

**NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
January 23, 2023
New Trier Township High School
7 Happ Road, Room C234
Northfield, IL 60093**

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, January 23, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

Members Present

Ms. Cathy Albrecht
Ms. Kimberly Alcantara
Mr. Avik Das
Mr. Keith Dronen, President
Ms. Jean Hahn, Vice President
Mr. Brad McLane
Ms. Sally Tomlinson

Administrators Present

Dr. Paul Sally, Superintendent
Mr. 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
Mr. Paul Waechtler, Principal – Northfield Campus

Also Present

Mr. Michael Marassa, Chief Technology Officer; Ms. Niki Dizon, Director of Communications; Mr. Jon Lepeska, Math Department Faculty; Ms. Kris Kelsh, Math Department Faculty; Ms. Katherine Linsenmeier, Math Department Faculty; Ms. Colleen Koulentes, Special Education Department Coordinator; Ms. Gardiner Funo O’Kain, Art Department Faculty; Mr. Sean Clemenz, Special Education Department Chair; Ms. Kari Nakayama, Special Education Department Faculty; Mr. Eric Johnson, Technology Department; Mr. Mike Hill, Technology Department; Ms. Lindsey Ruston, Board of Education Secretary; members of the press and community.

BUSINESS MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER – 5:30 p.m. – C234

Mr. Dronen called the Regular Meeting of January 23, 2023 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.

Mr. Dronen 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; collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees; and discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06. Ms. Hahn seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Ms. Alcantara, Mr. Das, Ms. Hahn, Mr. McLane, Ms. Tomlinson, Ms. Albrecht, Mr. Dronen

NAY: none

The motion passed.

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

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

Mr. Dronen recalled the Regular Meeting of January 23, 2023 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.

IV. Minutes and Reports

A. Regular Meeting of December 19, 2022 (open and closed session)

Mr. Dronen asked for any comments or adjustments on the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 19, 2022 (open and closed session). There were no requests for changes to the minutes. Ms. Hahn moved, and Ms. Alcantara seconded the motion, that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 19, 2022 (open and closed session). Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Ms. Hahn, Mr. McLane, Ms. Tomlinson, Ms. Alcantara, Mr. Das, Mr. Dronen

NAY: none

ABSTAIN: Ms. Albrecht

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:

- The Northfield Dance Ensemble had their evening showcase on Wednesday, January 11th. There were 56 dancers of all grade and skill levels who participated, with 13 dances performed. The following day, they performed during Dance Day which is multiple periods during the school day. Directors were Ms. Lucy Riner, Ms. Laura Deutsch and Ms. Katie Kritek.
- Mr. Jay Slotnik celebrated 30 years in the Physical Plant Services department. Mr. Slotnik collects recycling for the campus. He is always smiling and making connections with people. He celebrated with his family including two current students as well as many staff members.
- There is a lot of work taking place for the Class of 2027 such as the Academic Life Nights held on January 12th and 17th. Mr. Waechtler thanked Ms. Lori Worth, Eighth Grade Transition, Ms. Gail Gamrath, Northfield Assistant Principal, Mr. Mark Howard, Adviser Chair and Mr. Tragos. Department Coordinators and Chairs are reviewing incoming Freshman files in order to make the appropriate level placement recommendations. These will be mailed out in early February. All About the Electives will take place on February 1st. Individual conferences will take place at each junior high with students and their families to assist in course selection.
- Mr. Waechtler provided an update on the single gender and mixed gender adviser rooms, noting that although this class is only one semester in, all three adviser room choices report having a more positive experience than freshman did five years ago. Advisers have also reported high satisfaction with all three types of groups and share their groups are especially strong this year. The class of 2027 will also have a choice as part of their course selections. He thanked advisers who are working with current freshmen on course selection for next year.
- Mr. Darius Sanchez will be the Science Department Coordinator next year. Mr. Waechtler thanked Ms. Robyn Ward, current Science Department Coordinator for all the work she has done. Mr. Sanchez was on campus last Thursday to learn about the level placement process and have lunch with Northfield science teachers.

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

- She noted that hiring has also taken place at the Winnetka Campus and thanked those who have participated in the various interview committees. Mr. Raimond Pavely has been hired as Director of Campus Security and will begin on February 23rd. He has been an officer with the Wilmette Police Department for over twenty years as well as a school resource officer for 13 years. Mrs. Dubravec added that the District had 90 applicants for this position and shared further details about this hire.
- Ms. Trish Sheridan, a current junior class adviser chair, was hired for one of the Assistant Principal of Graduating Class Team positions. Mrs. Dubravec shared details on her career at New Trier. This move then left a third opening for an adviser chair as two other adviser chairs return to the classroom. Three faculty members were hired for these positions. They include Ms. Cindy Fialka, Math Department Faculty and Adviser Strategic Initiatives Coordinator; Mr. Darrin Jeziorski, Art Department Faculty; and Ms. Kerri Simons, Modern and Classical Languages Department Faculty. Mrs. Dubravec provided information on each hire.
- There are more interviews coming up and they include the Associate Principal of Student Services and the Associate Principal of Academic and Administrative Services as well as two Assistant Principals of Graduating Class Teams.
- Mrs. Dubravec shared that part of the goal of this restructuring and for the teams involved to work on systemic issues such as chronic absences, hospitalizations, school avoidance, student resilience, as well as the

implementation of restorative practices. She noted that at the next Board meeting, the focus will be on chronic absences. The school wants to work with the parent community and has next steps in order to address this issue. New Trier is not the only school seeing this issue from covid and the school wants to support students, staff and families. Dr. Sally added that without a doubt it is good for students to be in school every day for their social emotional and academic growth. We are experiencing a significant number of student absences and the way to work on that is through partnerships with families and teachers. He noted there are many challenges, not just for the student, but the system as a whole when students are not in school. Dr. Sally noted that a more holistic picture of the impact of absences on school would be provided.

- Mr. Scott Fricke, Kinetic Wellness Department Faculty and Boys Basketball Coach, had his 300th basketball win recently.
- The 40th Annual Jazz Fest will take place on Saturday, February 4th with Mr. Delfeayo Marsalis. On Sunday, February 5th at 2:00 p.m. there will be a surprise guest performer, who will be shared soon.
- The Educational and Life Skills (ELS) Club had their annual ice-skating party recently.
- The High Five Choir will be in Peoria to perform at the state music festival.
- Ms. Teri Rodgers, Social Studies Department Faculty and Girls Basketball Coach, and the girls basketball team had a fundraiser for one of their players who is battling cancer. Funds went to pediatric cancer and Cal's Angels. Ms. Rodgers was able to arrange with the opposing team to get the ball to the student who was able to score points in the game as she has been unable to play basketball. Mrs. Dubravec thanked Ms. Rodgers and her team for their care and compassion and wished the student health and happiness as she battles cancer.
- New Trier hosts one of the largest Gap Year fairs in the nation. Ms. Gretchen Stauder, Post-High School Counselor, does a lot of work as the lead for this. It will be on January 28th.
- The Dance Team, for the first time in school history, made it to state. Boys bowling won their regional and conference competitions but placed ninth in sectionals where they were favored to win. Mr. Andrew Juedes, Special Education Department Faculty and Boys Bowling Coach, has done a great job with the program. Mrs. Dubravec shared an anecdote about a dad who told her that bowling was his son's connection to New Trier.
- New Trier will screen *The Disruptors* which is a movie about ADHD. The school is partnering with The Family Institute of Northwestern and Dr. Nancy Burgoyne will moderate a panel afterwards. New Trier staff will join and they include: Ms. Megan Zajac, Director of Special Education, Ms. Hannah Kreps, Psychologist, as well as staff therapists from Northwestern.

Mr. Johnson gave the FOIA report, noting that there were three requests since the last Board meeting. One was related to construction, which is closed, while two remain open regarding student discipline and athletics.

V. Communications

Mr. Dronen 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 Mr. Peter Tragos, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction. Mr. Dronen reminded those speaking to keep their comments to three minutes or less per Board Policy 2:230. He also asked that the audience refrain from clapping, or a response of any kind in regard to people's comments. There were no requests for public comment.

VI. Special Orders of Business

***A. Budget Assumptions and Parameters for 2023-2024**

Mr. Johnson presented the budget assumptions and parameters for 2023-2024 as the District begins the budgeting process for the next school year. This process is student-focused and driven by their needs and interests across the curricular and extracurricular program. Each year, the District carefully reviews the estimated revenues and expenditures for the next year. This begins with the Finance Committee in the fall which they review and build upon monthly. Estimates are then created for not only for the 23-24 school year, but the next four years as well. Overall, the District estimates that it will have a balanced budget next year, taking into account student needs while looking at its projected revenue and estimated expenditures based on course requests among other factors.

Mr. Johnson provided highlights from the process, beginning with the revenue side. The District is estimating that 91% of its revenue will be from property taxes, which is set by the tax levy that was filed in December 2022 and funds the first half of the fiscal year. The second half of the fiscal year is funded by the tax levy that will be filed next December. Mr. Johnson shared that interest earnings continue to rise as well. While the Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax (CPPRT) is a small percentage of the budget continues to be high. It is based on the overall financial health of the state and as they take in more CPPRT, it is passed on to the District. Overall, New Trier anticipates flat state and federal funding, which is good news as the District knows what to expect.

On the expenditures side, salaries and benefits total 80%, and are generally set by the District's collective bargaining agreements. The District is under contract with its Support Staff Association and Physical Plant Service Association. The teachers' agreement expires at the conclusion of the summer and the process is underway to negotiate a new agreement.

Another large portion of salaries and benefits are the actual benefits or the healthcare costs. The District is working to continue to provide an attractive benefit package, including healthcare, during a time of increased utilization of services. The District is part of a non-profit healthcare cooperative. Mr. Johnson shared that post-covid, there has been increased utilization, which is a nation-wide trend. This is being seen across Illinois, across public school districts as well as at New Trier. There are several theories such as this is due to delayed care during the pandemic, more acute conditions being seen due to that delayed care and whether some healthcare inflation is beginning to be detected. The District will monitor this carefully with the goal of providing an attractive healthcare package that is cost effective for employees and the Board.

The District continues to closely monitor other expenditures impacted by inflation by looking at the other 20% of the budget such as utilities and purchase services, while working to maintain opportunities for students. For instance, the District is seeing a larger increase in some areas like transportation and food service driven by fuel costs. The District is carrying a 5% increase in its projection for next year for other expenses, although some expenses are rising faster than that. It is important that the District stays within that 5% as it is the maximum amount it can levy. Work will be done to maintain the experience for current students that previous ones had while keeping it within the 5%.

The budgeting process will continue through the spring and the next major milestone is the course sectioning process, which is led by Mr. Tragos, assistant principals, among others. Students and families will submit their course requests and Mr. Tragos then leads a process to allocate staffing resources based on those requests. New Trier looks at what students need first and then aligns its staffing needs to support this. Work with department leaders on their budgets, as well as finalizing details related to health insurance and other costs will also take place. Overall, the District is on track to present a balanced budget in July 2023. For the subsequent four years, there is also a path to create a balanced budget. These are extraordinary times due to higher-than-typical inflation and the District's revenue is capped at a 5% maximum and the District will do its best to align resources to deliver a program that the community expects for students with what is available. Mr. Johnson then invited questions and comments from the Board.

Ms. Hahn commended Mr. Johnson, Mr. Spiwak, Director of Business Services, and the rest of the Business Office for providing realistic and accurate information. Ms. Hahn went on to share that the District consistently provides thoughtful and transparent projections, even in this historically volatile economic environment, and that the Board is brought balanced budgets without disruption to student services in a manner that is fair to taxpayers. After additional comments, Ms. Hahn inquired how Mr. Johnson determined the rolling CPI number used. She shared that typically a rolling five-year average is used to project CPI. It was adjusted more conservatively to three percent, and she asked Mr. Johnson to further explain that piece. Mr. Johnson replied that next year, the CPI for the levy is 7.5%. The Board will consider its next levy in November and is based on a 6.5% CPI. The Consumer Price Index year-over-year change guides what the maximum levy amount is. Historically, what the District has done for five-year projections is look at the five-year rolling average, if one includes these higher percentages along with the lower percentages, according to Mr. Johnson, it artificially raises that number as well as expectations for revenue in following years. The District's goal is to be transparent in the process, as well as appropriately conservative. The true five-year rolling average, which is 4%, is what the Federal Reserve wants for inflation in the next several years, and the hope at the national and state levels is that the number will be lower than that. Mr. Johnson shared that if the District has a number that exceeds what the Federal Reserve guidance is, it may create unrealistic expectations for the school and community about what 91% of its revenue will be, that could force difficult decisions regarding staffing and student programming. Mr. Johnson selected 3% as he believes it is a more reasonable average going forward.

Ms. Tomlinson reiterated that New Trier has not had a referendum to raise operating rates since 2003, which built upon Ms. Hahn's gratitude for what the business office is managing to do in volatile times.

Ms. Albrecht, referencing the updated preliminary health care increase that was shared with the Board yesterday, from 10% to 15.9%, inquired if the contingency number changed with this. Mr. Johnson noted that that number remains fixed, sharing that if that number was recalculated as a percentage of expenditures, it may increase slightly, but it would be a nominal amount. Ms. Albrecht noted that this was preliminary, inquiring if it changes at all when it

goes into effect. Mr. Johnson replied that the last two years of claims experience are reviewed, and the final renewal will be based on two additional months as others roll off. After further comments, Mr. Johnson noted that in talking with experts at Blue Cross Blue Shield as well as at other school districts, everyone is seeing a remarkable increase in claims across the board. This is being seen in both the private and public sectors. Currently, New Trier has some of the most significant claims experience compared to its peers. Mr. Johnson noted that this does happen at times, but then tends to level out over time. When looking at the District's 10-year healthcare renewal history, even with an extraordinary year that could be as high as 15%, the average is around 5% for the past ten years, which is remarkable. Ms. Albrecht noted that New Trier is part of a consortium and inquired if it is everyone's experience that drives the rate or if there is an individual increase. Mr. Johnson replied that the District gets an individual increase and is based on New Trier's experience. The money that the Board and employees are paying in for premiums is vastly being exceeded by what is being paid out for claims right now.

Ms. Alcantara moved, and Mr. Das seconded the motion, that the Board of Education approves the budget calendar as presented and authorize the administration to begin the budgeting process. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Mr. McLane, Ms. Tomlinson, Ms. Albrecht, Ms. Alcantara, Mr. Das, Ms. Hahn, Mr. Dronen

NAY: none

The motion passed.

***B. Facilities Update: Winnetka Campus East Side Academic and Athletic Project**

Mr. Johnson provided an update on the Winnetka Campus East Side Academic and Athletic Project (ESAA). He began with a project overview as a way to remind the Board and community about what the school is working to accomplish on behalf of students, staff, faculty and the community. The ESAA project is on track for a July completion. The project is part of a long-range study that was done to examine how to best provide facilities resources to students. It will strengthen the academic, athletic and Kinetic Wellness (KW) programs. It will continue the approach of the 15-Year Plan while demonstrating the stewardship of financial resources and accomplishing it with the resources that the taxpayers have provided without a tax increase. Mr. Johnson highlighted the key benefits of the project such as the new competition and auxiliary gyms and indoor track, new weight and strength/conditioning facilities, 13 new academic spaces, improved security and accessibility and improved maintenance and energy efficiency. He provided details on each and then shared renderings of what the spaces will look like.

Mr. Johnson then provided highlights of the current construction progress. Construction is "under roof" now, so there is minimal risk due to weather. The last of the windows are being installed and metal contractors are working on stairs and railings. In the academic areas, drywall is complete with painting taking place. The ceiling contractor is on-site and the mechanical electrical plumbing is working at all levels with the elevator set to be installed next week. Mr. Johnson then provided pictures and details of the current construction progress.

Mr. Johnson shared information about the schedule, noting how Pepper Construction, Mr. Dave Conway, Director of Physical Plant Services, Mr. Steve Linke, Facilities Manager and their teams have worked together to keep the project on schedule. While supply chain concerns have started to ease, there is one potential risk of delay with the air handling/rooftop mechanical equipment. There are 12 units which are being manufactured in Mexico with parts from around the world including microchips, which there currently is a shortage for. Some of the units are on their way, but these can only be completed once they have the microchips. Overall, the project schedule is doing well, however, there could be individual components that are critical to the project that Pepper Construction and Mr. Conway are tracking diligently to make sure they arrive in a timely fashion. Glass/glazing is another potential risk as there is a shortage of skilled workers and the type of glass needed, but that work is still moving along.

The District is still within the budgetary parameters with change orders totaling \$311,000 this month. Projected future change orders increased slightly. The District is still within the parameters that were set at the beginning of the project in terms of owner's contingency, construction contingency, and allowance which are all being monitored closely. Mr. Johnson invited questions and comments from the Board.

Ms. Hahn noted the potential supply chain issues and inquired as to how much wiggle room there is between when the project is complete, and when students are in the building. Mr. Johnson replied that the projected completion date is July 4th. He also shared how this is more time compared to the west side project.

Ms. Albrecht noted that it is phenomenal that the project remains on time and on budget. She shared her appreciation for Pepper Construction, Mr. Conway and his team as well as Mr. Johnson for their work on this. Mr. Johnson also shared how it is a testament to the management of Pepper Construction as they have 30 trades to oversee and when supplies were not available, they took the opportunity to accelerate other areas. Ms. Albrecht noted that their involvement in the west side project also helped as they know the campus.

After initial comments, Ms. Alcantara noted that the expectation is that there would be site utilities installed in April and May and inquired if that was the area where there was concern due to the microchip shortage. Mr. Johnson replied that the concern is the internal air handling units that are placed on the roof and circulate the air in the building. He noted that the site utilities are set. Ms. Alcantara inquired when the air handling units would be in according to the schedule. Mr. Johnson replied that it is ongoing as some of the units are already installed in the academic portion with some on a truck that are arriving for part of the athletic portion. The system needs to be online by early March because that is when the specialty flooring will start to be installed and the building needs to be climate controlled for the gym floor and track. There is a backup plan to climatize the building with temporary equipment if needed. Discussion continued between the two.

Ms. Alcantara noted the renderings show a welcoming space and inquired if it will be available to students to study, enjoy and have as a community spot, which Mrs. Dubravec confirmed. Mr. Johnson added that one of the goals is making it open and accessible, especially the weight and cardio area to students who are not on a team via their KW class or general hours. Ms. Alcantara inquired if the Trev Café is where the concessions will be during games, which Mr. Johnson confirmed.

Mr. Johnson then went on to present about the 15-Year facilities plan providing the purpose of the work occurring. It includes completing the instructional spaces at the Transition Program Center, modernizing classrooms in the C and E building with technology and furniture, installation of solar panels, and various mechanical upgrades such as the Bickert Gym roof, among others. After providing details on the classroom upgrades, Mr. Johnson also shared specifics about the Duke Childs Field improvements that are being done in collaboration with the Village of Winnetka. He went on to share about the Transition Center along with pictures. The work is out for bid now, some of which has already been approved such as the solar, building at Duke Childs, and the Bickert roof. The pre-bid meetings occurred today, and bids are due at 4:00 p.m. on January 31st. Immediately after, Mr. Conway and Pepper Construction will review the bids, scope and references and the winning bidders will be notified. Typically, approval would wait until the next regular Board meeting, however, with the supply chain issue, the District wants the contractors to have a definitive answer, so they can move forward ordering items that may have longer lead times. Therefore, Mr. Johnson has asked for a special Board meeting to be scheduled the week of February 6th. It will be a brief meeting and the only agenda item will be to act on these bids. At the regular Board meeting on February 21st, Mr. Johnson will report on this to provide more visibility to the community about the action taken at the special meeting. He then shared the initial budget, much of which was developed before the significant construction inflation that has occurred, at the special and regular meetings, he will share how they align with the final bids and how the District will handle any overages as part of the budget for next year.

VII. Administrative Items

A. Treasurer's Report for December 2022

Mr. Johnson presented the Treasurer's Report for December 2022. The total for all accounts is \$109,338,917. The District saw significant initial receipts from the second installment tax payments. This allowed the District to resume short-term investing with the weighted yield for short term investments jumping to 4.5%. Cash is earning a similar rate with the Illinois School District Liquid Asset Fund which is the cooperative that the District participates in along with most others across the state. Investments are aligned with the expenses coming up over the next year and the District is earning interest on the cash it has. The District is being conservative with the investments it places as there may be a delay in the second installment of tax bills over the summer. The first installment is due April 3rd and those bills have already been issued so the District will continue to see receipts from those who may be paying their second installment from last year late and then the first installment from this year. In terms of total interest income, the District has earned \$1.2 million in interest this year.

B. Financial Report for December 2022

Mr. Johnson presented the Financial Report for December 2022. Operating revenue was \$37,357,255 for the first six months of the year, or 33% lower compared to last year, but it is starting to play catch-up from the prior month. Other revenue will likely maintain a year-long positive variance, driven primarily by CPPRT receipts. The adopted budget for operating revenue is 1.3% lower than last year as the District backed out the one-time covid funds from last year.

Operating expenditures were \$61,572,119 through December, or 15% higher than last year. When excluding transfers, the expenses are 4.85% higher than last year. With inflation rates decreasing again in December, the District is trending only slightly over budget, and will continue to make every effort to continue to contain costs to come in at budget from an expenditure perspective this year. The adopted budget for operating expenditures has a 3.52% increase and currently the District is at 4.85% but expects to be closer to 3.52% as the school year ends. Mr. Johnson then invited questions and comments on either report.

Ms. Tomlinson inquired about the difference in the ending cash balance in the Treasurer's Report versus last year. After further discussion, Mr. Johnson noted that is due to the property tax receipts. He noted they came in last year throughout the fall. He went on to further explain this. Ms. Albrecht suggested that Mr. Johnson put an asterisk now with the explanation in the report. She also noted that at least the District did not need to borrow money due to the delay in property tax receipts, Mr. Johnson concurred and added additional comments. Ms. Albrecht thanked Mr. Johnson for his fiscal leadership.

Ms. Albrecht inquired about the Educational Fund found in the Financial Report, noting footnotes number two and three related to timing with the Transition Center and the technology maintenance contracts. She inquired if these items were in the budget which Mr. Johnson confirmed and shared additional details.

C. Policy Revisions First Reading – PRESS 110

Dr. Sally presented the first reading for policy revisions from PRESS 110. The District uses the Illinois's Association of School Boards Policy Reference Education Subscription Service (PRESS) to maintain up-to-date policies. The District also confers with its attorneys on these changes. The Policy Committee reviewed about 50 policies that had changes. These changes ranged from not particularly substantive to changes based on state law.

Ms. Alcantara, who sits on the committee, shared that the group met on January 17th to review the policies. She added that about 95% of them are not substantive such as updating references or changing grammar. To the extent that there are substantive changes due to state law, the committee found none of those to be concerning. Dr. Sally added that the administrative team also reviews the changes. Usually, the policy changes based on laws that have been passed have already been implemented in our practices before the policy officially comes out for revision.

Mr. McLane thanked Ms. Alcantara and Ms. Hahn for their work on the committee.

Ms. Hahn shared her thanks for the PRESS subscription service as it makes the work much more efficient. She also noted that a good deal of work goes into this by the administrative team prior to the meeting and that the cost of the service pays off in time saved for administrators. Dr. Sally thanked the following administrators for reviewing their respective policy sections: Mr. Johnson, Ms. Dizon, Dr. Panopoulos, Mr. Tragos, Dr. Zoladz, Mr. Marassa, and Mr. Williams.

VIII. Consent Agenda

- Bill List for the Period, December 1 - 31, 2022
- Personnel Report (Appointments, Changes of Status, Resignations, Retirements, Salary Adjustments, Stipends - Appointments, Stipends - Separation, Termination and Administrative Contract for Assistant Principal - Graduating Class)
- NSERVE Intergovernmental Agreement
- Closed Session Records Review

Mr. Dronen inquired if any members wanted to pull an item off the Consent Agenda, no one chose to do so. Ms. Tomlinson moved that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda, which includes: Bill List for the Period, December 1 - 31, 2022; Personnel Report (Appointments, Change of Status, Resignations, Retirement, Stipends - Appointments, Stipends - Separation, Termination and Administrative Contract for Assistant Principal - Graduating

Class); NSERVE Intergovernmental Agreement; and the destruction of the Closed Session Meeting tapes of January 2021 through June 2021. Mr. Das seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Ms. Tomlinson, Ms. Albrecht, Ms. Alcantara, Mr. Das, Ms. Hahn, Mr. McLane, Mr. Dronen

NAY: none

The motion passed.

IX. Board Member Reports

Ms. Tomlinson attended the **New Trier Fine Arts Association (NTFAA)** on January 11th. Ms. Bennett provided a summary of the Winter Music Festival and how the new format worked with a break in between the two performances. During the break, kids could practice on a variety of instruments. It was well received and a great opportunity to provide community engagement. Ms. Bennett did share that there needs to be more spacing on the calendar between this event and final exams in the future if possible. February 4th and 5th is the 40th Annual Jazz Festival and tickets are on sale now. People are also anxiously awaiting the announcement of the guest headliner for Sunday's concert. A summer scholar recipient, Mr. Nathan Heftman shared his experience at Michigan's Debate Camp. His presentation provided Ms. Tomlinson insight as to the hours of work that go into competition which reminded her of the preparation that athletes make through their practice. She inquired if the school acknowledges debate students who go on to compete at the college level as part of College Signing Day. NTFAA has fully deployed \$16,000 in financial aid to students as the school is participating in more field trips post-covid. Finally, NTFAA is recruiting new members and potential officers for next year.

Ms. Alcantara noted that the **Policy Committee** met on January 17th and that information was shared earlier in the meeting.

Ms. Alcantara was unable to attend the **New Trier Parents Association (NTPA)** meeting on January 12th.

Ms. Hahn shared that the **Finance Committee** is going to start long-term capital planning as the District revisits the 15-Year Plan as it determines what is next regarding investing in its facilities. This will be done in partnership with the **Facilities Steering Committee**.

Ms. Albrecht shared that Mr. Johnson provided information pertaining to the **Facilities Steering Committee** earlier in the meeting.

Ms. Albrecht attended the **Environmental Committee** on January 10th and a variety of initiatives were discussed. The Environmental Club is trying to reduce food waste in the cafeteria so there will be multiple-sized portions for a variety of foods at various price points. The HVAC controls in the Bickert Gym are being updated which will save energy and increase comfort. The pool will receive an LED lighting upgrade. The Binary Heart student club is working to expand their program to allow for further electronics recycling including tablets, smart phones, among others. The Winnetka Campus has partnered with the Village of Winnetka to be a community compost collection site which is located at the loading dock off of Woodland Avenue. The Culinary Arts classes will also be composting. The library will recycle books it is unable to donate. Ms. Albrecht also reported that the East Side Athletic and Academic Project has achieved LEED Silver status and is only six points away from achieving Gold status with twelve possible points that are unresolved. She asked for confirmation from Mr. Johnson on this and he believes this to still be the status. The estimated savings from the solar panels that will be placed at the Northfield campus has increased from 37.5% to 43%. Northfield is also updating controls for efficiency while reviewing Nicor and ComEd rebates. Finally, New Trier's sustainability webpage is in the process of being renovated and updated.

Mr. Das shared that the **TrueNorth Leadership Council** did not have a scheduled meeting for January.

Mr. Das noted that the **Booster Club** met last Tuesday, noting there was significant appreciation expressed for staff that help manage Night League and Spike League. There was also initial conversation with Athletic Director, Mr. Augie Fontanetta about compiling the athletic wish list that the Booster Club helps to support. Lastly, the Junior Board, comprised of students who participate in the Booster Club, have evolved to have their own executive committee and take on more organized events with the mentorship of Booster Club members.

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

Dr. Sally highlighted the following events:

- The Jazz Festival will take place on February 4th and 5th.
- The Kinesis Dance Company Concert is February 9th, 10th and 11th.
- Winter sports will conclude in February.
- The next Board meeting is Tuesday, February 21st as school is not in session on Monday, February 20th.

Mr. Dronen inquired if there were any requests for staff research or future agenda items and Ms. Tomlinson had one. She referenced the article "*The College Essay is Dead*" and the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in writing papers and inquired about how New Trier is responding to this. Dr. Sally replied that departments are reviewing this and there will be professional development provided by the technology department and curriculum and instruction for teachers during a January 30th Lunch and Learn. Dr. Sally also shared that administration would bring information back to the Board in a few months.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsey Ruston, Secretary

Keith Dronen, President