

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Minutes

School Board Meeting
February 11, 2008
Northfield High School Media Center

- I. Call to Order.
Chairperson Kari Nelson called the regular meeting of the Board of Education of Independent School District 659 to order at 7:00 p.m. Hager and Cirksena were absent.
- II. Agenda Changes.
The table file was added. The order of the agenda was changed. Individual action item #3 – Greenvale Park Elementary School Community Garden Project - will follow Announcements and Recognitions.
- III. Public Comment.
There was no one.
- IV. Approval of Minutes.
On a motion by Berthelsen, seconded by Smith, the minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on January 28, 2008, were approved.
- V. Announcements and Recognitions.
 - Ethan Christianson, a senior at Northfield High School, has been chosen as Minnesota's ***Yes I Can, Student of the Year*** by the MN Council for Exceptional Children.
 - The Middle School Science Olympiad team won regional competition.
 - Beth Berry was presented with the 2008 Human Rights Award for her work as the coordinator of TORCH (Tackling Obstacles and Raising College Hopes).
 - Bridgewater Principal Nancy Antoine thanked the high school students who assisted with the Kindness Retreat.
 - Board member Hargis recognized the work of Susan Sanderson, Youth Development Coordinator, who has resigned her position.
 - Congratulations to the Varsity Girls Hockey for a great season. Unfortunately, they lost in double overtime.
- VII. Superintendent's Report
 - A. 3. Greenvale Park Elementary School Community Garden Project.
After a brief presentation by Sheryl Joy and Dan Hudson, on a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Smith, the Board approved the continuation of the Greenvale Park Elementary School Community Garden Project and expansion of the garden space.
- VI. Items for Discussion and / or Reports
 1. Financial Forecast and Financial Advisory Committee Report.
The Financial Advisory Committee of the Board met on February 4, 2008 and reviewed the forecast. Tom Stringer presented to the Board the forecast and highlighted comments from the advisory group. The Advisory Committee affirmed the board's concern about future state revenue increases and the volatility of special education costs. The forecast includes the impact of the operating referendum passed in fall 2007 thru the 2013-14 fiscal year and projects a structural surplus for four years. The Committee indicated a desire to see a listing of revenue enhancements and expenditure reductions that have already been completed as well as a percentage breakdown of current budget categories. The Committee also discussed the idea of brainstorming a list of areas that could be studied to enhance revenues or slow the rate of expenditure growth. The Committee will meet one more time to develop a priority list. The following budget assumptions are included in the forecast:

- Stable enrollment
- State General Education formula increase of 1% and 2%
- No increase in Federal Aid revenue
- No increase in Special Ed revenue
- Operating referendum thru 2013-14
- Aggregate increase in expenditures of 4.03%
- Maintain a minimum fund balance of 5% of expenditures
- A staffing ratio at the same level as 2007-08

No board action was required.

VII. Superintendent's Report

A. Items for Individual Action

1. 2007-2008 Revised Budgets.

On a motion by Berthelsen, seconded by Hargis, the Board approved the revised budgets for 2007-2008 as presented.

2. Resolution Requiring the Administration to Make Recommendations Regarding Programming and Staffing for Next Year.

On a motion by Berthelsen, seconded by Smith, the Board authorized the administration to make recommendations for additions and reductions in program and for adding or discontinuing positions.

B. Items for Consent Grouping.

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

1. Overnight Student Field Trip Proposal.

The Board approved an overnight student field trip proposal for Area Learning Center students to go to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area June 6 - June 10, 2008.

2. Gift Agreement.

Sibley Elementary School received a \$1995.00 gift from the Nutting Family Fund of the Minnesota Community Foundation for Sibley's Kindness Retreat.

3. Community Services Advisory Council Appointment.

The Board appointed Elizabeth Beckius (Dundas) to the Community Services Advisory Council for a three-year term – 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-2010.

4. Personnel Items.

a. Appointments**

1. Kathy Lansing, Special Ed Educational Assistant, for 5.0 hours per day beginning February 8, 2008, Class III, step 1, pro-rated benefits.
2. Dan Rohr, Building Supervisor for Community Services, for up to 10 hours per week, 31 weeks per year, \$9.00 per hour. There are no benefits with this position.
3. James Stenglein, Drivers Education Classroom and Behind the Wheel Training Instructor, long-term substitute from February 11, 2008 through May 30, 2008. \$25.50 for Classroom, \$21.50 BTW. There are no benefits with this position.
4. Co-Curricular Assignments
 - Christopher Ganza, Middle School Musical (shared stipend, \$824)
 - Jana Schomburg, Middle School Musical (shared stipend, \$406)
 - Sarah Martens, Assistant Girls Basketball Coach – 10th Grade (shared stipend with Emileana Graupmann)
 - Ryan Pietsch, 9th Grade PT Assistant Softball Coach (Hourly)
 - Scott Peterson, Assistant Boys and Girls Track Coach

5. Cassandra Hollander, Site Assistant for KidVentures at Sibley for 5.0 hours/week beginning February 19, 2008, at an hourly rate of \$10.50. There are no benefits with this position.
 6. Tyler Zencka, Site Assistant for KidVentures PLUS at Greenvale Park for 1.75 hours per day from February 20, 2008 through June 5, 2008, at an hourly rate of \$10.50. There are no benefits with this position.
 7. Katherine Campbell, Site Assistant for KidVentures PLUS at Greenvale Park for 1.75 hours per day from February 20, 2008 through June 5, 2008, at an hourly rate of \$10.50. There are no benefits with this position.
 8. Margaret Hennessy, Site Assistant for KidVentures PLUS at Bridgewater for 1.75 hours per day from February 19, 2008 through June 5, 2008, at an hourly rate of \$10.50. There are no benefits with this position.
- b. Increase/Decrease in Hours/Change in Assignment for Staff
1. Michael Schlottman, Special Ed Educational Assistant, increase from 27.0 to 33.75 hours per week beginning February 1, 2008.
 2. Emileana Graupmann, Social Studies Teacher, add .2 for second semester only.
 3. Robert Sellers, transfer from Custodian Engineer at the High School to Head Custodian at Sibley Elementary School beginning February 11, 2008, \$18.71/hour, plus building and 1st class license stipends.
 4. Joanne Larson, Special Ed Educational Assistant, increase from 25.5 hours/week to 33.5 hours/week from January 12, 2008 through June 5, 2008.
 5. Tami Brings, Site Assistant at Longfellow, increase from 24.5 to 27.25 hours per week beginning February 11, 2008.
 6. Allison Boran, Site Assistant at Longfellow, increase from 32.5 to 35.5 hours per week beginning February 11, 2008.
 7. Victoria Cortes, Site Assistant at Longfellow, increase from 17.0 to 21.5 hours per week beginning February 11, 2008.
 8. Jessica Donahue, Site Assistant at Longfellow, increase from 14.0 to 31.0 hours per week beginning February 11, 2008.
 9. Sara Line, School Readiness Teacher, increase from 20.0 hours to 40.0 hours per week, beginning February 7, 2008.
- c. Leaves of Absence
1. Jennifer Streefland, FMLA-childcare leave from on or about May 31, 2008, through June 9, 2008.
 2. John Bade, intermittent FMLA leave of absence beginning January 30, 2008.
 3. Elizabeth Bade, intermittent FMLA leave of absence beginning January 30, 2008.
- d. Retirements/Resignations
1. Joann Nelson, Adult Enrichment and Facilities Coordinator, resignation effective February 8, 2008.
 2. Martha Brekken, Maintenance Secretary/District Office Receptionist, resignation effective February 15, 2008.
 3. Catherine Kowalewski, Sibley Site Specialist, resignation effective January 28, 2008.
 4. Kelli Meyer, ECFE Parent Educator, resignation effective February 29, 2008.
 5. Susan Sanderson, Youth Development Coordinator, resignation effective February 22, 2008.
 6. Scott Christensen, resignation from Assistant Boys and Girls Track Coach position.

*Lane placement subject to verification by the Professional Growth Committee

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

5. Acceptance of Grant Awards.

Northfield Middle School has received two grant awards to support Lockwood's Brightest Stars, a musical stage play to be performed on April 11 and 12. The first award is a \$2000 Artists in Education Grant through the Southeast Minnesota Arts Council. This grant supports the research and writing of the play as well as a residency for the playwright to work with the students. A second grant of \$1000 from the Minnesota Sesquicentennial Commission will support the arrangement of music for the play.

VIII. Items for Information

1. 2008-2009 School Year Calendar.

Following solicitation from a broad range of affected parties, the District's Meet and Confer committee met on January 31, 2008. The calendar being recommended is with consensus of the Meet and Confer Committee made up of teachers from each building, District representatives and School Board representatives. The Board will act on the recommendation of the Meet and Confer meeting at the February 25, 2008, school board meeting.

2. Alliance for Student Achievement 2008 Legislative Platform.

3. Enrollment Report – February 2008.

IX. Future Meetings

Monday, February 25, 2008, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting, Northfield High School Media Center

Monday, March 10, 2008, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting, Northfield High School Media Center

No meeting on March 24, 2008

Monday, April 14, 2008, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting, Northfield High School Media Center

X. Adjournment

On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Berthelsen, the Board adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Katy Hargis, Clerk