

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Minutes

School Board Meeting
October 26, 2009
Northfield High School Media Center

- I. Call to Order.
Vice Chairperson Noel Stratmoen called the regular meeting of the Board of Education of Independent School District 659 to order at 7:00 pm. Berthelsen and Nelson were absent.
- II. Agenda Changes.
The table file was added.
- III. Public Comment
There was none.
- IV. Approval of Minutes
On a motion by Quinnell, seconded by Maple, the minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on October 12, 2009, were unanimously approved.
- V. Announcements and Recognitions
 - Northfield High School has three National Merit Semi-Finalists. They are Brian Jacobel, Tessa Kolan and Quin Schultz. And eleven commended scholars: Jakob Anderson, Ellen Behrens, Thomas Dunning, Mark Emmons, Sara Jaramillo, Max Jennings, Theodore Meyer, Katherine Peterson, Laura Wadleigh, Josette West and Anya Zach. Congratulations to these students and their parents. There will be a reception for these students and their families before the November 23 Board meeting.
 - The School Board extends sympathy to Mike Berthelsen and his family on the death of Mike's father on October 23.
- VI. Items for Discussion and / or Reports
 1. ARTech Annual Report.
ARTech is in its sixth year of operation. The Director of ARTech, Simon Tyler, presented its 2008-2009 Annual Report. This plan fulfills state requirements for annual reporting as well as the District's request that each charter school authorized by the Northfield Public Schools present an annual report to the School Board. The Board authorized a new 3-year contract with ARTech last spring.
 2. Early Childhood Professional Learning Communities (PLC) Report.
Cheryl Hall discussed Longfellow's unique structure of the overall PLC, including the preliminary work that the group needed to accomplish before moving into the more typical PLC activities. Jacque Ims and Sara Line presented their PLC work on early childhood assessment. This was part of a monthly series of presentations highlighting the efforts of PLCs around the District.
 3. District and Greenvale Park Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Improvement Plans.
Because the District has four subgroups and Greenvale Park Elementary School has three subgroups who did not make adequate yearly progress for at least two years, No Child Left Behind (NCLB) and the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) requires the District to develop and submit plans that demonstrate our efforts to address the District and building needs that will help students in each of these subgroups to achieve proficiency at grade level by 2013-14. The plans were developed and reviewed by administrators, teachers and parents. The District plan was reviewed by the District Educational Program Advisory Council (DEPAC) on Monday, October 19th. The Board viewed a presentation by Superintendent Richardson on the plans.

VII. Superintendent's Report

A. Items for Individual Action

1. Resolution Authorizing The Approval Of The Sale Of General Obligation School Building Refunding Bonds.

On a motion by Iverson, seconded by Maple, the Board unanimously approved the Resolution Authorizing the Approval of the Sale General Obligation School Building Refunding Bonds; Covenanting and Obligating the District to be Bound By and to Use the Provisions of Minnesota Statutes, Section 126C.55 to Guarantee the Payment of the Principal and Interest on the Bonds. Voting 'yes' was Quinnell, Pritchard, Iverson, Maple and Stratmoen. No one voted 'no.' Berthelsen and Nelson were absent.

B. Items for Consent Grouping.

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

1. District and Greenvale Park AYP Improvement Plans.

The Board granted the Superintendent the authority to submit the District and Building Improvement Plans to the Southeast Service Cooperative (SSC) and the Minnesota Department of Education prior to November 1, 2009.

2. Grant Applications.

Two grant requests will be submitted to the Northfield Area Foundation by Sibley Elementary School:

- \$2095 is being requested to fund a Youth Frontiers Kindness Retreat, which would be a day-long, interactive retreat held in September 2010 for all 4th grade students at Sibley. This retreat would be led by Youth Frontiers staff and NHS Juniors and Seniors to teach the value of kindness resulting in a positive school climate.
- \$1200 is being requested to create a listening center using MP3 players and audio books for fifth graders at Sibley.

3. Gift Agreement.

Hand in Hand Preschool has received two Young Explorer computer systems from the Southern MN Initiative Foundation and the IBM Corporation's KidSmart Early Learning Program to promote technology and early learning. The total value of the two computers is \$4,298.00.

4. Overnight Student Field Trip – Area Learning Center (ALC).

The Board approved the annual ALC trip to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area June 15-19, 2010.

5. Personnel Items.

a. Appointments**

1. Co-Curricular Appointments

- Deborah Rasmussen – 6th Grade Basketball Coach - Session I, Level J (step 1), According to the NEA Agreement.
- Jackie Hillstrom – 6th Grade Basketball Coach - Session I, \$14.00/hour.
- Erik Burton – 8th Grade Basketball Coach – Session I, \$12.00/hour.
- Thomas White – PT Assistant Middle School Wrestling Coach, \$12.00/hour.
- Mary Kleingarn – 7th Grade Basketball Coach – Session I - \$12.00/hour (*shared position with Otto Pfefferle and Tanner Kimber*).
- Otto Pfefferle – 7th Grade Basketball Coach – Session I - \$10.00/hour (*shared position with Tanner Kimber*).
- Tanner Kimber – 7th Grade Basketball Coach – Session I - \$10.00/hour (*shared position with Otto Pfefferle*).

- Stephanie Balvin – Assistant Girls Basketball Coach – 10th grade, Level E (step 3), according to the NEA Agreement.
 - Co-Curricular Fall Assignments were approved.
2. Regina McDonald, Middle School Math Teacher/Middle School Athletic Coordinator, one additional supervision period, beginning 9/8/09 through 6/11/10.
 3. Rose Turnacliﬀ, Middle School Language Arts Teacher, one additional supervision period, beginning 9/8/09 through 6/11/10.
 4. Elliot Courchaine, PLUS Site Leader at Bridgewater, 10 hrs./week beginning 10/28/09 through 4/29/10, Step 1, \$13.74/hour.
 5. Sarah McGivern, PLUS Site Leader at Sibley, 10 hrs./week beginning 10/28/09 through 4/29/10, Step 1, \$13.74/hour.
 6. Blayr Gilituk, PLUS Site Assistant at Sibley, 8 hrs./week beginning 10/28/09 through 4/29/10, Step 1, \$11.03/hour.
 7. Pablo Orozco, PLUS Site Assistant at Greenvale, 8 hrs./week beginning 10/28/09 through 4/29/10, Step 1, \$11.03/hour.
- b. Leaves of Absence
1. Lori Holm, Special Education Teacher, Childcare Leave of Absence, from on or about February 20, 2009 through April 19, 2009.
 2. Linda Carey, Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA, was granted an unpaid leave of absence from October 19, 2009 through December 7, 2009.
 3. Pam Haupt, Food Service Director, was granted a medical leave of absence beginning October 22, 2009.
 4. April Ostermann, Fifth Grade Teacher at Bridgewater, was granted FMLA adoption childcare leave from on or about November 16, 2009 through January 15, 2010.
- c. Increase/Decrease/Change in Assignment
1. Kristen Cade, transfer from .5 Kindergarten/.5 Grade 3 Teacher to .5 Kindergarten/.5 Title 1 Teacher at Bridgewater, effective September 1, 2009.
 2. Kathleen Lockner, transfer from .5 Title 1/.5 Grade 3 Teacher to .5 Grade 2/.5 Grade 3 Teacher at Bridgewater, effective September 1, 2009.
 3. Dorothy Steﬀens, Special Ed Educational Assistant, increase from 6 hrs./day to 6.5 hrs./day, effective September 23, 2009.
 4. Joseph Jorgensen, 6.75 hrs./day Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA, changing to 4.75 hrs./day Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA and 2.0 hrs./day Instructional Educational Assistant, effective October 19, 2009.
 5. BobbiJo Polzin, 5.25 hrs./day Special Ed Educational Assistant, increasing to 6.25 hrs./day Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA, effective October 19, 2009.
 6. Patricia Rogne, ECFE Teacher, from 9 hrs./week to 0 hrs./week, effective August 25, 2009, in the Hand in Hand Preschool Program due to the cut in sections offered in this program. Ms. Rogne continues to teach classes in the ECFE program.
 7. Lori Christophersen, transfer from High School Accounting Support Technician to High School Administrative Support Assistant, 8 hrs./day, effective November 2, 2009.
 8. Tammie Warner, EarlyVentures Site Assistant, increase from 38 hrs./week to 39.25 hrs./week, effective 10/26/09.
 9. Anna Kelly, EarlyVentures Site Assistant, increase from 19.5 hrs./week to 32.25 hrs./week, effective 10/26/09.
 10. Crystin Voxland, EarlyVentures Site Assistant, increase from 16 hrs./week to KidVentures Site Assistant at Sibley and EarlyVentures Site Assistant 40 hrs./week, effective 10/26/09.
 11. Ashley Evans, EarlyVentures Site Assistant, increase from 18.5 hrs./week to 34.5 hrs./week, effective 10/26/09.
 12. Debbie Foley, EarlyVentures Site Assistant, increase from 11 hrs./week to 29.5 hrs./week, effective 10/26/09.

13. Elizabeth Stahly, Early Ventures Site Assistant, increase from 29 hrs./week to 30.25 hrs./week, effective 10/26/09.

d. Resignations

1. Joseph Jorgensen, Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA, resignation effective October 30, 2009.
2. Lois Kelly, Community Services Building Supervisor, resignation effective October 30, 2009.
3. Tracy Crooks, Food Service Associate I at the High School, resignation effective October 12, 2009.
4. Kathleen Schmidt, Early Ventures Site Assistant at Longfellow, resignation effective October 23, 2009.

*Lane placement subject to verification by Professional Growth Committee.

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

VIII. Items for Information

1. Community Services FY09 Financial Information.

The full 2008-09 audit report will be presented to the Board at the November 9, 2009 Board meeting. However, a memo from Community Services was given to the Board that addressed the financial condition of that fund and explained what action has been taken.

2. Feedback Session Regarding Review of Companeros Program.

Community feedback sessions will be held at Northfield High School and Greenvale Park Elementary Schools to provide parents and community members with an opportunity to hear about the options for revising the current Companeros program. Using this feedback, the Companeros Review Committee will continue to refine the options prior to presenting a recommended option or options to the School Board later this winter. The sessions will be held on Monday, November 30 at 6:15 in the high school auditorium and on Tuesday, December 1 at 4:15 and 6:15 in the Greenvale Park gym. The 6:15 session on Tuesday, December 1 will be in Spanish.

3. Reception for National Merit Scholars.

The date selected for the reception for the National Merit Scholars and their families is Monday, November 23 right before the School Board meeting. The reception will begin at 6:30 PM. The start of the Board meeting on November 23 will be moved to 7:30 PM.

4. Professional Learning Communities Information for November Newsletters.

IX. Future Meetings

Monday, November 9, 2009, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board meeting, Northfield High School Media Center

Monday, November 23, 2009, 6:30 PM, Reception for National Merit Scholars, NHS Upper Cafeteria

Monday, November 23, 2009, **Please note change in time: 7:30 PM.** Regular School Board meeting, Northfield High School Media Center

X. On a motion by Iverson, seconded by Pritchard, the Board adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Ellen Iverson, School Board Clerk