

**NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**School Board Minutes**

School Board Meeting  
November 26, 2007  
Northfield High School Media Center

- I. Call to Order.  
Chairperson Kari Nelson called the meeting of the Board of Education of Independent School District 659 to order at 7:00 p.m. No one was absent.
- II. Agenda Changes.  
The table file was added.
- III. Public Comment.  
Claire Perrott spoke about her status on the girls' swimming and diving team and her desire to attend the end of the season banquet on November 27. Cathy Priess-Perrott read a letter sent to High School Principal Joel Leer on November 20 from herself and Larry Perrott regarding an incident on November 12 between their daughter, Claire, and the girls' swimming and diving head coach and the subsequent disciplinary action. In the letter, they asked that Claire be allowed to attend the end of season banquet along with her teammates.  
Several students spoke in support of Claire attending the banquet and her contributions to the swim team, including Kim Gallagher, Greta Klawiter-Lein, and the exchange student from Austria, Katrin Holl.  
A parent, Natalee Johnson, spoke in support of Claire as well. Nan Just, a member of the Activities Advisory Committee, asked that the Board direct that Committee to review the language used in the current Code of Responsibility as stated in the Co-Curricular Activities Handbook and, in addition, to study the consequences of various infractions.
- IV. Approval of Minutes.  
On a motion by Cirksena, seconded by Berthelsen, the minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on November 13, 2007, were approved.
- V. Announcements and Recognitions.
  - The school site specialist at Bridgewater, Mary Nelson, was recognized with an award from the McKnight Foundation. Mary is one of 10 Minnesotans who received the 2007 Virginia McKnight Binger Award in Human Service. This award honors individuals who, in the foundation's words, "have demonstrated an exceptional personal commitment to helping others in their communities but who have received little or no public recognition." Mary has worked for young people in Rice County as an editor and designer for MELD, a social service organization focused on parenting and child development. She also has been a foster parent of more than 75 children.
  - Tattered Pages, the middle school's used bookstore, will be featured in the Metro Section of the Minneapolis Tribune on Sunday, December 2.
  - Cathy Penning, vocal music teacher at the middle school, reports that the trip to the state music convention in Duluth by the 7th and 8th grade choirs was a valuable experience for these students.
  - The girls' swimming and diving team competed at the State Meet on Nov 16-17. McKenna Jones placed 6th in the State in the 500 freestyle and qualified for All-State honors. Siobhan Lyons placed 11th in the diving finals. The Girl Gators are coached by Michelyn Baker.
  - The District Educational Program Advisory Committee (DEPAC) has begun to meet. There are several new people on the Committee. It's good to see that many of the goals in the School Improvement Plans are an outgrowth of the DEPAC goals.
  - The commemorative plaque is now in place at old Memorial Field, the current site of the outdoor swimming pool. The plaque honors the contribution of this space to the School District by the American Legion.

VI. Items for Discussion and / or Reports

1. Site Continuous Improvement Plan Presentations.

Northfield Middle School (Jeff Pesta and Kathy Wise) and Bridgewater (Nancy Antoine) and Greenvale Park (Dave Craft) Elementary Schools presented their site continuous improvement plans to the Board.

2. Preliminary Audit Results and Discussion of Fund Balance Designations.

Tom Stringer shared the preliminary results of the 2006-07 financial audit. The audit fieldwork is complete and the auditor is in the process of putting together the report for a formal presentation at the December 10, 2007 School Board meeting. There is positive news in the General Operating Fund. The District will finish ahead of plan as of June 30, 2007. The planned/budgeted unreserved-undesignated fund balance for June 30, 2007 was a negative \$214,625. Preliminary results show that the District will finish the year in the black with a positive fund balance of \$27,666 after two designations are made. The first designation is to set aside an initial amount to meet future unfunded liabilities for retiree benefit costs. The District is currently working with an actuarial firm to calculate the OPEB (Other Post Employment Benefits) amount to be reported by June 30, 2008. The second designation is to set aside funds to cover potential, unbilled special education tuition for 2006-07.

VII. Superintendent's Report

A. Items for Individual Action

1. School Board Policies.

On a motion by Smith, seconded by Stratmoen, the Board approved the following policies as presented.

Policy 513.3	Advanced Grade Placement
Policy 602	Organization of School Calendar and School Day
Policy 605	Alternative Programs

2. Inclusive Schools Week.

On a motion by Smith, seconded by Cirksena, the Board approved the following Inclusive Schools Week Proclamation.

WHEREAS; The week of December 3-7, 2007, has been declared as *INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS WEEK*; and

WHEREAS; Northfield Public Schools is committed to providing an education in schools and classrooms that are welcoming of all children;

WHEREAS; The educators of Northfield Public Schools recognize that each child is unique, learns differently, and, therefore, learns better if teaching is tailored to their abilities and interests; and

WHEREAS; The educators and families of Northfield Public Schools have been working hard to ensure that our classrooms and schools are characterized as being high performing and inclusive; and

WHEREAS; By their efforts to make our schools and classrooms high performing and inclusive, the educators and families of Northfield Public Schools have contributed significantly to building a stronger and more inclusive community; and

WHEREAS; The educators and families of Northfield Public Schools deserve to celebrate their successes and wish to reflect on how they might even further improve;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That Northfield Public Schools join with schools, districts and communities across the United States in declaring the week of December 3-7, 2007, as *INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS WEEK*.

B. Items for Consent Grouping.

On a motion by Hargis, seconded by Stratmoen, the Board approved the following items listed under the Consent Grouping.

1. Financial Reports - October 2007.

The Board approved paid bills totaling \$1,954,874.44, payroll checks totaling \$1,849,344.37, bond payment totaling \$402.50 and the financial reports for October 2007.

2. Personnel Items.

a. Appointments\*\*

1. Sharon Johnson, Special Ed Educational Assistant Job Coach at the High School for 3.0 hours/day, beginning November 15, 2007, Class III, step 1.
2. Angela Timperley, Special Ed Educational Assistant Job Coach at the High School for 7.0 hours/day, beginning November 12, 2007, Class III, step 1.
3. Lindsay Rimpila, Administrative Support Assistant at Bridgewater Elementary School beginning November 26, 2007, Class IV, step 1.
4. Lily Thiboutot, Site Leader After School Enrichment Grant at Bridgewater and Greenvale Park, for 12.0 hours/week beginning November 28, 2007, \$13.08/hour. There are no benefits with this position.
5. Lee Davis, Site Assistant for After School Enrichment Grant at Bridgewater and Greenvale Park, for 6.0 hours/week beginning November 28, 2007 through June 5, 2008, \$10.50/hour. There are no benefits with this position.
6. Co-Curricular Assignments  
Joel Johnson, Assistant Alpine Ski Coach, split stipend for 11 days  
Hennessy Wadell, Assistant Alpine Ski Coach, split stipend for 7 days  
Greg Schultz, Assistant Alpine Ski Coach, split stipend for 7 days  
Craig Hall, Assistant Alpine Ski Coach, split stipend for 7 days

b. Increase/Decrease in Hours/Change in Assignment for Non-licensed Staff

1. Huy Bui, transfer from long-term sub Special Ed EA to Special Ed Educational Assistant – PCA, for 6.75 hours per day beginning November 19, 2007, Class III, step 1.
2. Huy Bui, Site Assistant for After School Enrichment Grant at Bridgewater and Greenvale Park, for 6.0 hours per week beginning November 28, 2007 through June 5, 2008, \$10.50/hour. This is in addition to his Educational Assistant hours.
3. Joanne Larson, Special Ed Educational Assistant, add 2.0 hours for busing on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Friday and 1.0 hour per day on Monday and Wednesday, beginning November 26, 2007 through June 5, 2008. Ms. Larson currently works 14.0 hours per week.
4. Linda Wasner, Special Ed Educational Assistant, add 1.0 hour per day, 4 days per week, for busing from November 19, 2007 through June 5, 2008.
5. Martha Waddell, Special Ed Educational Assistant, increase from 6.75 to 7.35 hours per day for busing, from November 19, 2007 through June 5, 2008.
6. Yolanda Loken, Special Ed Educational Assistant, increase from 5.75 to 6.35 hours per day for busing, from November 19, 2007 through June 5, 2008.
7. Yolanda Loken, EarlyVentures Site Assistant, reduce from 6.0 to 4.0 hours per week beginning October 15, 2007
8. Vanessa Grave, 11.0 hours per week as a Site Assistant at Bridgewater beginning November 16, 2007. This is in addition to her Site Leader position for 15.0 hours per week.
9. Elizabeth Stahly, EarlyVentures Site Assistant, reduce hours from 29.75 to 23.5 hours per week beginning October 15, 2007.
10. Victoria Cortes, EarlyVentures Site Assistant, reduce from 26.5 to 17.0 hours per week beginning October 15, 2007.

11. Allison Boran, EarlyVentures Site Assistant, reduce from 40.0 to 32.5 hours per week beginning October 15, 2007.
  12. Tami Brings, EarlyVentures Site Assistant, reduce from 35.0 to 24.5 hours per week beginning October 15, 2007.
  13. Brianne Clark, EarlyVentures Site Assistant, reduce from 40.0 to 37.0 hours per week beginning October 15, 2007.
  14. Christina Trump, EarlyVentures Site Assistant, reduce from 39.5 to 36.0 hours per week beginning October 15, 2007.
  15. Ann Schmidt, Food Service Associate I at the NCRC, reduce from 16.25 to 13.0 hours per week (Monday-Thursday). Ms. Schmidt will continue the 17.5 hours per week at the High School.
  16. Sue Keppers, transfer from 3.0 hours per day FSA I to 5.75 hours per day FSA II at Middle School from September 4, 2007 through June 5, 2008.
  17. Hannah Basinger, Site Assistant for After School Enrichment Grant at Bridgewater, for 3.0 hours per week beginning November 28, 2007 through June 5, 2008; and 1.5 hours per week for Targeted Services. \$10.50/hour. This is in addition to her Educational Assistant hours.
  18. Bonnie Klamm, Site Assistant for After School Enrichment Grant at Bridgewater, for 3.0 hours per week beginning November 28, 2007 through June 5, 2008. \$11.05/hour. This is in addition to her Educational Assistant hours.
- c. Leaves of Absence
1. Kelli Vogel, 6-8 week leave of absence beginning November 26, 2007.
  2. Kathryn Lean, FMLA leave from November 12, 2007 through November 20, 2007.
  3. Janette Stromley, FMLA leave from November 15, 2007 through January 17, 2008.
- d. Resignations
1. Lisa Hovden, 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Track Coach, resignation.
  2. Huy Bui, resignation from long-term sub position. He has accepted a Special Ed EA position at Greenvale Park.
  3. Karyl Maier, resignation from Middle School ESL position, effective November 28, 2007.
- e. Professional Services Contract Between Northfield Public Schools and Beth Berry to execute the TORCH grants received from the Department of Higher Education and Title II, Office of Justice.

\*Lane placement subject to verification by the Professional Growth Committee

\*\*Conditional offers of employment are subject to successful completion of a criminal background check.

3. Ice Arena Agreement.

The rental agreement for 2007-08 was approved. The estimated costs are \$31,800. The amount is budgeted in the current operating budget.

VIII. Items for Information

1. School Board Policies.

The Board Policy Review Committee presented the following policies for review and comment. Discussion and final action by the School Board on these policies is scheduled for the December 10, 2007, regular School Board meeting.

Policy 655	School Volunteers
Policy 607	Organization of Grade Levels
Policy 608	Instructional Services - Special Education
Policy 609	Religion

On a motion by Smith, seconded by Hager, the Board recessed at 9:30 PM into a closed session in the District Office Conference Room to discuss information about a student disciplinary action that includes educational data protected by data privacy statutes.

On a motion by Smith, seconded by Cirksena, the Board returned to open session at 10:27 PM.

IX. On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Smith, the Board adjourned at 10:28 PM.

X. Future Meetings

Tuesday, December 4, 2007, 7:00 PM, Truth in Taxation Hearing,

Northfield High School Media Center

Monday, December 10, 2007, 6:30 PM, Reception for National Merit Scholars,

Northfield High School Cafeteria

**Please note time change:** Monday, December 10, 2007, **7:30 PM**, Regular School Board Meeting,

Northfield High School Media Center

Katy Hargis, Clerk