

Construction update: new wing to be unveiled in Sept.

Additions to NT continue as students and staff look forward to more changes

by Lexi Shoup

New Trier has been under construction since spring of 2015 and is now well into Phase Two.

The project is on schedule to be finished for the start of the 2017-2018 school year.

Phase Two, which started during the summer of 2016, comprises of the demolition of both the 1912 Cafeteria and the 1950 Music building and completing construction of the second half of the addition.

Construction has gone as planned so far, with the exception of a few small obstacles.

According to Steve Linke, New Trier's Facilities Manager, there were some issues with the soil being too soft to build on.

"We discovered some unsuitable soils while excavating for the new access road north of the building," Linke said.

They had to remove the soft soil and replace it with good fill, suitable soil taken from under the old Tech Arts Building.

Additionally, during the first phase of construction they found that the original drawings of the buildings were not completely accurate.

"We found that the existing foundations in the area where the 1932, 1934, and 1957 buildings meet were not what was shown on the original drawings," Linke said.

To remedy the situation, they had to build a system to temporarily support the 1957 building while a new concrete foundation was put in place.

By far the biggest obstacle for the construction has been relocating people and programs into their temporary spaces. "Many hours were spent by the New Trier Administration, Staff, and our contractors to make this happen. We also had to temporarily relocate where the school receives deliveries," Linke said.

There have been some complaints about noise and inconvenience in general, but most students and staff are used to the construction by now.

Demolition and heavy construction were scheduled during the summers while students and staff are out of the building to lessen the noise pollution while school is in session.

Linke is grateful for the success they've had so far and acknowledges that some of that success can be attributed to a mild winter and minimal complaints from students and staff.



Phase two of construction is set to be completed by the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year in Sept. | Josellis

"I think everyone is trying to be positive and look ahead to the great new spaces that have/will come online" he said.

The changes students have to look forward to next year are pretty drastic. On the outside of the building, the trailers, fences, and construction sites will all be gone and there will be a new entrance on the north side of the school connecting Essex Road to Woodland Avenue.

Gone will be the construction barriers inside, and the entire concourse will be revealed which is more than twice the size it is now.

Both the McGee and Hayes-McCausland theaters will be complete and the new music and

performing arts spaces will be finished. There will be a new hallway in the basement near Health Services connecting the new and old buildings.

Finally, there will be new bathrooms on the third and fourth floors in addition to newly renovated rest rooms in the lower level.

Junior Jack Mosele likes the new building so far, "I do like the changes made so far, especially the brightness and openness of the new wing. It gives a more positive atmosphere" he said. Junior Sophie White agrees, "I'm really excited to see how it all turns out, I think the new section is really cool and makes our school look a lot nicer" she said.

The first phase of construction

involved the demolition of the 1931 Tech Arts Building and the construction of the first half of the new addition. Students have already seen the new library, cafeteria, student commons, and many of the 25 new core academic classrooms.

The addition will provide space for growing engineering, music, theater, and art programs at New Trier. Keeping the same footprint of land, the construction is doubling the usable building space of the campus.

Information about construction including weekly updates can be found at the New Trier website on the "Winnetka Campus Facilities Project" page.

Tragos replaces Sally as Asst. Supt.

Linda Yonke to be replaced by Paul Sally, Sally to be replaced by Tragos

by Jesse McCauley

After thirteen years in the district, Linda Yonke announced her retirement, which gave opportunities to fellow administration members Paul Sally and Peter Tragos to replace her position.

Paul Sally, who currently works as the Associate Superintendent, will replace Yonke, and his successor will be Peter Tragos, the current Assistant Principal at Northfield.

Yonke said she is thrilled with the two recent promotions.

"To see two great teachers elevated to positions of leadership in the district is wonderful because I know that they will continue the great tradition of hiring strong teachers."

Sally and Tragos both started their careers as teachers. Sally began his career in 1994 as a math teacher and Tragos taught in the Social Studies department. Throughout their experience, Sally and Tragos developed a similar admiration for New Trier.

"For the past twenty-two years, New Trier has been my home, and I can't wait to further serve the people who make it such a special place," said Sally.

He has enjoyed his job as Associate Superintendent and attributes this to the students, teachers, and everyone involved in the community.

Sally has been thankful to be Yonke's associate. "Dr. Yonke has been a wonderful mentor to me for the past nine years that I have been in administration. She is a truly dedicated educator and tremendous leader," Sally said.

The relationship works both ways. Yonke said, "He is my right hand person. We have an interesting dynamic when we're in meetings because we push each other. You need



Superintendent Paul Sally and assistant superintendent Peter Tragos | NT Site that in a position like mine."

Now, Tragos will become Sally's right hand man. And Sally is thrilled to have Tragos as his partner: "He has a wonderful, student-centered approach to curriculum and instruction. He is a natural leader and will prove to have a strong voice in this role," Sally said.

Tragos applied for Assistant Superintendent to continue his interest in curriculum and instruction. He looks forward to serving New Trier in a different way than he did as Assistant Principal.

"I'm really excited to have some influence on teaching and learning at exciting time in education," Tragos said.

To accomplish this goal, Tragos hopes to communicate with Sally in order to form a shared vision for the future. He knows that they will continue to have a healthy relationship. "The opportunity to work for Paul Sally is one of the great aspects of this position," he said.

Sally is also coming in with his own set of goals. Both he and Tragos recognize the changing education world, and their hopes to adapt. "We need to keep our community engaged and informed, and we also need to give support to each and every student so they can follow their passions," Sally said.

As Sally said, Tragos is a very student-oriented leader. Coming into

this new job, he wants to make sure he can emphasize the student experience as much as possible, while also communicating with those students.

"We are an academic institution, but we're also so much more than that. We aim to care for the whole child and we've made great progress in that area," he said.

Tragos acknowledges that New Trier is very well known for its academics, sports, and extracurriculars, but he's in search of what really makes this school a special place.

Sally believes it is the people. Putting all the rigor and prestige aside, he said that New Trier's uniqueness can be attributed to the entire community and administration.

As Yonke prepares to leave, she explains what she'll miss about her job. "Watching students perform here is an incredible experience because they're so talented and hard working. I'll miss the people most of all," she said.

Despite the sadness of leaving, Yonke is very confident in the future of the school. Looking at Sally and Tragos, she believes the school is in great hands. "It is important for the leadership of New Trier to be connected to the community and I know that they plan to do just that. They understand and love New Trier," she said.

Daniel Biss en route to governor of Illinois

Current IL state senator campaigns to end government corruption in Illinois

by Husnain Raza

Illinois State Senator Daniel Biss is running for the position of Illinois governor against other political heavyweights, while having a distinctly different background than the typical politician.

Before his career in politics, Biss was a mathematics professor at the University of Chicago and has published many papers dealing with various mathematical topics.

Using this experience, Biss assisted author John Green with the mathematical aspects in his book "An Abundance of Katherines."

In addition, Biss previously served as a member of the Illinois House of Representatives and is currently a member of the Illinois Senate. He represents the 9th district, which includes parts of Evanston, Glencoe, and Glenview.

As a popular political figure in Illinois, Biss has passed several laws dealing with topics such as equal rights for citizens, the economy and environmental issues.

Social studies teacher, Kerry Hall, invites Biss every year to speak to his political science class. Hall says that "[he thinks] the students find him to be thoughtful. He [Biss] thinks outside the box a bit, is eloquent, funny and a good problem solver."

According to Project Vote Smart, an organization that specializes in collecting the views of various politicians on controversial issues, one of the major goals of Biss is to change the political climate of Illinois.

He also wants to expand state funding of public education, bring

real leadership and make sure that all policies are implemented to benefit all citizens.

He said, "We need to restore citizens' faith and participation in government and politics. This includes overhauling our campaign finance system, creating greater transparency and access to government, and rooting out corruption and waste."

Hall agrees and thinks that one of the major issues with Illinois is the budget crisis. He said "If he were to become governor, the budget [would be] issue number one, number two, and number three, and it's not easy to deal with."

Hall added, "Illinois can't borrow money, and it's very expensive for Illinois to borrow money. There's all kinds of people being hurt in social services, it's a disaster and embarrassment."

Biss' campaign will face a challenge from other well known democrats like Chris Kennedy and J.B. Pritzker. "One of the most interesting opponents of Biss in the primary is Chris Kennedy, who happens to be the nephew of President John F. Kennedy. I think he'll have a lot more name recognition in the North Shore and will have a financial head start," said Hall.

Regardless of whether or not that will be a hinderance, running for governor is no small feat. "It's a tough job to run for governor. You have to go to every county, visit the small towns in southern Illinois and talk about guns, and then you have to talk about gangs in Chicago, along with education, pensions, budget, healthcare, roads and infrastructure - all sorts of issues you have to be on top of," Hall said.

However, Hall has a strong belief that Biss has what it takes. He said, "I think he has the smarts to understand the issues fairly well and I think he'd like to work with leadership in the House and the Senate, and if he can, we'll have a budget."