

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

**June 6, 2022**

**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, June 6, 2022, at 6:45 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; Dr. Renee Zoladz, Director of Human Resources; Ms. Aileen Geary, Social Studies Department Faculty and New Trier High School Educational Association President; Ms. Mercedes Lopez, Modern and Classical Languages Department Faculty; Ms. Ana del Rey, Modern and Classical Languages Department Faculty; Ms. Julie Bar, Mathematics Department Faculty; Ms. Jessica Reineck, Special Education Department Faculty; Mr. Jeff Bailey, Technology Department; Mr. Mike Hill, Technology Department; Mr. Steve Undag, Technology Department; Ms. Lindsey Ruston, Board of Education Secretary; students, members of the press and community.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

**I. CALL TO ORDER – 4:30 p.m. – C234**

Mr. Dronen called the Regular Meeting of June 6, 2022 of the Board of Education to order at 4:30 p.m. in room C234 at the Northfield campus. Roll call was taken, and all members were present, except for Mr. Das.

Mr. Dronen asked for a motion to move to Closed Session. Ms. Tomlinson moved that the Board adjourn to closed session for the purpose of collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees; the sale or purchase of securities, investments, or investment contracts and security procedures, school building safety and security, and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public, or public property. Ms. Hahn seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: none

ABSENT: Mr. Das

The motion passed.

**II. CLOSED SESSION – 4:30 p.m. – A303**

**III. BUSINESS MEETING – Open Session – 6:45 p.m. – C234**

Mr. Dronen recalled the Regular Meeting of June 6, 2022 of the Board of Education to order at 6:54 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 May 16, 2022**

Mr. Dronen asked for any comments or adjustments on the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 16, 2022 (open and closed session). There were no requests for changes to the minutes. Ms. Alcantara moved, and Ms. Hahn

seconded the motion, that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 16, 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. Albrecht, Ms. Alcantara, Mr. Das, Mr. Dronen

NAY: none

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:

- He displayed images from the Show of Hands Project. The hands in the photos had supportive statements for Asian American Pacific Islanders. The affinity group created the display outside of the library.
- The TARP Luncheon took place on May 24<sup>th</sup>. It was great to see retired Trevians back on campus and catch up with them.
- Students from the Art Essentials class showcased their work on May 27<sup>th</sup> in the B Lounge. They had a meet and greet with other students. They displayed their work from the year and some shared work they wanted to give to a staff member.
- Trevia Day took place on May 23<sup>rd</sup> with students receiving their yearbooks.
- The Physics class trip to Great America occurred on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Freshmen physics students went to Great America to study the practical application of mechanics. Mr. Chris Chiaverino, retired New Trier teacher, created the concept of Physics Day many decades ago which continues on today.
- Therapy dogs were on campus last Friday prior to Final Exams. The Academic Assistance Center (AAC) along with Erika's Lighthouse organized the K-9 Reading Buddies of the North Shore. The dogs were very popular and provided stress relief as students prepared for final exams.
- Advisers and Bridge Builders visited the campus on June 2<sup>nd</sup> to meet their advisees for next year as the transition to Winnetka begins.

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

- Transition Students started the Brew Crew, located on the second floor, where they sell Shookies Cookies and coffee. When this began, they only had a table. Mrs. Dubravec met with Ms. Kari Nakayama, Special Education Department Faculty and Mr. Jason Boumstein, Applied Arts Department Chair, to see if a moveable structure could be created. The Geometry Construction class as well as Architecture students met with the Transition team to learn about their needs and then built the structure.
- This is the 22<sup>nd</sup> year that the senior class has worked on a home for Habitat for Humanity. The seniors do various fundraisers throughout the school year. Students also visit the site and build part of the project. This year there were also about 15 staff members who visited as well.
- State competitions recently took place and the Girls' Water Polo team placed fourth, the Boys' Tennis team placed second, with the Boys' Water Polo and Girls Lacrosse teams each placing first.
- Graduation took place at the NOW Arena and was a wonderful celebration with one of the largest crowds in years. Mrs. Dubravec displayed a picture of Mr. Kael Anderson who won the Spirit Award.
- Lastly, Mrs. Dubravec read an email from a parent outside the New Trier community whose son has Angelman Syndrome (AS). New Trier students, who have a classmate with AS, approached the child to say hi and interact directly with him. His mom reached out to thank Mrs. Dubravec for New Trier's effort to educate its students to be accepting, respectful and inclusive of others.

Mr. Johnson gave the FOIA report, noting that there were four requests since the last Board meeting, and all are closed. The topics were related to compensation information, survey results, communications with a past employee and information about bid tabulations.

### **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 two requests for public comment.

1. After sharing initial comments, Mr. Ted Wynnychenko went on to share thoughts about the block schedule survey.
2. Ms. Bernie Hossfeld shared concerns about gathering information to run for the Board as well as a question regarding the protocol of when the public is able to view minutes. Dr. Sally replied that the day after the last Board meeting, Ms. Hossfeld's information was sent to the head of the caucus. He encouraged Ms. Hossfeld to reach out to that person. Regarding the minutes, Dr. Sally noted that those who feel something may be incorrect, can email Ms. Ruston, Board Secretary, and the Board will consider it. It is the Board's record that they review and approve.

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

### **\*A. 2022-2023 School Year Calendar Update**

Dr. Sally provided an update on the 2022-2023 school year calendar. He began by stating that a great deal of information was gathered about how students and teachers feel about the block schedule and the benefits of it. In talking to many people, the block schedule has helped in several areas such as student stress, which is one of the main issues the District is trying to address.

Dr. Sally shared that the difficult question that emerged as the calendar was taking shape is the significant change to college admissions. Recent articles have described the overwhelming nature of the increased volume for colleges and the amount of time they are actually able to spend on each applicant. There is also a lot of uncertainty on how colleges will respond next year. The Post-High School Counseling Department (PHSC) stays in touch with many colleges so as to get helpful information from them. The District will continue to build relationships with college admissions officers as well. While much of this is outside the District's control, the one item it can control is providing transcripts to colleges for seniors in early January. Given the amount of time colleges are spending on applications along with the benefits for students of having those transcripts submitted so admissions can see first semester senior year grades which for many students, may be one of their most rigorous semesters. To have these grades in front of decision-makers as early as possible can only help students. Given this, it is recommended that first semester end on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. This will change the number of days in each semester from 96 and 86 to 83 and 99. The short 83-day semester will be a change for teachers. Dr. Sally acknowledged that while teachers are used to change, they are also getting tired of it. Teachers will be supported with summer grants and professional development time next year. The Board approved the professional development time last month and there is a good amount of it available. It is possible that the college situation will not change much, putting the District in the same position in future years. What can be different in future years is that the District will not be stuck with the start and end dates. This will be discussed in the fall with input from all constituent groups. Dr. Sally noted that for many schools, having finals prior to winter break means starting earlier in August, which may not be the right solution for the community. The imbalanced semesters will also need to be discussed as that has its own costs and benefits.

Dr. Sally shared how the changes will impact students. There will be no change to the start and end dates or the dates that school is closed this year. The school will do its best to watch the workload as the semester ends. During the 2015-2016 school year, when finals were prior to break, the school saw the very busy nature of the end of the semester and learned from it. He shared that there is now a lot of communication around how student workload can be organized. Winter break will be work free and will lead to a fresh start for second semester. The four-day weekend in February will be an important break for students and staff because the rhythm of the year will feel different. The rhythm of the year is another piece that the committee will look at for future year schedules. Dr. Sally noted for families that January 27, 2023 is now a day of school, no longer a grading day that could have been used as a make-up snow day.

Next, Dr. Sally displayed a sample 2023-2024 school calendar for people to think about its impact. He walked through the first semester which would have a student start date of August 16<sup>th</sup>, or about three days earlier than usual. He also shared details about the last week in December as it would be the end of the semester. There would be a total of 87 days in first semester. Dr. Sally then displayed a sample second semester calendar. Spring break would need to be discussed as to its timing and then, based on this sample calendar, the last day of school would be May 31<sup>st</sup>. He noted that putting a schedule together is very complicated as the District attempts to balance stressful and less stressful times of the year for staff and students. Dr. Sally then invited questions and comments from the Board.

Mr. McLane inquired what local as well as the cohort schools are doing. Dr. Sally replied that Glenbrook North still has finals after break with the other comparable local schools having finals before break. Regarding the cohort schools, Dr. Sally shared that there is more of a variety of when finals are taking place. It has not been uniformly adopted in other parts of the country with one reason being some districts do not want to start until after Labor Day.

Ms. Hahn inquired about what conversations and coordination the District has had with sender schools regarding this. Dr. Sally replied that the sender schools know that next calendar year is ok, but for the year after, further conversations will need to take place. Conversations with them will continue through next fall, so various items can be coordinated.

Ms. Hahn noted from her observations as a parent, that a decent portion of the first semester each year is spent on somewhat non-curricular activities such as getting-to-know-you activities, community building and assessing where students are at. She inquired about preparations for this since the semesters are already lopsided and how much time there would be to get into substantive issues. Dr. Sally replied that it will potentially vary by discipline, but certainly by course and year. After sharing comments about the learning curve, Dr. Sally believes there is a wide range of time that a teacher could give a fair, final summative assessment for students' learning. Departments or courses who have concerns about this will have to think about how they may re-sequence it. He shared that for some courses it will be fairly straight-forward while for developmental writing and Modern and Classical Languages, this is something they will need to address. Dr. Sally hopes that some teachers take advantage of summertime as well as professional development during the year to do so. Ms. Hahn thanked Dr. Sally for the nimble response to what colleges need to see from students as well as shared her appreciation for teachers taking on yet another shift in how the school does business.

Ms. Albrecht inquired about semester courses, some of which are core academics while others are electives, and their timing given the difference in number of days in each semester. Dr. Sally replied that while some courses have not dealt with this, there are many who have due to senior project. Second semester is shortened by 20 days for those seniors who go out on project, so senior semester electives have figured this out. Dr. Sally shared that a course like civics has not had to do this as much, though there are seniors in that course as well, so some progress may have already been made on the imbalance issue. When speaking to the 83 days, it is eight days shorter than evenly split semesters, but six days shorter than some semesters the District has had in the past. Dr. Sally was clear that he was not dismissing the importance of a single day of learning, but it is that amount of time that teachers need to think about when determining what can be removed while still keeping the essentials. With a longer second semester, a teacher may have an opportunity to pilot a different unit that has not been done before or go more in-depth. This will take time for teachers to plan and is why summer grants and professional development time are available to them.

Mr. Das moved, and Ms. Hahn seconded the motion, that the Board of Education approve the 2022-2023 school year calendar, as revised. 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. Update on Mobile Device Study**

This item was postponed.

### **C. Annual Plan: 2022-2023 – Part II**

Dr. Sally began the presentation on Part II of the Annual Plan for the 2022-2023 school year. He noted that the final approval of the Annual Plan will happen in July as conversations and changes are still taking place, though they are not significant changes as the plan still has the same structure and initiatives. Last month, the District shared two main areas of work for next year, which were addressing the complexity of students as well as civil discourse, restorative practices and critical thinking. Dr. Sally shared that much of this work is a continuation of work that is already in progress. Some of the work, for example Freshmen Success, will take a different approach. Lessons on executive functioning have taken place at Northfield, but the campus determined it wanted that integrated more into classes. While not a new idea, it is one that has had a lot of work done on it and it has improved. The District is also working on a theme for next year such as “Many Voices, Many Hands, Our New Trier.” Dr. Sally noted that the theme could be adapted to staff, students and the community. He then shared the major strands of the plan, noting highlights of them would be presented.

Mrs. Dubravec started with Student Well-being/Culture and Climate and the “What it means to be a Trevian” initiative, noting it crosses over into everything – the classroom, as a classmate, and in extracurriculars. Ms. Kristine

Hummel, Student Assistance Program Coordinator, has begun work on this along with Dr. Joanne Panopoulos, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Student Services. She went on to note that a group will meet over the summer to solidify this along with determining how it will be promoted and shared with students. It will focus on being a community as well as individual responsibility and accountability. Dr. Sally added that this is not something that will be done in a year, and it is a direction where the school wants to use similar language in the various places that students are.

Dr. Panopoulos shared about the Mental Health First Aid program. This year, there have been several groups of students who have trained in this area. Feedback about the value of the program has been very positive. Students who see another person in distress are able to identify where that person can go to get additional support. All Sophomores will receive this training through their health class. Mrs. Dubravec shared that several staff have also been trained. This was created in response to a student who passed away from suicide. Students often go to their peers first when they have a problem. Students are not providing services such as social work, but rather they know what to do, how and where to reach out. About fifty to sixty staff were trained, who then trained students. This work has also been done in partnership with The Josselyn Center. Other institutions have begun similar programs such as Northwestern. Mrs. Dubravec noted there staff and students who have gone through the program have given positive feedback.

Mr. Tragos, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, then shared that the school will continue to ensure that the principles of the civil discourse and critical thinking statement are not only put into practice but are more visible and explicit for students. Teachers are working on professional development regarding this, and it has also been added to year three of the new teacher induction program.

Next, Mr. Tragos shared that work will really begin again at the start of the school year regarding the Characteristics of a New Trier Grad. While the school was still using it, it has been hindered by the pandemic. Mr. Tragos also shared about the Innovation Hub, which had its third retreat in April and will also include grant work this summer. There will also be a Project of Excellence that will continue to work on this initiative including in-person and virtual visits to high schools as a curriculum is developed for 2023. More information on this will be shared with the Board in the fall.

Professional development offerings will continue regarding our Belonging Through a Culture of Dignity initiative with an expansion of offerings for other types of difference such as ability and gender. Some of this work has been done in the past, but the committee would like to ensure it is thinking about those differences as well. The Monthly Observances for various groups was very successful and will continue, this will also include adding other groups. The District will also work with the sender schools to make sure they are better informed of what is being done at New Trier. Departments have curricular goals that they pursue, part of this is reviewing their curriculum and thinking about how different perspectives, which are necessary for critical thinking, are represented. He went on to share other comments around this.

Mrs. Dubravec shared highlights about the adviser program, including 9-12 curriculum mapping along with the adviser framework. Ms. Cindy Fialka, Math Department Faculty and Adviser/Strategic Planning Liaison, has worked on the framework as well as on restorative practices. Mr. Waechtler shared about implementing the new option of mixed gender adviser rooms for the class of 2026. Recently, the advisers met who will be the first to take this on. Conversations focused on how they are approaching this and what support they might need. This cohort will also meet throughout the school year. Reflection on this will not only take place next year, but over the next four years as well.

Regarding restorative practices, Mrs. Dubravec noted that the approach pertains to all aspects of the school. While there is a discipline practices component, it will be more of a school-wide approach by addressing the needs of the school community, building healthy relationships between educators and students, reduce, prevent and improve harmful behavior, repair harm and restore positive relationships as well as resolve conflict and hold individuals and groups accountable. Goals have been developed for the 22-23 and 23-24 school years. In August, administrators and adviser chairs will receive professional development from Mr. Kelvin Oliver, who is well-known in the restorative practices approach. There will be further professional development and training with advisers as well as with staff. This will begin in adviser rooms and then move out into the entire school.

It was noted that many facilities projects are underway, which will be discussed later in the meeting.

Next, Dr. Sally shared about human resources hiring practices and long-range retirement planning. The District is committed to hiring an exceptional faculty, particularly hiring faculty who are diverse. Dr. Renee Zoladz, Director of Human Resources, added there were quite a few retirements this year and worked with department leaders to encourage a more diverse applicant pool. The goal was to have about 20-25% of new hires come from more diverse communities. Dr. Sally noted that so far over 20% of the exceptional new hires do not identify as white. The District has done this by extending the way it has approached hiring.

Ms. Niki Dizon, Director of Communications, stated that at the last Community Engagement Committee's meeting, they discussed the benefits of a communication audit. As they have progressed through the Strategic Plan, the focus has been on key stakeholder groups. The goal is to establish a baseline for communication preferences and the effectiveness of the communications plan with various groups. The audit would review practices, planning, and tools used, then key stakeholders are contacted in a variety of ways, including focus groups, to make sure there is alignment between practices and preferences. Ms. Dizon noted that there is a lot of anecdotal evidence of how the tools used are working such as social media, website and email, but more analytical data is wanted to make sure resources are aligned in the communications department and across the District in ways that are most effective. The committee has embraced this, and it will be brought forward in the next year.

Alumni and younger families were the stakeholder groups of which there was a main focus. Great strides have been made along with a wonderful partnership with the New Trier Educational Foundation (NTEF). They have brought forward alumni events and reimaged the Alumni Achievement Awards into a gala. Work will continue with NTEF to engage alumni. The Northfield transition team, departments, activities and clubs across the District have been working to bring younger families into the school much earlier to make them feel like a part of New Trier. Once they become eighth graders, the goal is to make them excited to become Trevians. Along with a new publication, the school continues to find new ways to welcome new Trevians such as revisiting the first day of school. Dr. Sally then invited questions and comments from the Board. Mr. Dronen reminded the Board that this will be a voting item at the July meeting.

Ms. Albrecht noted that there has been much discussion on restorative practices, so to actually be doing this next year is really exciting, especially focusing on how to repair and restore relationships and recognize where students have had unexpected behaviors while moving away from a disciplinary focus. Ms. Albrecht was also supportive of "What it means to be a Trevian" and moving towards a unified approach regarding expectations of behavior across the school. Ms. Albrecht noted that the consistency of messaging will be a bonus. Mrs. Dubravec added that she and Mr. Augie Fontanetta, Athletic Director, are working with Mr. Jim Burnside, Assistant Athletic Director, Ms. Stacy Kolack and Mr. Tim Hayes, Student Activities Coordinators, to talk about the school's culture in these programs and what it wants students to experience. While coaches and sponsors are doing an amazing job, it is important that everyone is speaking the same language, and everyone learns from one another.

Ms. Alcantara shared comments about the Community Engagement Committee and welcoming people to the campus who may not have children at New Trier or providing them with activities that are going on at the school. She looks forward to the audit and the initiatives that will continue the Strategic Plan goals of reaching out to all people of the community as she believes people are looking for this after two years of the pandemic. Ms. Alcantara also thanked Ms. Dizon for her work.

Ms. Tomlinson noted her excitement for what is being done with the students by helping them identify mental health tools and ways to be more engaged. She noted that the idea of empowering students to help with some of the challenges the school is facing is incredible. Ms. Tomlinson also referenced the restorative practices work and encouraged the administration to make sure students are involved in this as well, so it is more of a collaborative effort. She also noted that she continues to think that instead of Kinetic Wellness, it should simply be Wellness, as this is about the whole person and not just one's physical well-being but mental as well. She applauds the work being done in this area. Dr. Sally added that student leadership has become part of what the school does, with the principals and building leaders bringing students in for their voice. He went on to note it is amazing where students now have voice and the way that the school is responding to it. If it is an issue that students feel strongly about, the principals or other leaders engage them and figure out a way to empower them, which also helps to build leadership.

Ms. Hahn shared her appreciation for all the work that went into this, particularly the comprehensive memo, which included a retrospective of what has been accomplished over the past four years. To her, this is a roadmap instead of a to do list where items are checked off as it is not the nature of the work. Two themes were apparent to her, one was the commitment to continuous progress to develop the student experience by refining and adapting various aspects of

the school such as the block schedule, adapting the calendar to meet student needs, and the evolution of the adviser system. Ms. Hahn noted that all the initiatives are focused on the goal of improving the student experience. The other theme was the recognition of the broad scope of the community beyond faculty, staff, student and parents. Ms. Hahn shared that she attended two events that were the epitome of what can happen when the school partners with community members. Both were sponsored by NTEF, one was Pitch Night where business leaders from the community served as sharks while students made entrepreneurial pitches. The second event was the Go Baby Go project where the Intro to Engineering class worked with NTEF to outfit motorized vehicles for children with spina bifida. Students also worked with a doctor at the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab as well as the head of the Shriners Hospital in Chicago to meet the needs of these children. Ms. Hahn went on to share additional comments about this project, concluding that she would love to see the community involvement continue. She noted that there is such a rich resource of community members that want to give to the school and see New Trier as the public good that it is, not just for the direct stakeholders. Finally, Ms. Hahn is hopeful to hear more in-depth in the coming year about creating a Culture of Belonging through Dignity. She noted its importance to the community and that it is what is heard the most about in public comments. Referencing the memo, Ms. Hahn noted her appreciation that the focus on critical thinking and civil discourse is teaching students how to think, not what to think. She looks forward to hearing about what that looks like in a classroom for students.

Mr. Dronen noted that great strides were made regarding hiring. He then shared historical details, noting that the Board adopted the 2030 Strategic Plan in January of 2019. Mr. Dronen has had the opportunity to see the goals adopted and implemented each year based on the six frameworks of the plan. He went on to note that unlike many strategic plans in organizations that sit on a desk, the 2030 Strategic Plan is a living document that allows the District to prioritize and focus each year on goals and strategies that are most important to it based on the six frameworks. He noted a great job was done on the report. Dr. Sally added some final comments, noting that it is amazing work that teachers, staff, the Board and community does. It is a great place to be a student and that is thanks to all of this coming together in support of students and their needs.

#### **D. 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 (ESSA). He noted it is a time when one can start to see the outlines of the new building. Concrete work on the foundation continues through mid-June. The District is working with the concrete contractor to speed up the work so as to overcome the weather delays. The steel contractor is installing the structural steel as the 300-foot-tall crane has been built at the campus. The masonry contractor is on site along with several other trades working safely and efficiently. The full Construction Report is on BoardDocs as well. Mr. Johnson shared various pictures of the work and also mentioned the addition of a new construction camera for people to view work as it happens. Mr. Johnson noted that the construction manager, Pepper Construction, is working with four different trades on-site and is able to do complex construction efficiently and safely. Mr. Johnson then invited questions and comments from the Board.

Mr. McLane thanked Mr. Johnson for the additional construction camera. Mr. Johnson added that it will be nice to have pictures for the archives as a way to document the process. He also thanked students, staff and parents for their flexibility as they navigate the campus as well as the community's support and resources to complete the project.

Ms. Albrecht noted the earlier delays and how it seems the work is catching up, to which Mr. Johnson replied the District is gaining some time now, but more importantly, no longer continues to lose time. The completion date remains the same and as work continues, more construction workers will be allowed to safely be on-site. Ms. Albrecht noted that these delays were outside of the District's control, which Mr. Johnson confirmed, noting that they have met the challenges and are back on track.

Mr. Dronen noted that the owner and construction contingencies funds are still strong, which Mr. Johnson confirmed. Mr. Dronen noted the report was as of March and inquired if there were any significant changes. Mr. Johnson replied that he was going to double-check that he uploaded the correct one.

Next, Mr. Dronen inquired if there was any feedback from the neighbors and if the District continues to have regular meetings. Mr. Johnson responded that there was a meeting last month which was lightly attended. He noted neighbors have Ms. Niki Dizon's, Director of Communications, Mrs. Dubravec' and Mr. Steve Linke's, Facilities Manager, contact information. He noted that if an issue arises, the District works quickly to address it.

**\*E. Public Hearing: 2021-2022 Tentative Amended Budget**

Mr. Dronen called to order the public hearing on the 2021-2022 tentative amended budget at 8:04 p.m. Mr. Johnson began by noting in April, the District presented the tentative amended budget. Mr. Myron Spiwak, Director of Business Services, has been monitoring it over the past several weeks and presented the final budget.

Mr. Spiwak noted it was the second phase of the budget amendment process. In April, he presented the details on the amendments being proposed, which remained the same. There are, however, two additional amendments that the District will make. The first is increasing the District's federal revenue for grants by \$400,000. This will bring the budget up to the amount that the District now knows will be allocated from the federal government for the IDEA Flow-Through Grant. When the budget is set in the fall, often the grant allocations are unknown, so numbers from the previous year are used while staying conservative. Usually, the estimates are close but can be more significant once the allocations are actually received.

The second item is to increase the expenditure budget for maintenance in the technology contract area. Mr. Spiwak shared that the surplus is going to be higher than the current budget shows. When this happens, the District likes to take a look at some expenditures that might take place in July, that can be moved up to the current year, if there is justification to save some money for the District in doing so. Mr. Michael Marassa, Chief Technology Officer, was able to identify a maintenance contract where the company will remove a little over \$40,000 if the bill is paid up front instead of in three annual installments. This will save the District about \$42,000, however it will put that account over budget as it was not planned as a FY22 expenditure. It will also be taken out of next year's budget.

The original budget was a balanced one and these amendments do not change that. In fact, the net of these amendments increases the District's surplus by about \$3.8 million. Mr. Spiwak then welcomed any public comment or questions from the Board.

Mr. Dronen asked for any public comments of which there were none.

Ms. Hahn began by applauding Mr. Spiwak's continuous efforts to capture savings as well as continuously aligning the actual budget to the projected one. She noted that this type of careful financial stewardship is a hallmark of New Trier's governance and what the community deserves and shared her gratitude for that.

Ms. Hahn then inquired, regarding the IDEA increased funds, what will be done for the budget next year such as if the increased amount will be used or not. Mr. Spiwak noted that he received an email from the Illinois State Board of Education regarding the preliminary allocation for next year. He went on to say that likely the District would have gone back to a lower amount as the amount for this year is higher than it's been the past couple of years.

Ms. Hahn noted that there were adjustments to the interest income that primarily reflected market conditions. She inquired if the District has accounted for any reductions in interest income as a result of needing to keep funds in short-term investments versus long-term investments to deal with the anticipated delayed tax distributions or whether that would be in future budget. Mr. Johnson replied that it will be in the FY23 budget. He shared that he and Mr. Spiwak are watching this carefully and have set up an investment plan that keeps the appropriate liquidity through any delay in property tax payments. The interest income is going down correspondingly but noted that rates are going up a little bit so what the District does have invested is starting to yield a higher rate. Mr. Johnson shared that they may net each other out and inquired from Mr. Spiwak that the District was expecting similar interest to this year. Mr. Spiwak replied that the District is carrying \$700,000 in interest income for next year. He went on to share additional details around this.

Ms. Albrecht moved, and Mr. Das seconded the motion, that the Board of Education adjourns the Public Hearing on the 2021-2022 Tentative Amended Budget. 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.

**\*F. 2021-2022 Amended Budget Approval**

Ms. Hahn moved, and Ms. Albrecht seconded the motion, that the Board of Education approves the Resolution to



Adopt the Annual Amended Budget for the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year and the School District Budget Form. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: none

Mr. Johnson then noted that Ms. Ruston would pass around copies of the budget forms as all Board members must sign the document.

## **VII. Administrative Items**

### **A. and B. Treasurer's Report and Financial Reports for May 2022**

Mr. Johnson did not present the Treasurer's Report and Financial Report for May 2022 as the reports are not yet complete. The bank statements and other documents used to prepare them are not ready as the June Board meeting is earlier than usual. Mr. Johnson noted that they will be attached to Board Docs when they are complete later in the month for Board members and the public to view.

## **VIII. Consent Agenda**

- Bill List for the Period, May 1 – 31, 2022
- Personnel Report (Scale V Movement, Scale V Review, Appointments, Resignations, Retirement, Stipends - Separation and Termination)
- IASB Annual Dues
- Approve the Health Life Safety Amendment #24 and authorize the administration to submit the required paperwork to the ISBE
- Approve and award contract to American Building Resources for \$530,625 for the Transitions Center Renovation Phase 1 project
- Approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Physical Plant Services Association as presented
- North Cook Intermediate Service Center Intergovernmental Agreements for 2022-2023 (NCISC Regional Safe School Program, NCISC Alternative Learning Opportunities Program and NCISC & West 40 ISC High Needs Virtual Alternative Learning Opportunities Program)
- Resolution Transferring Moneys from The Operations And Maintenance Fund To The Debt Service Fund

Mr. Dronen inquired if any members wanted to pull an item off the Consent Agenda, no one chose to do so. Ms. Tomlinson echoed Dr. Sally's earlier sentiment, by noting that reading the Scale V Review information is another great example of how people go above and beyond for students. Mr. Das moved that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda, which includes: Bill List for the Period, May 1 – 31, 2022; Personnel Report (Scale V Movement, Scale V Review, Appointments, Resignations, Retirement, Stipends - Separation and Termination); IASB Annual Dues; Approve the Health Life Safety Amendment #24 and authorize the administration to submit the required paperwork to the ISBE; Approve and award contract to American Building Resources for \$530,625 for the Transitions Center Renovation Phase 1 project; Approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Physical Plant Services Association as presented; North Cook Intermediate Service Center Intergovernmental Agreements for 2022-2023 (NCISC Regional Safe School Program, NCISC Alternative Learning Opportunities Program and NCISC & West 40 ISC High Needs Virtual Alternative Learning Opportunities Program) and Resolution Transferring Moneys from The Operations And Maintenance Fund To The Debt Service Fund. Ms. Tomlinson 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.

## **IX. Board Member Reports**

Mr. Das noted that the **Booster Club** had their last meeting of the year where they transitioned off leadership and welcomed new directors and members. They met or exceeded their fundraising milestones with membership and the Booster Bash. Students have joined the Junior Booster Board and will begin next year.

Ms. Albrecht noted that the **Environmental Committee** met on May 24<sup>th</sup>. The Bickert Gym LED lights have been installed for a few months now with the expectation of saving 16 hours a day of wattage. The Binary Hearts, which is

a student club that recycles electronics, hopes to include tablets and smart phones in the future. The Winnetka Campus will partner with the Village of Winnetka to be a community collection compost site. The site will be at the campus' loading dock. Regarding LEED certification for the East Side project, the District is one point away from obtaining silver level and at 60 points would reach gold level. Ms. Albrecht noted that Mr. Conway shared that the point where the school is currently at in construction is the same point it was for the West Side project. Ms. Albrecht suggested at another meeting that Mr. Johnson go through how LEED certification works. She went on to note that there will be eight electronic charging stations added for cars. For the project, a carbon capture concrete is being used, this process uses carbon from the environment, funnels it into the concrete making it stronger. Solar panels will be installed at the Northfield campus in 2023 with the expectation that they will have an offset of 37.5%. The environmental page on the website is being redone. It was also noted that the committee meets quarterly.

Ms. Hahn expressed her gratitude and noted the importance of partnering with the community for the **Covid Reentry and Community Wellness Team**. Although there were less meetings than the first year, the group did meet several times throughout the year. She went on to note it is the epitome of a partnership of school, faculty, students, parents and the wider community coming together to serve the needs of students by continuing to keep them in school safely and learning. She noted they met periodically throughout the year when decisions were required and provided invaluable input. The group has met over the last two years and generously gave of their time, expertise and experiences. Ms. Hahn noted that the District would not have navigated the pandemic as well as it was able to without this group. She shared this was another expression of gratitude for the high-functioning partnerships that work to improve experiences for students.

Mr. Dronen noted that the **Finance Committee** did not meet.

Mr. Dronen noted that **TrueNorth Educational Cooperative 804** will meet on Wednesday.

Mr. McLane noted that six items were shared at the **Facilities Steering Committee (FSC)**. Aside from the East Side Project, the Transition Center and the Northfield campus classroom modification in buildings C and E are moving along. Mr. Johnson noted that the Village is approving their bids in July for the Duke Childs work. It does stretch the timeline a bit, but it should not impact New Trier's plans in terms of playability and usage. Solar was also discussed along, and the 15-Year Plan Year 4 work is also moving forward.

Mr. McLane noted that the **Community Engagement Committee (CEC)** met and looked ahead to items in the Annual Plan such as a focus on younger families. Alumni engagement has evolved well with not only the gala but the radio banquet and a satellite event in Arizona. There will also be a communications audit that will help the District better understand practice and preferences.

Ms. Alcantara thanked **New Trier Parents' Association (NTPA)** volunteers who put together an amazing graduation party for the class of 2022.

Ms. Alcantara noted that the **Policy Committee** did not meet.

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

Dr. Sally highlighted the following:

- This was the last Board Meeting for the 21-22 school year. Final exams and finishing the semester will be the focus this week.
- Summer school begins on Monday and will mostly be held at Northfield so as to make room for the construction work being done at Winnetka.
- The end of the fiscal year is June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- The next Board Meeting is July 11<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Dronen inquired if there were any requests for staff research or future agenda items of which there were none.

#### **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Lindsey Ruston, Secretary

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Keith Dronen, President