

**NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
May 15, 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, May 15, 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  
Dr. Christopher Johnson, Associate Superintendent  
Dr. Joanne Panopoulos, Asst. Supt. for Special Ed and Student Services  
Mr. Peter Tragos, Asst. Supt. for Curriculum & Instruction  
Mrs. Denise Dubravec, Principal – Winnetka Campus  
Mr. Paul Waechtler, Principal – Northfield Campus

**Also Present**

Ms. Courtney McDonough, incoming Board member; Ms. Sally Pofcher, incoming Board member; Dr. Michael Marassa, Chief Technology Officer; Ms. Niki Dizon, Director of Communications; Dr. Renee Zoladz, Director of Human Resources; Ms. Teri Rodgers, Social Studies Department Faculty and Education Association President; Mr. Jon Lespeska, Math Department Faculty; Mr. Scott Williams, Assistant Principal for Student Services; Ms. Julie Bar, Math Department Faculty; Mr. Dan Lawler, English Department Faculty; Ms. Venera Stabinsky, Modern and Classical Languages Department Faculty; Ms. Kerri Simons, Modern and Classical Languages Department Faculty; Ms. Kathleen Tallmadge, Social Studies Department Faculty; Ms. Katherine Linsenmeier, Math Department Faculty; Ms. Gail Gamrath, Northfield Campus Assistant Principal; Mr. Jeff Bailey, Lead Support Specialist; 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 May 15, 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 except for Ms. Alcantara. She joined the meeting right after roll was called.

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 litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular District has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the District finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the closed meeting minutes. Ms. Albrecht seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Mr. Das, Ms. Hahn, Mr. McLane, Ms. Tomlinson, Ms. Albrecht, Ms. Alcantara, 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 May 15, 2023, of the Board of Education to order at 6:30 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 April 17, 2023 (open and closed session) and Special Meeting of May 9, 2023**

Mr. Dronen asked for any comments or adjustments on the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 17, 2023 (open and closed session). There were no requests for changes to the minutes. Ms. Albrecht moved, and Ms. Hahn seconded the motion, that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 17, 2023 (open and closed session) and the minutes of the Special Meeting of May 9, 2023 (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:

- After the Academics recently took place for incoming freshmen who learned about the various clubs that New Trier has to offer. Several hundred students and their parents attended. Mr. Waechtler thanked Dr. Tim Hayes, Student Activities Coordinator, and the club sponsors for their work.
- The Introduction to Business classes, which have about 300 students on the Northfield campus, partnered with Radical Generosity Chicago. They packed kits with birthday supplies and made blankets for initiatives that the charity supports. Through candy sales and donations, they also raised \$7500 for Radical Generosity Chicago.
- Random Acts of Kindness (RAK) Week was sponsored by Pep Club. The week also included Staff Appreciation Day. Students collected toiletries for the Northfield Food Pantry, which totaled 72 boxes worth of supplies.
- Mr. Waechtler recently moderated the panel discussion for NT 101. He thanked the Parents Association for hosting and the panelists for sharing their experiences as parents of New Trier students.
- Mr. Waechtler thanked those who organized it and the teachers who hosted Take Your Kids to Work Day. There was great leadership by students as they interacted with the younger children of faculty and staff members.

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

- Recently a luncheon and ceremony were held as the library and library commons were named in honor of Linda Yonke, former superintendent.
- The Fine and Performing Arts Signing Day is scheduled to take place on May 25<sup>th</sup> and is for any students who will major or minor in these areas in college.
- Mr. Kurt Weiler, English Learner Coordinator, and his students hosted English Language Multicultural Day. Students share about where they are from as well as a dish that is important to them and their families. Many students and staff were in attendance.
- Ms. Lizzie Nash, student, won the Infinitic Student Technology Award which included a dinner and awards celebration. Dr. Joanne Panopoulos, Assistant Superintendent for Special Ed and Student Services, and her team attended, however, Ms. Nash was unable to, though the group did FaceTime her during the evening. Part of this program is to celebrate learners with disabilities.
- Mr. Mike Napoleon, Kinetic Wellness Faculty and Boys Baseball Head Coach, now holds Illinois coaches most wins with 951.
- Ms. Channing Christ, student, won the outstanding achievement in portfolio quality. She received the most total scholarships offered by universities and colleges. There were over 130 high schools that participated.
- Ms. Dawn Sullivan, Applied Arts Department Faculty, and her team organized Take Your Kids to Work Day. Mrs. Dubravec shared her observations about how wonderful the high school students are with the young children.
- Prom 2023 recently took place downtown and had the largest attendance in school history with close to 1600 students. The school also continues to look for ways to improve, making sure that all students feel connected to this.
- Sophomores recently concluded their on-going service project with #lunchbag in Evanston. Adviser Rooms put together 1,000 hygiene kits and 1,000 lunches.
- Bass fishing finished fourth in the sectional.
- Boys and Girls Water Polo both won the Central Suburban League and are headed to State.

- The Boys and Girls Rowing teams won the Midwest Scholastic Rowing Championships in Michigan.
- Mr. Nate Silvers, Applied Arts Department Faculty, and Mr. Ryan Dunn, Science Department Faculty, sponsor the eSports club. The group started with 30 students and has increased to 70. They compete and recently made it to nationals. They participated in a Midwest championship, placing four out of 139 teams. Students are able to win scholarships and college recruiters attend nationals.
- The Performing Arts' spring play was Ken Ludwig's *"Shakespeare in Hollywood."* Mrs. Dubravec shared that the play was phenomenal.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Trev Fest recently took place, and many were in attendance. The New Trier Parents' Association (NTPA) helped as did Mrs. Dubravec's assistant, Ms. Brigid Sexton, who also supports the NTPA. Funds raised went to the school's Angel Fund that helps students financially with either items in the classroom or outside of it such as for a dance ticket. Mr. McLane performed with his band Steely Dad.

Mr. Tragos, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, provided an update from the Benchmarking Consortium which was hosted by the Westside Community Schools in Omaha. New Trier is part of a benchmarking consortium of high performing schools committed to advancing public education by focusing on the student experience. The group comes together twice a year at home districts around the country. This group provides for continuous improvement in developing leadership skills for the participating superintendents and assistant superintendents, learning how to lead and manage change and discussing timely and important issues in public education. It is an important group where participants can support, learn, and collaborate with each other. Mr. Tragos attended along with Dr. Sally and Ms. Niki Dizon, Director of Communications. The theme for this visit was Communication and Community Partnerships. Districts shared their work and programs, and it is a great opportunity to learn and understand what other Districts are doing. The host school usually draws on local resources that they have. The group toured the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha as Westside Community School has a pre-k through 12<sup>th</sup> grade school onsite. Westside Community School also has a robust career development program called Avenue Scholars. The group heard community engagement presentations from each school. Ms. Dizon presented the communications strategy, plan, and the ways in which New Trier engages families. Mr. Tragos shared that there was a presentation on Artificial Intelligence in education as well. Westside is taking a similar stance to New Trier which is a learning one. The next Benchmarking Consortium will be hosted by Eanes Independent School District in Austin.

Dr. Johnson gave the FOIA report, noting that there were five requests since the last Board meeting, one remains open regarding records related to communications with a hospital. Closed reports include FOIAs related to grades, student information, employee records and construction.

## **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 to Mr. Peter Tragos, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction. There were three requests for public comment. Mr. Dronen shared a couple of reminders for speakers asking them to keep their comments to three minutes or less per Board Policy 2-230 and that they refrain from clapping or a response of any kind in regard to other's comments. Questions and comments should address the Board of Education as a whole only and no comments should be directed to an individual Board member, audience, principals or other staff members.

1. Mr. Matt Larsen, Executive Director of the Illinois Spina Bifida Association, shared how he participated in Go Baby Go with the Applied Arts Department and many wonderful students. They designed 28 custom cars for children with spina bifida and other disabilities. He shared other comments and thanked students, staff, and the administration. He also invited students who participated in this to a recognition event on June 10<sup>th</sup>.
2. Ms. Lavanya Krishna, Ms. Louise Dechonts, and Ms. Juliet Kelso, parents, shared concerns about the lack of inclusivity that the school creates for prom and other dances. After additional comments, Ms. Krishna also shared solutions.
3. Mr. Ted Wynnychenko, parent, shared comments about the solar panel installation at the Northfield campus.

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

### **A. New Trier 2030 Update: 2019-2023**

Dr. Sally presented an update on New Trier 2030, the District's strategic plan. He shared that part of the reason for the presentation was to note the accomplishments over the past four years as two Board members are set to retire later in the meeting. He went on to share highlights from those years which encompassed 2019-2023. Dr. Sally shared that the goals of the plan were put into six framework areas with initiatives falling under those sections. He

displayed a chart with the initiatives which is a representation of the work done over the past four years. This chart, however, did not include all the work done to move the District through covid. While a small amount of security work is reflected in the chart, it took a great deal of time over the past four years as well.

Dr. Sally provided next steps with this work which will include continuing to present outcomes from the 2022-2023 Annual Plan in June and July. The 2023-2024 Annual Plan/Superintendent Goals will be discussed with the Board in June and will then be presented for approval at the July meeting. Dr. Sally then invited questions and comments from the Board.

Ms. Albrecht shared that going through the pandemic was a very difficult time. She noted that it is enlightening to have everything back on track now with New Trier 2030, including the additions for 2023-2024.

## **B. Attendance Update**

Dr. Panopoulos along with Ms. Gail Gamrath, Northfield Campus Assistant Principal, and Mr. Scott Williams, Assistant Principal for Student Services provided an update on attendance. Dr. Panopoulos shared that there are 18 people on the Attendance Committee who represent all departments. She noted that Ms. Trish Sheridan, Junior Adviser Chair, has done an enormous amount of work as has Mr. Waechtler.

New Trier is not alone in addressing attendance concerns as this is an issue nationwide. Schools have worked hard to increase student attendance rates which were dropping even prior to covid. Schools are now challenged to figure out how to increase attendance with students being in school on a consistent basis as well as reestablishing a student's sense of belonging. Local peer high schools as well as those in the consortium that New Trier is a part of are not immune to this issue either. The committee meets regularly with the goal of developing a long-range plan to include supportive practices that keep students accountable while providing support for and partnering with families. A letter was sent to parents at the end of April promoting the partnership to support student attendance. It included a list of any parent excused absences. The District received feedback from parents, the majority of which was favorable. There was a small group of parents who reached out noting some inaccuracies as well as others who shared that while they encouraged the school to keep doing what it is, they would prefer to handle attendance on their own. Since the February Board meeting, when this was first shared, there has been a slight increase in attendance.

Each child's presence matters to the school. Dr. Panopoulos shared about the impact of absences on teachers and students. The Illinois School Board of Education defines chronically absent as those students who have missed 10% or more of school days, out of a 180-day school calendar. Over 20% of our students meet the chronically absent threshold and five percent of those miss 20% of school days or more. In addition to the loss of learning and classroom community, these absences significantly impact our teachers' day-to-day instruction since they must manage many individual student plans to make-up instruction and assessments. Our work has focused on strategies for bringing students into school and building positive relationships. By building classroom community, it allows students to fully benefit from the curriculum. This also leads to a sense of belonging and engagement with an increased desire to support their peers. Finally, it helps students to avoid the cycle of missing out and catching up. Regular attendance develops lifelong habits that a student will apply to their post-secondary education and workplace.

Ms. Gamrath shared the attendance plans for the 23-24 school year. She noted that attendance is a school-wide problem that needs a school-wide solution. Our overall approach is to use an MTSS tiered approach. In this approach, Tier 1 impacts all students every day with their engagement in school, relationships with teachers and supports and programs that are available. When absences start to become an issue, Tier 2 and 3 interventions and supports are put into place. These interventions and supports will then be monitored by the graduating class teams. Another piece of the plan is communication to students and parents through an attendance handbook. Ms. Gamrath noted that emails like the one sent to parents in April will continue, but the District will be mindful of the amount of these that parents are receiving. There will also be an attendance campaign that looks at students who have not missed very much class time. Ms. Gamrath noted it will be important to learn why these students do not want to miss school. After further comments, Ms. Gamrath shared that another piece of the plan is to help students take ownership of their attendance which could include a variety of consequences depending on the number of absences such as limited extracurricular participation, restricted free periods, or not attending field trips. Regarding the impact on the learning environment, the school will continue to cultivate a culture of belonging in classrooms, with departmental work focusing on assessments, how teachers use their Canvas pages and what is done with late work. The final piece of the plan is partnering with parents and keeping one another informed.

Mr. Williams shared next steps which included finishing the attendance plan and finalizing procedures, as well as all the components that feed into the support that the school will provide for students. Another step is to develop transparent and clear communication to students and families about the plan through the Attendance Handbook. Finally, the District will continue the improvement of its internal attendance systems by reviewing processes and procedures to see where it can add in efficiency, ensure accurate attendance data, and build in systems of support for students. Mr. Williams then invited questions and comments from the Board.

Ms. Tomlinson thanked the teachers on the committee. She then inquired if students or parents were involved in the committee as well as IT. Dr. Panopoulos noted that parent involvement has been through the NTPA with their monthly meetings with Mrs. Dubravec and Mr. Waechtler. In terms of student input, students from AP Computer Science completed a human-centered design project where they researched attendance, looked at the school's data and developed solutions. They then presented to the committee their observations and recommendations. Mrs. Dubravec added that their presentation was very insightful. Mr. Williams also shared that he has an upcoming meeting with the data analytics club that reviewed a comparison between attendance data and the weather.

Ms. Tomlinson added that she enjoyed hearing about rewarding good behavior by figuring out what is working for those students who are consistently coming to school while figuring out how to discourage the behavior the school is trying to avoid. She also thanked everyone for their work on this matter.

Ms. Hahn thanked the group for tackling this topic since attendance is tied to academic performance as well as social emotional well-being. She noted her appreciation for the partnership with parents as she has heard anecdotally from parents that they did not realize how often they were excusing their child. When the issues are considered cumulatively along with the impact on teachers, she is encouraged to hear that ways are being found to do this efficiently so keeping a tighter hold on attendance does not end up being a larger administrative bureaucratic burden on teachers and parents. She looks forward to hearing how to strike a balance. She also spoke to the student accountability piece as the parent of an athlete and that students understand that they need to be at school in order to participate in competitions. She noted that finding ways that are genuine and organic for every student is the key to help them find their reason that they want to be at school, rather than imposing it from teachers and parents.

Mr. Das noted that one slide suggested that there are a number of absent students, which implied that there is also some number of teachers who are dealing with that volume of students to manage their absences. He went on to inquire if there is a sense of those teachers, who do not have student attendance issues, about the dynamics that are playing out in those classes. Ms. Gamrath replied that they do not have that information currently, but during her time as adviser chair, she would hear students say they could not miss a certain teacher's class, digging into the reason behind that is work that still needs to be done.

Ms. Albrecht inquired about the state's qualification of a day, which Mr. Williams replied that a half day absence is missing three to four periods while missing five or more periods equals a full day absence. Ms. Albrecht then inquired how that applies to the block schedule, which Mr. Williams responded is done by half blocks. For instance, if a student misses adviser room, first period and part of second period, that counts as a half day. Dr. Sally added that it is essentially 300 minutes for a full day and 150 minutes for half a day. Discussion continued around this as Ms. Albrecht mentioned that some days a student may have a lighter day of classes compared to other days, with Dr. Sally stating that the definition does not change.

Ms. Hahn inquired if more will be heard about how the graduating class teams might play a role in addressing these attendance issues. Ms. Gamrath shared that it is the graduating class teams that will communicate with the adviser and would eventually meet with parents if absences continue.

Mr. McLane thanked the group for tackling this issue and then shared that he realized it is not just schools or students, but similar issues can be seen in religious institutions and gathering places, along with corporations. He noted that there will be a variety of sources that can be looked at. He also shared that he liked the statement of "being here counts."

Mr. Dronen shared his concerns about the burden absences are placing on staff and teachers. He also noted that absences increase steadily from freshman to senior year. He referenced a comment from Dr. Panopoulos that some parents would prefer to take care of this on their own. Mr. Dronen noted that, barring a mental health issue or issue at home, parents need to be educated on the importance of their students being in school. To Mr. McLane's comments, Mr. Dronen replied that much was heard about tremendous mental health issues that developed while people were

out during the pandemic and that students need to be in school. Mr. Dronen noted that it is important in the communication plan that if there are unexcused absences that there are potential consequences, and that parents and students are educated on this. Ms. Gamrath noted that attendance meetings with families are very important as it provides the story behind why the student is missing school and supports can then be determined. After further comments from Ms. Gamrath, Mr. Dronen thanked the group for their presentation.

### **C. Facilities Update: Winnetka Campus East Side Academic and Athletic**

Dr. Johnson provided an update on the Winnetka Campus East Side Academic and Athletic Project (ESAA). He shared exterior and interior pictures and details of the construction progress that continues to be made as the District looks forward to the July opening. He noted that storm traps have been installed to help mitigate flooding for the school and neighborhood. He thanked staff, parents and neighbors for their patience during this part of the project. The project is on schedule with the only risk being the installation of the air handlers which may stretch into July. Dr. Johnson shared that change orders totaled \$110,000 and the project is still within budget parameters. Projected change orders have decreased to \$551,000. Dr. Johnson invited questions and comments from the Board.

Ms. Hahn asked for an update on the air handlers. Dr. Johnson responded that the end of June remains the timeline for them. There are temporary handlers in place now so work can continue. After sharing an anecdote from attending the naming ceremony for Linda Yonke, Ms. Hahn was thankful for what was learned from previous experience with the West Side construction project from former Board members, administrators, Pepper Construction and the rest of the New Trier team.

Ms. Tomlinson noted some of the flat roofs and inquired if they might be available for solar paneling if the opportunity arises. Dr. Johnson replied that all roofs, but one has been replaced, with the Bickert Gym roof at Winnetka slated for this year. Most of the campus is a good candidate for solar, except for a couple of areas. The District will start to look into solar for the Winnetka campus.

Ms. Tomlinson then inquired about LEED certification. Dr. Johnson replied that the project will be either silver or gold but is tracking towards the higher level. Ms. Albrecht added that at the Environmental Committee it was shared that the project has 54 points and has achieved the silver level and needs eight more for gold. The District looks at the LEED investments carefully as they help save energy costs in the long-term and have a better environmental footprint. Ms. Albrecht noted that the West Side project was certified as gold.

## **VII. Administrative Items**

### **A. Treasurer's Report for April 2023**

Dr. Johnson presented the Treasurer's Report for April 2023. Receipts are as expected and have largely caught up to last year in revenue. There has been significant interest income and one may see more money than typical in cash as the District prepares for future delays in property taxes. The District is also timing other investments to align with accounts payable and payroll which occurs twice a month. The weighted portfolio yield for the primary account is 4.81% on short-term investments and cash, which is 65% of funds. Fund balance for all accounts \$148,633,511.

### **B. Financial Report for April 2023**

Dr. Johnson presented the Financial Report for April 2023. Operating revenue was \$123,511,428 for the first ten months of the fiscal year, or 0.17% higher compared to last year. Other local revenue will maintain a year-long positive variance, driven primarily by interest earnings and CPPRT, while federal sources will be considerably less due to one-time Covid grants last year. The adopted budget for operating revenue is 1.13% lower and the District is tracking to meet the revenue budget ten months in.

On the expenditures side, the District is at \$99,919,000 through April, or about 10% higher, which include interfund transfers. If those transfers were to be excluded, expenses are 4.02% higher than last year. The District is trending closer to budget for the fiscal year as the budget was at 3.52% and currently it is at 4.02%. The District will look at those variances over the next couple of months and hopes to come in as close to budget as possible on the expenditures side for the year. Inflation is impacting the District in various ways daily. Dr. Johnson then invited questions and comments from the Board.

### **C. Policy Revisions First Reading – PRESS 111**

Dr. Sally shared that the policy committee presented for first reading a set of changes that were received through the PRESS service that the District uses. Changes usually regard language as well as ensuring that the District's policies match current legislation. The number of changes was minimal. Ms. Hahn, one of the Board's liaisons to the

committee, shared that the updates were largely driven by legislative changes. Dr. Sally added that the District's current practices match these updates, so changes were not needed internally.

Ms. Tomlinson inquired about library material objections confirming that the District has a policy and process in place that involves uniform grievance as well as the library media resource rejection filings, noting that this is the process that the public can use to object to items. Dr. Sally confirmed this, noting it is overseen by Mr. Tragos.

Dr. Sally also noted that this will be a voting item at the June meeting.

### **VIII. Consent Agenda**

- Bill List for Period, April 1 - 30, 2023
- Personnel Report (Scale V Review, Appointments, Changes of Status, Resignations, Retirements, Stipends – Appointments and Stipends – Separation)
- Contract with Maia Learning
- Consolidated District Plan for Grants
- IASB Annual Dues 2023-2024
- Purchase of van for special education purposes
- Amendment to the Performance Based Superintendent's Contract between the Board of Education and Paul J. Sally III
- Memorandum of Understanding with New Trier Physical Plant Services Association

Mr. Dronen inquired if any members wanted to pull an item off the Consent Agenda, no one chose to do so. Ms. Alcantara moved that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda, which includes: Bill List for Period, April 1 - 30, 2023; Personnel Report (Scale V Review, Appointments, Changes of Status, Resignations, Retirements, Stipends – Appointments and Stipends – Separation); the agreement with Maia Learning for school years 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26, 2026-27, and 2027-28 and authorize the Associate Superintendent to execute the agreement; the Consolidated District Plan for FY 2024 for the following grants: Title II-Part A, Title IV-Part A, Title I, Part A, and IDEA, Part B Flow-Through; IASB Annual Dues 2023-2024; approval of the purchase of the new 2022 Chrysler Voyager Van for the Transition Center program and Special Ed Department; that the Board of Education find that the Superintendent has met the goals and indicators of student performance and academic achievement as provided in the 2019-2024 Performance Based Superintendent's Contract, and further move that the Board approve and authorize the Board's President and Secretary to execute the Amendment to the Performance Based Superintendent's Contract in substantially the form presented to the Board; and approve the Memorandum of Understanding with New Trier Physical Plant Services Association as presented. Ms. Tomlinson seconded the motion. 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

The motion passed.

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

Mr. Das attended the April **Booster Club** meeting. He noted that at each meeting, a key feature is Mr. Augie Fontanetta, Athletic Director, sharing the accomplishments and victories of New Trier sports, which the parents celebrate. Mr. Das invited the Booster Club to consider sharing more of the work that they do with the Board through a presentation, specifically as they anticipate the new athletics spaces from the east side project as well as the many recognitions of athletes that is done at Board meetings. One highlight from the meeting was the Junior Booster Board which is made up of students who support the Booster Club's work. Achievements in the first year of this included volunteering, assisting with concessions, and selling clothing. The next meeting is Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Das attended the **TrueNorth Leadership Council**. They have "broken ground" on their newly consolidated center and there is a lot of physical movement on the campus towards phase one of that plan. New members were onboarded. The next meeting will focus on reviewing TrueNorth's budget.

On April 27<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Albrecht noted that the **Facilities Steering Committee** changed to a tour of the east side project.

Ms. Albrecht noted that the **Environmental Committee** met on May 9<sup>th</sup>. The student environmental committee presented on their work to help the environment. The Winnetka campus pool will be upgraded to LED lighting. The

District is working with the Village of Winnetka on rebates and if they can be obtained this summer, the work will be completed this year. The Binary Hearts Club recycling program takes broken electronics and makes them into working devices for families who lack a functioning computer. They are looking to expand their program to include other electronics recycling such as smartphones, tablets and other technology. She shared that LEED points were provided earlier in the meeting. The District is in the early stages of talking to the Village of Winnetka about the possibility of adding solar to the Winnetka campus. Regarding solar panels at Northfield, they are currently being installed on buildings B and D. The remainder of the panels and conduits will be installed over the summer. The start-up of the panels will be dependent on the electric switch gear lead times, hopefully during spring of 2024. On the Northfield campus, the Direct Digital Control system (DDC) and damper upgrades will net rebates from Nicor and ComEd. The Nicor rebate will be finalized after several months of usage evaluation and the ComEd rebate will be around \$105,000. The website continues to be updated with the District's sustainability work. Finally, synthetic turf will be installed on the varsity baseball and softball fields.

Ms. Hahn shared that the **New Trier Educational Foundation (NTEF)** played a role in the grants to the e-gaming club as well as Go Baby Go spina bifida project. They held their annual Pitch Night on May 11<sup>th</sup> in the Gaffney. There were three student entrepreneur competitors: the Wayfinders, an app map to find one's way in large public spaces in an emergency; Sweetest Aglet, which is a silicon piece that goes on the end of a sweatshirt to keep children from chewing through their hoodie sleeves; and Millmette Camps, which runs camps for children with an Amazing Race theme. Millmette Camps, created by Mr. Miles Friedman, won the Pitch Night competition.

Mr. McLane attended the **Community Engagement Committee**, and it was a cumulation of the year's work which included the communications audit. Work also included diagnosing what the District does well to communicate to all constituencies and what can be improved. He noted that the report is actionable and will be shared at the June meeting.

Ms. Alcantara shared that the **Policy Committee** met on May 10<sup>th</sup>. She, Ms. Hahn and administrators met to review the policy revisions that were shared earlier in the meeting.

Ms. Alcantara was unable to attend the **New Trier Parents Association (NTPA)** meeting on May 4<sup>th</sup>. A final end of year meeting will be held on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Tomlinson noted that **New Trier Fine Arts Association (NTFAA)** moved their meeting from last Wednesday to this Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>.

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

Dr. Sally highlighted the following events:

- There are three weeks between now and the next Board meeting. During that time graduation will take place on May 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Semester exams will begin on June 5<sup>th</sup>, which is the date of the next Board meeting.
- The last day for seniors is Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Dronen inquired if there were any requests for staff research or future agenda items, of which there was one. It is regarding the agenda item that Mr. Das shared during Board Reports about a presentation from the Booster Club about the work they do.

#### **IX. Official Canvass of Consolidated Election Results and Dismissal of Current Board**

##### **\*A. Official Canvass of April 4, 2023 Consolidated Election Results**

Mr. Dronen asked for a motion to approve the Official Canvass of April 4, 2023 Consolidated Election Results. Ms. Tomlinson moved that the Board of Education approve the official canvass of the April 4, 2023 Consolidated Election Results. Mr. Das 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.

##### **B. Recognition/Presentation of Gifts to Outgoing Members; Dismissal of Current Board**



Dr. Sally thanked Ms. Albrecht and Mr. McLane on behalf of the administration, staff and students for their dedication and work, addressing each one directly. He then distributed gifts to each of them.

Mr. Dronen, Ms. Hahn, Ms. Alcantara, Mr. Das, and Ms. Tomlinson all shared personal thoughts and stories with Ms. Albrecht and Mr. McLane. Mr. McLane and Ms. Albrecht then shared comments about their time on the Board and offered parting thoughts to the new Board members.

**\*C. Adjournment *sine die***

Ms. Albrecht moved that the current Board adjourn *sine die*. Mr. Das seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: none

The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned *sine die* at 8:14 p.m. The group then enjoyed a brief break.

**XII. Welcome, Oath of Office, and Seating of Two Newly-Elected Members and One Re-Elected Member**

**A. Oath of Office and Seating of Two Newly-Elected Members and One Re-Elected Member**

Mr. Dronen welcomed new Board Members, Ms. McDonough and Ms. Pofcher, as well as returning member, Ms. Hahn. The three members read the oath of office simultaneously.

**\*B. Election of New Officers for the period May 15, 2023 through April 2024 Regular Meeting**

Board Secretary, Ms. Lindsey Ruston, opened nominations for the office of Board President for the period of May 15, 2023 through the April 2024 Regular Board Meeting. Ms. Hahn moved that Mr. Dronen be nominated for the office of President of the Board of Education from May 15, 2023 through the April 2024 Regular Meeting, which Ms. Tomlinson seconded. There being no further nominations for President, it was by acclamation that Mr. Dronen was declared the President of the Board from May 15, 2023 through the April 2024 Regular Meeting.

Mr. Dronen asked for nominations for the office of Vice President of the Board of Education for the coming year. Ms. Alcantara moved that Ms. Hahn be nominated for the office of Vice President of the Board of Education from May 15, 2023 through the April 2024 Regular Meeting, which Mr. Das seconded. There being no further nominations for Vice President, it was by acclamation that Ms. Hahn was declared the Vice President of the Board from May 15, 2023 through the April 2024 Regular Meeting.

Mr. Dronen asked for nominations for the office of Secretary for the Board of Education for the coming year. Ms. Tomlinson moved that Ms. Ruston be nominated for the office of Secretary of the Board of Education from May 15, 2023 through the April 2024 Regular Meeting. There being no further nominations for Secretary, it was by acclamation that Ms. Ruston was declared the Secretary of the Board from May 15, 2023 through the April 2024 Regular Meeting.

**C. Board Liaison Committee Assignments**

Mr. Dronen presented to fellow Board Members the listing of the Committee Liaison assignments for the 2023-2024 school year of which there are 13 committees. This structure keeps the Board engaged with students, teachers, support staff, parents, and community members. Much of this work takes place behind the scenes and helps to advance students and the school. Committee assignments are posted to BoardDocs. Ms. McDonough will attend the Booster Club meeting on Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Dronen noted that members could reference the June calendar for other meetings. He also shared that in the event of a conflict, members should contact him, and he will work to find a sub.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Lindsey Ruston, Secretary

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Keith Dronen, President