

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Minutes

School Board Meeting
March 9, 2009
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 pm. No one was absent.

II. Agenda Changes.

The table file was added.

III. Public Comment

There was none.

IV. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Iverson, seconded by Quinnell, the minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on February 23, 2009, were unanimously approved.

V. Announcements and Recognitions

- The NHS Jazz Band, under the direction of Ethan Frier toured the elementary schools on March 3rd and put on a fabulous show at each site for the elementary students and staff.
- During the week of February 23rd, Sibley 4th graders participated in the National Assessment of Educational Progress...also known as "The Nation's Report Card". Students answered test questions from the Reading, Math and Science disciplines.
- On March 7 the Northfield Middle School Science Olympiad team competed against 24 other teams from around the state at the University of St. Thomas. Several Northfield members placed in the top positions for their events. Advisors are Krista Betcher and Anne Jarvis.
- The High School Gymnastics Team, coached by Melissa Cummins, placed third at their State Meet last week.
- Thank you to staff and volunteers for spring parent-teacher conferences and to the parents who attended.
- Thank you to ARTech for hosting the end-of-the-season banquet for the Nordic Ski Team.

VI. Items for Discussion and / or Reports

1. ARTech Sponsorship Report.

The School District's sponsorship contract with ARTech expires on June 30, 2009. As a condition for contract renewal, ARTech was required to hire an independent team of evaluators and report the results of this team's evaluation to the School Board prior to any action that would extend the sponsorship. Cathy Tower Oehmke, a member of the Evaluation Team, presented the findings of the evaluation to the School Board on Monday evening and, based on these findings, recommended on behalf of the team, that the District's sponsorship contract with ARTech be renewed for a three-year period beginning July 1, 2009, and continuing to June 30, 2012. State statutes require the District to review and comment on ARTech's performance and then forward that analysis to the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) for their review and comment. Once MDE has completed their review, the District would receive authorization to vote on renewing District sponsorship of ARTech for the next three years. This means that the actual vote on renewal will be done in May or June.

2. 2009-2010 School Year Calendar Recommendation.

Building principals Scott Sannes and Joel Leer presented the following information concerning the revised 2009-10 school calendar recommendation.

- What are Professional Learning Communities.

- Professional Learning Communities Answer the Critical Questions of Learning.
- Why District Administration Believes in Professional Learning Communities.
- The District's PLC Journey.
- Why the Benefits of PLCs Outweigh the Loss of Instructional Time.
- The Accountability Plan.

A decision on the 2009-10 calendar will be made at the March 23rd Board meeting.

3. Proposed 2009-2010 Debt Service Budget.

The proposed Debt Service Budget was presented by Tom Stringer, Director of Business Affairs. The Debt Service Fund accounts for the School District's outstanding bonded indebtedness for past building construction and major capital projects. Revenues represent property tax levies, state credits, and a minor amount of interest. Expenditures represent principal and interest payments on bonds previously sold. The proposed budget will produce an annual, planned surplus of approximately \$253,000. No action was required by the Board.

4. Proposed 2009-2010 Trust Fund Budget.

The proposed Trust Fund Budget was also presented. The Trust Fund accounts for the money placed in trust with the District for specified purposes. The majority of the activity is for student scholarships. No action was required by the Board.

VII. Superintendent's Report

A. Items for Individual Action

There were no items.

B. Items for Consent Grouping.

On a motion by Berthelsen, seconded by Cirksena, the Board unanimously approved the following items listed under the Consent Grouping.

1. Grant Request.

The Board approved Community Services \$8413.02 grant request to the Northfield Area United Way for the Northfield Family School. If received, the grant would support 25% of the staffing costs for Family School, which is a free program for English as a Second Language adult learners and their children ages birth to five years old.

2. Personnel Items.

a. Leaves of Absence

1. Ann Hehr, extend intermittent leave through March 9, 2009.
2. Kevin Wunderlich, FMLA leave beginning March 18, 2009 and extending for up to 12 weeks.
3. Shari Hagen, intermittent FMLA leave beginning February 3, 2009 for up to 480 hours.
4. Amy Lunderby, leave of absence without pay from April 1, 2009 through June 5, 2009.

b. Increase or Decrease in Hours/Change in Position or Building for 2008-09

1. ReNae Trebelhorn, Special Ed Teacher, increase from 0.5 to 1.0 from February 25, 2009 – June 5, 2009.
2. Joyce Mode, Special Ed Educational Assistant, 6.75 hours per day, one day per week, position discontinued effective March 2, 2009.

c. Retirement

1. Marian Tise, Accounting Support Technician, retirement effective April 30, 2009. Ms. Tise has been with the district for over 21 years.

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d. Appointments**

1. Linda Cloud, Special Ed Educational Assistant at Sibley School for 5.0 hours per day, from March 24, 2009 – June 5, 2009, Class III, step 1. There are no benefits with this temporary position.
2. Co-Curricular Assignments
 - Jeanne Hanzlik, one extra class (Science) 2nd semester, with supervision
 - Eric Cameron, Middle School Track Assistant
 - Ellen Mucha, 6th-8th Grade Track Coach

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

VIII. Items for Information

1. Enrollment Report – March 2009.

IX. Future Meetings

Monday, March 23, 2009, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board meeting, Northfield High School Media Center

Monday, April 13, 2009, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board meeting, Northfield High School Media Center

- X. On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Maple, the Board adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Diane Cirksena, School Board Clerk