graduate* provide aspirational goals for New Trier students to be "becoming" by the time they graduate. These characteristics set New Trier graduates apart and align with the strategic plan's vision to "develop in every graduate the skills and dispositions to lead meaningful, compassionate, and impactful lives." Specifically, the District will begin work for students to create personal portfolios based on the characteristics, and New Trier will begin a campaign to make these characteristics visible inside and outside of the school.

In addition to these initiatives, Sally noted the District will engage in many others connected to the school's strategic vision. He told the Board that initiatives begun early in the strategic planning process such as supporting student voice, mental health, and belonging have now become ingrained in the operations of the school.

Some ongoing strategic work includes continuation of the *Freshman Success* program to teach all incoming students organizational and study skills; Human Resources hiring initiatives tied to professional learning, equity, and belonging; planning for a rapidly changing world through classroom initiatives such as Human Centered Design and Career Exploration; and communications efforts to partner with and inform key stakeholders. Click for the [New Trier 2030 Annual Plan presentation](#).

## [East Side Project Close to Completion; Dedication Ceremony Sept. 9](#)

Final inspections are scheduled for the East Side Academic and Athletic Project, and the District expects to be approved for occupancy on July 18.

Associate Superintendent Chris Johnson updated the Board on the East Side project and other ongoing summer construction work.

The District is excited to show off the new gyms, classrooms, indoor track, weight facilities, climbing wall, and more that are part of the East Side Project. The community will be invited to an official dedication ceremony and open house on Saturday, September 9 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. More information will be available closer to the date.

Some limited work will continue in July and August, including installation of an air handling unit, restoration of the north athletic fields, signage installation, and work on the southeast parking lot, Johnson said. The project will be fully open and ready when students return in August.

New Trier has begun work at Duke Childs Field in Winnetka to reconfigure its baseball and softball fields, add a second softball field, upgrade its facilities and safety measures, and install turf infields. So far the work has included demolition of the old building, foundation work, drain tile installation, and site regrading. The fields are scheduled to reopen for play in spring 2024, and the project is being completed in partnership with the Village of Winnetka to decrease flooding at the field and in surrounding community.

Construction is also underway at the Glencoe Transition Center, which serves young adult students with transitional needs as they prepare for life after high school. The center opened in August 2022 and included accessible bathrooms and the One Stop Trev Shop. This summer the District is upgrading the center's instructional spaces and installing an accessible ramp.

At the Northfield Campus, facilities improvements include concrete work and stair replacement, continued installation of solar panels, creation of an Innovation Hub, and modernization of classrooms in the C and E Buildings with new technology and furniture. Click for the [Summer Construction presentation](#).

## Other News from the July 10 Meeting

- The Board approved a tentative fiscal year 2024 budget that is balanced, with final budget approval slated for September. The tentative operating budget is \$134.5 million, with a \$7.5 million surplus not including debt payments on the East Side Academic and Athletics Project. After this annual payment, the surplus is projected to be \$4.5 million. Click for the [Tentative Budget memo](#).

*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/>

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