

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

**November 17, 2025
New Trier Township High School
7 Happ Road, Room C234
Northfield, IL 60093**

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<https://www.newtrier.k12.il.us/boardofeducation>. Please refer to these webpages if you would like more information on an item.*

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, November 17, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

Members Present

Mr. Avik Das
Ms. Jean Hahn, President
Mr. Joo Serk Lee
Ms. Courtney McDonough
Ms. Sally Pofcher
Ms. Sally Tomlinson, Vice President

Administrators Present

Dr. Peter Tragos, Superintendent
Dr. Christopher Johnson, Deputy Superintendent
Dr. Joanne Panopoulos, Asst. Supt. for Special Ed and Student Services
Dr. Chimille Tillery, Asst. Supt. for Curriculum & Instruction
Mrs. Denise Dubravec, Principal – Winnetka Campus/Assistant Supt.
Mr. Paul Waechtler, Principal – Northfield Campus

Members Absent

Ms. Kimberly Alcantara

Also Present

Ms. Niki Dizon, Chief Communications Officer; Dr. Nashwa Mekky, Chief Human Resources Officer; Mr. Michael Marassa, Chief Technology Officer; Ms. Angie Woodul, Program Assistant, New Trier Extension and President of the New Trier Educational Support Professionals Association; Mr. Mike Hill, Technology Department; Mr. Eric Johnson, Technology Department; Mr. Jeff Bailey, Technology Department; and members of the press and community.

BUSINESS MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER – 5:00 p.m. – C234

Ms. Hahn called the Regular Meeting of November 17, 2025 of the Board of Education to order at 5:00 p.m. in room C234 at the Northfield campus. Roll call was taken, and all members were present, except for Ms. Alcantara, Mr. Das, and Ms. McDonough. Ms. Hahn asked for a motion to move to Closed Session. Mr. Lee 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; 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; the placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students. Ms. Tomlinson seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Ms. Pofcher, Mr. Lee, Ms. Tomlinson, Ms. Hahn

NAY: none

ABSENT: Ms. Alcantara, Mr. Das, Ms. McDonough

The motion passed.

II. CLOSED SESSION – 5:00 p.m. – A201A

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

Ms. Hahn called the Regular Meeting of November 17, 2025 of the Board of Education to order at 6:35 p.m. in room C234 at the Northfield campus. Roll call was taken, and all members were present, except for Ms. Alcantara.

IV. Minutes and Reports

***A. Regular Meeting of October 20, 2025 (open session)**

The first order of business was to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 20, 2025 (open session). There were no requests for edits to the minutes. Ms. Pofcher moved, and Mr. Lee seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 20, 2025 (open session). Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Ms. McDonough, Ms. Pofcher, Mr. Lee, Ms. Hahn

NAY:

ABSENT: Ms. Alcantara, Mr. Das

ABSTAIN: Ms. Tomlinson

The motion passed.

B. Report from Campus Principals, Assistant Superintendents, and FOIA Report

Mr. Paul Waechtler, Principal for the Northfield Campus, shared the following student events and program updates from that campus:

- Halloween was a fun day on campus with great decorations provided by Pep Club. The children from the day care paraded around parts of the campus as well.
- Mr. Waechtler and Ms. Lori Worth, 8th Grade Transition Coordinator, presented to families who currently attend private school, but are interested in attending high school at New Trier. About 70 people were in attendance with the highlight being the four upperclassmen who answered questions.
- Mr. David Hjelmgren, Social Studies Department Faculty, organized trivia for staff during the lunch periods.
- Design Your New Trier Experience pilot is taking place in the Innovation Hub. The goal is that students progress from self-discovery to action planning taking advantage of the various opportunities offered based on their interests and strengths. Sample Lessons include Mindsets & Design, Know Yourself, Imagine Possibilities and Plan Your Odyssey. The pilot will expand for second semester.
- Freshmen Student Senate recently held a leadership retreat where they worked on community building and learning about leadership.
- Junior High Focus Groups recently took place, students from each junior high participated so administrators could hear from them about their junior high experience and their transition to New Trier. The Junior High administrators find this very valuable as they work to best prepare their students for the move to high school.
- Parent Teacher Conferences are next week.
- Mr. Waechtler wished the Board a happy Thanksgiving.

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

- Winnetka also celebrated Halloween with several activities organized by Student Council.
- Fall sports are wrapping up with girls' field hockey placing first while girls swimming took fourth place. Girls' tennis also won the state championship. Cross country also had a good finish. Girls' volleyball won regionals and sectionals.
- Mr. Jim Davis, Athletic Coordinator for Strength and Conditioning, traveled to Virginia to present at their state's Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance association. Ms. Elizabeth Bennett, Music and Theatre Department Chair, was a panelist for Northwestern's school of music alumni career panel.
- The Dance Division held the 2025 Illinois High School Dance Festival at New Trier at the end of October. Over 500 students from all over the state attended.
- The Staff and Student Belonging Councils met together recently to discuss the projects that the two councils are working on.
- The campus observed Veterans Day during adviser room.
- Mrs. Dubravec, Mr. Rai Pavely, Director of Campus Security, Mr. Angel Villaluz, Director of Technology, and Mr. Scott Williams, Assistant Principal, attended the School SAFE Conference last week. She went on to share further details.

- Fall College Signing Day recently took place with 44 students committing to playing their sport in college. There is also a separate signing day for those students who will play in college, but do not play on a New Trier team.
- Lagniappe-Potpourri Student Board will present the Frosh-Soph musical, *Willy Wonka*. Mrs. Dubravec shared that Ms. Hilerre Kirsch, who is overseeing the student leadership board said that the planning for the production is going exceptionally well.
- Virtual Parent-Teacher Conferences will also take place for students at the Winnetka campus in a couple of weeks.

Dr. Tragos recognized the Board of Education for School Board Members Day on Saturday, November 15th.

Dr. Johnson gave the FOIA report noting that there have been two requests since the last Board meeting. One was for the athletic program and the other for constructions contracts, both are closed.

Dr. Tragos then shared an update on Annual Plan Goal One – Future Programming. Over the past year, the Future Programming committee leaders, members and subcommittees have been developing ideas for flexible opportunities for students in experiential learning and exploration of the *Characteristics of a New Trier Graduate*. These include a four-year post-secondary portfolio, universal freshmen programming that maps their interests to their own New Trier experience, community and school-based internships and capstone projects for seniors, among others. While great progress has been made in these areas, the plan was to begin pilots next school year, however, it became clear in recent months that more work is needed to ensure a successful roll out. The District has decided to pause any full grade future programming initiatives for a year with implementation planned for the 27-28 school year. Part of these plans included moving non-AP science classes to a single period instead of two. The change to single-period non-AP science courses will also pause for a year and will start with the 27-28 school year. This change in timing will give the District the space and time to engage all teachers, students, advisers, and families so they can understand and take advantage of these new opportunities.

V. Communications

Ms. Hahn 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 Ms. Niki Dizon, Director of Communications. Ms. Hahn stated that due to the number of issues which must be considered at the Board Meeting, commenters should limit their statement to three minutes per Board Policy 2-230. Likewise, if a comment requires a response, either Ms. Hahn or an administrator will contact the commenter in the days following the meeting. Questions and comments should address the Board of Education as a whole only. No comments should be directed to an individual Board member, audience, principals, or other staff members. No complaints against individual employees are allowed during a Board of Education Meeting. She also asked that the audience refrain from clapping or a response of any kind regarding people's comments. There was one request for public comment.

1. Carina Brown, student, shared about joining the Centro Romero club and included thoughts on the pause of some clubs, such as this one, due to the current political environment.
2. Keith Dronen, community member and former Board member, shared comments on maintaining New Trier's membership in TrueNorth. He thanked Dr. Johnson and Mr. Das for all their work on TrueNorth, among other comments.

Dr. Johnson also acknowledged Dr. Joanne Panopoulos', Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Student Services and Ms. Megan Zajac's, Director of Special Education, and Dr. Tragos' work on TrueNorth as well.

VI. Special Orders of Business

A. New Course Proposals

Dr. Chimille Tillery, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, presented the new course proposals. They will be up for approval at the December Board meeting and will go into the Program of Studies for the 26-27 school year. Dr. Tillery provided an overview of the new course proposal process, noting that they are ideas from teachers and departments who want to provide real world experiences for students, require changes in standards and meet Annual Plan goals. There are five new courses and 15 minor course changes, most of which are name changes, duration changes, and/or level changes. At New Trier, the school is in a constant cycle of curriculum review and improvement and there is a thorough vetting process and feedback cycle. Each course is aligned to the Annual Plan as it has been built into the New Course Proposal process. Dr. Tillery highlighted a focus on career-connected learning, opportunities for experiential learning, expansion of semester options, and increased access to AP courses.

Dr. Tillery went through each of the five new course proposals sharing the program highlights, course structure, requirements, and Annual Plan alignment. New courses included Teaching Internship 101 and 102, AP Literature and Composition: Postcolonial Literature, AP Seminar: IGSS English, AP Research: IGSS English and Personal Training. She then went on to briefly share about the 15 existing course changes, including three name changes, eight duration changes, one course level change, two course name and duration changes, and one course “open to” change. Dr. Tillery then invited questions and comments from the Board.

Ms. Pofcher inquired, regarding the AP Research: IGSS English course, if there was a national AP Research course or test as IGSS has a more free-form structure, she wondered how it fit into something established. Dr. Tillery shared that they align very well, noting that AP Research and AP Seminar have been around for several years and IGSS determined how it would align with the interdisciplinary work that they do.

Ms. Tomlinson shared that she is a big proponent of the semester-long courses and appreciates the school’s shift into that as they will allow students to take more curricular chances and explore areas of interest. She also was excited to see the two career-connected learning opportunities in the teaching internships new course proposal and the personal training one and looks forward to hearing how well subscribed those classes are.

Ms. McDonough echoed Ms. Tomlinson’s comments regarding the addition of semester-long classes. She noted that the Board continuously hears from students and families about how important this is to them in terms of exploring different interests and having some flexibility in their schedules, so she thanked Dr. Tillery and others for championing this. Highlighting the teaching internships, she noted it was a great way for students to get hands-on experience and connect with the community.

Ms. Hahn thanked Dr. Tillery for the report and noted it is always heartening to see how much care, consideration, and collaboration goes into this process of developing the courses. It also speaks to what makes New Trier exceptional – its faculty and how teachers who have been teaching a long time continue to think of ways to make the student experience even better. Their commitment to life-long learning is reflected in these documents. She thanked faculty and department leaders for all their work on this.

***B. 2026-2027 Full School Year Calendar and 2027-2028 Initial Calendar**

Dr. Tragos presented the 2026-2027 Full School Year Calendar and the 2027-2028 Initial Calendar. The calendar is created and reviewed by a variety of groups across the school as well as the District’s sender schools. He went on to share highlights from this calendar including that parent-teacher conferences will take place the week of Thanksgiving and will continue to be virtual. There are also 60 hours of professional development time built into the school year. The sequence of the April state testing days will differ by having the test days back-to-back instead of two days over two weeks. This not only benefits students with extended time, but it also benefits the school’s schedule and proctoring.

The 27-28 initial calendar includes the start and end dates, along with major holidays, which allows for better planning for students, families, and staff. This calendar has also been created in collaboration with the sender schools.

Ms. McDonough encouraged the District to move graduation a bit later as it may cause conflict for those families who also have college graduations to attend.

Ms. Pofcher moved, and Mr. Das seconded the motion that the Board of Education approves the 2026-2027 Full School Year Calendar and the 2027-2028 Calendar Outline as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Ms. Pofcher, Ms. Tomlinson, Mr. Das, Mr. Lee, Ms. McDonough, Ms. Hahn

NAY:

ABSENT: Ms. Alcantara

VII. Administrative Items

A. Treasurer’s Report for October 2025

Dr. Johnson provided the Treasurer’s Report for October 2025, noting that tax bills were issued and are due December 15th. Typically, disbursements begin three weeks after bills are issued, which would be before December

15th however, the variable this year is that there may be changes in disbursing the funds due to the system upgrade. The District will watch this carefully, along with keeping an eye on its cash flow. The weighted interest is 4.11% for PMA and 4.27% for Fifth Third. Fund balances for all accounts total \$94,066,997.

B. Financial Report for October 2025

Dr. Johnson then provided the Financial Report for October 2025. Operating revenue for the first four months of the Fiscal Year 2026 was \$5.6 million or 91% lower compared to \$66 million last year. The adopted budget for operating revenue is only slightly higher than last year. As the property tax revenue arrives, this will start to equalize over the coming months.

Operating expenditures through October were \$32,500,000 or 0.73% lower than last year's. The adopted budget for operating expenses is 1.52% higher for the year, but the District anticipates that will equalize as well later in the year. Fund book balances for all accounts were \$98,073,106 as of October 31st.

Ms. Tomlinson followed up on the Treasurer's Report by inquiring when the District will receive funds that are held in escrow. Dr. Johnson shared that Cook County is unique in that they distribute funds when they have an accumulation and not on a set schedule. Dr. Johnson shared further information, noting one can see on the treasurer's office website if their funds are committed to be paid by their bank. The process that Dr. Johnson explained can take much of the three weeks he noted in his report. Discussion continued between the two and Dr. Johnson shared that from his perspective, he wants to see cash coming in before winter break, so the District has adequate liquidity for its expenses.

Ms. Hahn inquired if there is any confidence that the District will not face this again next year. Dr. Johnson complemented Cook County, noting it is a huge project that was undertaken for the right reasons. While Dr. Johnson is unsure what is next in the County's process, the District will monitor all of this carefully and will speak with the Finance Committee about pausing long-term investments for the foreseeable future, so money is not locked up in a portfolio.

***C. Public Hearing: 2025 Tax Levy**

Ms. Hahn called the Public Hearing of the 2025 Tax Levy to order at 7:21 p.m. Dr. Johnson presented on the 2025 Preliminary Tax Levy which is filed in November and is for taxes collected by the District in 2026. It is a two-step process with the approval of the preliminary levy that took place last month and the approval of the final levy this evening. He noted that there are no changes from the prior month and went on to summarize some of the important points of the levy.

It is based on the extension from the previous year times the 2024 CPI of 2.9% plus the value of tax revenue from new property. The levy funds the 25-26 and 26-27 school years. It also complies with the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL) which limits the increase to the lesser of 5% or CPI. The value of new property is unknown until June and is therefore estimated. The proposed levy is higher than the actual levy to ensure that new property can be taxed. The projected increase in the levy for this year is 3.31% which is based on currently issued debt. The final amount will be determined by the county once the new property is known in June. The debt service levy will be updated based on the District's outstanding bonds.

The average homeowner should experience an increase of less than or about 2.9% on the New Trier portion of their tax bill. While the value of one's home may increase, particularly in a reassessment year, the District levy does not increase by that amount and the District's tax rate will fall as the value of one's property rises. Dr. Johnson went on to share further details about this topic and then discussed the programs that the levy dollars support. The District is proud of its history of balanced budgets and after the 2003 referendum, the District committed to five years of no referendum, and that original commitment has extended to 22 years. The District carefully manages cost on an annual basis and has no plans for a referendum at this time. Dr. Johnson then shared about the awards the District has received for its financial stewardship. He spoke about how the levy has supported the District's facilities work, maintained appropriate reserves, particularly as the District sees a delay in property tax bills, among other areas. The levy will play a key role in presenting a balanced budget next year. Dr. Johnson thanked the Board and community for their support.

Ms. McDonough moved, and Mr. Das seconded the motion that the Board of Education move to adjourn the public hearing concerning the 2025 Tax Levy. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Mr. Das, Mr. Lee, Ms. McDonough, Ms. Pofcher, Ms. Tomlinson, Ms. Hahn

NAY:

ABSENT: Ms. Alcantara

The motion passed. The public hearing was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

***D. 2025 Tax Levy Approval**

Ms. McDonough moved, and Mr. Das seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the 2025 Tax Levy as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Mr. Lee, Ms. McDonough, Ms. Pofcher, Ms. Tomlinson, Mr. Das, Ms. Hahn

NAY:

ABSENT: Ms. Alcantara

The motion passed.

E. TrueNorth Cooperative Membership Discussion

Dr. Johnson presented on the TrueNorth Cooperative Membership, noting it is a special education cooperative that serves students from 18 member districts in Cook and Lake Counties. Last year, TrueNorth and its 18 member districts began a process to assess the future of the cooperative. There was general agreement that the interests of the cooperative and the member districts were not aligned, and most member districts indicated that they would prefer to withdraw from the cooperative, including New Trier. This led to a thoughtful discussion about the cooperative, and how this organization, which has served students since 1960, may exist, if at all, in the future. A subgroup of the 18 districts took the lead in thinking about what the next steps could be, in close collaboration with TrueNorth leadership and the other member districts. The outcome is that the member districts believe there is a path forward for the organization that is in the best interest of New Trier, and almost all other member districts are expected to agree to this as well.

The highlights of the plan include an elimination of membership fees for member districts, and a shift to paying for only the services that districts use. The implementation of a new governance structure – the Executive Council, comprised of the superintendents of the member districts – will better align TrueNorth with the needs of its individual member districts. It centers the program around a therapeutic day school and meeting the identified needs of students at member districts. This will also allow for streamlined staffing while using resources in a way that is in the best interest of students and efficient to members.

Last spring, the Administration recommended that New Trier withdraw from TrueNorth, but now, Dr. Johnson shared that the District believes it is in its best interest to remain a member. New Trier was a founding member of TrueNorth in 1959 and is pleased to recommend that the District continue as a part of it in this next chapter.

Mr. Das, the Board liaison to the TrueNorth Leadership Council, thanked those who helped guide the cooperative to a renewed vision to do better for students. He shared there was a conscious effort to understand the strong legacy of New Trier as a founding member of the Cooperative's structure while recognizing that what may have been good a generation or more ago, may not be the best way forward without a conscious effort to consider what today's best practices are while being a responsible member and steward for providing the best educational experience for every student. He echoed former Board member, Mr. Keith Dronen, who shared public comments earlier in the meeting. Mr. Das succeeded Mr. Dronen as the liaison to the Cooperative and thanked him for his work in sharing with Mr. Das the enriching work of TrueNorth. After further comments, Mr. Das shared his appreciation for how New Trier thoughtfully thought what withdrawal looks like as well as why it is in the District's best interest to remain a member of TrueNorth and offered his full support for remaining a member of the Cooperative.

Dr. Panopoulos thanked everyone for their work on this. She shared further details about the work of the reorganization committee, noting that Ms. Zajac is also on the committee.

Ms. Hahn thanked Mr. Das, on behalf of the Board, for all his work on this and went on to share additional comments.

***F. Resolution providing for the issue of not to exceed \$15,000,000 General Obligation School Bonds of Township High School District Number 203, Cook County, Illinois, for the purpose of altering, reconstructing and repairing school facilities and purchasing and installing equipment therein for fire prevention and safety, energy conservation and school security purposes, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, and authorizing the sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof.**

Dr. Johnson presented on the resolution providing for the issue of not to exceed \$15,000,000 General Obligation School Bonds of Township High School District Number 203, Cook County, Illinois, for the purpose of altering, reconstructing and repairing school facilities and purchasing and installing equipment therein for fire prevention and safety, energy conservation and school security purposes, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, and authorizing the sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof. Dr. Johnson mentioned last month, in collaboration with its architects, that the District has identified a series of important Health Life Safety (HLS) items to address over the next two years at the Northfield and Winnetka Campuses. Following a detailed review with the Finance and Facilities Committees review this fall, which included a careful review of funding mechanisms, the administration recommends that these items be addressed now. Some Facility Steering Committee members also toured parts of the building that people do not normally see but are critical to the safe and secure operations of the buildings.

The projects include the replacement of outdated critical electrical infrastructure dating from the 1950s and 1960s, the replacement of mechanical/HVAC systems installed in the 1960s, and security upgrades, including new door-locking hardware and enhancements to the clock, bell, and public address systems. These projects will be funded by an issuance of HLS bonds. Last month, a public hearing was held on the issuance of these bonds and the HLS amendments were approved by the Board and subsequently approved by the State of Illinois. Tonight's final step before the issuance of the debt is the approval of this resolution.

The District remains committed to maintaining a safe, reliable and high-quality learning environment for students and staff. By continuing to address these issues, it allows us to improve conditions for students, ensure reliability of critical systems that impact the functionality of the school and safety, and benefit from a lower cost of construction in present dollars and financing benefits in conjunction with issuance of existing debt. Dr. Johnson also noted that there were no changes with this item.

Ms. Pofcher moved, and Mr. Das seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the resolution providing for the issue of not to exceed \$15,000,000 General Obligation School Bonds of Township High School District Number 203, Cook County, Illinois, for the purpose of altering, reconstructing and repairing school facilities and purchasing and installing equipment therein for fire prevention and safety, energy conservation and school security purposes, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, and authorizing the sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Ms. McDonough, Ms. Pofcher, Ms. Tomlinson, Mr. Das, Mr. Lee, Ms. Hahn

NAY:

ABSENT: Ms. Alcantara

The motion passed.

VIII. Consent Agenda

- Bill List for Period, October 1 - 31, 2025
- Personnel Report (Appointments, Resignation, Retirements, Stipends - Appointments, Stipends - Separation, Stipends List for Fall 2025, and Administrator Contract)
- Winnetka Campus North and Tower Building Construction Report #4
- Resolution abating the taxes heretofore levied for the year 2025 to pay debt service on the General Obligation School Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2024A, and General Obligation School Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2021A, of Township High School District Number 203, Cook County, Illinois.
- Rescission of Intent to Withdraw from TrueNorth Educational Cooperative #804

Ms. Hahn inquired if any members wanted to pull an item off the Consent Agenda, no one chose to do so. Mr. Lee moved that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda, which includes: Bill List for Period, October 1 - 31, 2025; Personnel Report (Appointments, Resignation, Retirements, Stipends - Appointments, Stipends - Separation, Stipends List for Fall 2025, and Administrator Contract); Winnetka Campus North and Tower Building Construction Report #4; Resolution abating the taxes heretofore levied for the year 2025 to pay debt service on the General Obligation School Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2024A, and General Obligation School Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2021A, of Township High School District Number 203, Cook County, Illinois; and the Rescission of Intent to Withdraw from TrueNorth Educational Cooperative #804. Mr. Das seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Ms. Pofcher, Ms. Tomlinson, Mr. Das, Ms. Lee, Ms. McDonough, Ms. Hahn

NAY:

ABSENT: Ms. Alcantara

IX. Board Member Reports

Ms. Pofcher attended the **Facilities Steering Committee** and shared about the facility's tour that Dr. Johnson had mentioned earlier at the Northfield campus.

Mr. Das had nothing further to report on the **TrueNorth Leadership Council** but noted that their next meeting is on Wednesday.

Ms. Tomlinson shared that the **Environmental Committee** met on November 12th. She reported that some Go Green Illinois schools collaborated with New Trier's environmental professional learning collaborative. Over 20 educators met with New Trier faculty to learn more about the District's outdoor garden, solar installation, the rainwater capture system, and to hear about the sustainability framework. One area of discussion that took place was how to bring environmental concepts into the classroom. One example is the presentation by Mr. Tom Dawlidowicz, Assistant Director of Facilities, to an AP German class in German about the school's solar program. Mr. Dawlidowicz also shared with the committee about several initiatives that physical plant services are working on that will make a positive environmental impact. The Village of Winnetka is developing a Climate Action Plan having recently hired a Sustainability Coordinator. Dr. Johnson and other members of the New Trier team have provided invaluable guidance as the Village embarks on its first solar project. Students also attend this committee, and the goal is to find a time when the committee can meet in-person.

Ms. McDonough attended the **New Trier Parents Association (NTPA)** on November 4th where several items were shared such as having room parents manage advisory funds, NTPA will now partner with GPS Parent Series instead of FAN, and there will also be a webinar with the District's technology department on how to responsibly use AI.

Ms. McDonough attended the **New Trier Fine Arts Association (NTFAA)** meeting on November 12th in Ms. Alcantara's absence. NTFAA has already supported \$10,500 in grants for New Trier this year. The dance department shared how they are using the grant funds. The group also heard from a student scholar.

Ms. McDonough also attended the **Security Committee** meeting earlier today where the group discussed what was learned from the lock down drills at Winnetka, Northfield and Glencoe. They also worked through two case studies of security issues.

Mr. Lee noted that the **Booster Club** met last month and that as the principals mentioned earlier, sports teams and individuals are performing well. The Booster Club's Instagram presence now has over 2,500 followers. They encouraged engagement with social media, and they are looking for volunteers as well for the basketball games. The Booster Benefit is likely to take place in late January/February and are looking for donated auction items. The club shared their appreciation for Dr. Tragos' official unveiling of paddle as an intramural sport.

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

Dr. Tragos highlighted the following events:

- Lagniappe Potpourri presents *Willy Wonka* which runs Thursday through Saturday.
- Next Monday and Tuesday are virtual parent-teacher conferences.

- There is no school next Wednesday through Friday due to Thanksgiving.
- The next Board meeting is Monday, December 8th with the Recognition Program just prior to it.
- End of Semester Experiences begin on December 16th.
- Dr. Tragos wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving and restful break.

Ms. Hahn then inquired whether there were any requests for staff research or future agenda items, of which there were none.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Das moved, and Ms. McDonough seconded the motion, to adjourn. Upon a voice vote being taken, all members indicated they were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsey Ruston, Secretary

Jean Hahn, President