

# NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## School Board Minutes

School Board Minutes

February 24, 2014

Northfield High School Media Center

- I. Call to Order  
Board Chair Ellen Iverson called the Regular meeting of the Northfield Board of Education to order at 7:00 PM. No one was absent.
- II. Agenda Changes / Table File  
The table file was added.
- III. Public Comment  
There was no one.
- IV. Approval of Minutes  
On a motion by Nelson, seconded by Stratmoen, minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on February 10, 2014, were unanimously approved.
- V. Announcements and Recognitions
  - Congratulations to School Board member Rob Hardy and two other adult advisors to the Northfield Skateboard Coalition for receiving the Healthy Community Initiative “Making a Difference” award for January/February. Rob – along with Cecilia Cornejo and Jane McWilliams – have regularly volunteered their time during the past two years helping youth from the Skateboard Coalition work toward the goal of building a permanent skate park in Northfield.
  - On February 11, seventy-eight students participated in the Southeast Minnesota Regional Spelling Bee. Local champion speller Hannah Pahs and finalists Elijah Leer and Joseph Pesta represented the Northfield School District. Hannah earned a 5<sup>th</sup> place trophy and qualified for the final round to be held in Rochester on February 25.
  - The Raider Gymnastics team place 2nd at State with another amazing performance. Baily DuPay won her second consecutive All-Around championship in the Individual competition. The Raider Wrestling team’s Carson Canedy and Sam Minske both qualified to wrestle at state. The Gator Boys Swim and Dive team will be sending all three relays and a number of individuals to the state swim meet as well.
  - Northfield Middle School teamed up with the high school to host the first ever Student-led 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Transition conferences at the High School on February 24. Many supporting activities were offered by high school students and staff.
  - Congressman John Kline will be visiting NHS on Friday, March 21 from 10 AM until 11:30 AM to discuss special education funding and program issues.
- VI. Items for Discussion and / or Reports
  1. Response to Intervention (RtI) Presentation.  
The Response to Intervention (RtI) Coaches (Heather Ryden, Connie Nelson, Becky Gainey, Tania Will, Hope Langston and Diane Torbenson) reported about the program at the three elementary schools: what has worked well; challenges; work in progress. Director of Teaching and Learning Mary Hanson then presented what the Middle School, High School and Alternative Learning Center are doing with the training and implementation of PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports). Finally, Matt Hillmann, Director of Administrative Services, talked about moving forward with Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) in K-12 and the budget for elementary and secondary coaches for the 2014-2015 school year.
  2. Workforce Readiness.  
Workforce Readiness is being talked about across the country, across the state, and at the legislature. Northfield High School is talking about workforce readiness in a multitude of areas. TORCH, Career and Technical Education (CTE) teachers, High School administration, City of Northfield leadership, South

Central College, and local business community leaders have joined forces to make career readiness a focal point of "what's next" for NHS and the district. HS Principal Joel Leer spoke about how through internships, course development, career pathway development, and articulation agreements with higher education, NHS is moving to a model that will better prepare a significant population of NHS students for the world of work, locally and beyond.

VII. Superintendent's Report

A. Items for Individual Action

1. Director of Technology Proposal.

On a motion by Pritchard, seconded by Fossum, the Board unanimously approved the Director of Technology proposal as presented.

B. Items for Consent Grouping

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

1. Personnel Items.

a. Appointments\*

1. Jennifer Deplazes, Special Education Educational Assistant-PCA (Class IV) at Bridgewater Elementary for 6.5 hours/day beginning 02/17/2014 – 06/06/2014; Class IV, Step 1 - \$13.49/hour.
2. Katherine Ford, .4 FTE 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Life Science Teacher at the Middle School beginning 02/27/2014 – 06/06/2014; MA, Step 6.
3. Mark Langevin, Middle School Track Assistant beginning 04/01/2014 – 05/30/2014; Level I, Step 1.
4. Marianne Malecha, Assistant Girls Softball Coach (10<sup>th</sup> grade) at the High School beginning 03/10/2014 – 06/06/2014; Level F, Step 1.
5. Jedidiah McGuire, Special Education Educational Assistant-PCA (Class IV) at Bridgewater Elementary for 6.75 hours/day beginning 02/26/2014 – 06/06/2014; Class IV, Step 1 - \$13.49/hour.
6. Jane Morrison, Child Nutrition Associate 1 at the High School for 3 hours/day beginning 02/21/2014; \$13.82/hour.
7. Event Workers – Activities: Stephanie Balvin, Jane Dolan, Donna Hall, Sara Mikkelson, Amy Mihelich and Renae Trebelhorn
8. Elliott Courchaine, KidVentures Site Assistant at Sibley beginning 02/25/2014 for up to 7.25 hours/week; Step 1, \$11.25/hour.

b. Increase/Decrease/Change in Assignment

1. Tina Dokken, Middle School Math Teacher, add .1 FTE overload (10 days) at the Middle School beginning 02/21/2014 – 03/19/2014.
2. Sherri Goehring, ALC Educational Assistant/Child Nutrition Associate, change to ALC Educational Assistant (Class II) for 7 hours/day beginning 02/10/2014.
3. Kevin Kowalewski, Community Services Rec Employee at \$7.75/hour, change to CS Rec Employee at \$7.50/hour beginning 01/14/2014 – 02/11/2014.
4. Sue Leidner, Educational Assistant (Class IV) at Sibley Elementary for 5.30 hours/day, add EA (Class IV) for 3.25 hours on Mondays only beginning 04/07/2014 – 06/06/2014.
5. John Sand, 1.0 FTE PE/Health Teacher at the High School, change to 1.2 FTE for second semester beginning 01/18/2014 – 06/06/2014.
6. Lydia Tilstra, LI Special Education Teacher at Sibley, overload pay beginning 10/21/2013 – 06/06/2014.
7. Janet Amundson, Educational Assistant (Class III) at the Middle School for 7 hours/day; add EA-Bus PCA (Class IV) for .33 hours/Fridays only beginning 02/28/2014 – 06/06/2014.
8. Shari Bridley, Education Assistant Bus PCA(Class IV) at Longfellow for .5 hours on Fridays, decrease Bus PCA .5 hours on Fridays beginning 02/28/2014 – 06/06/2014.

9. Sherri Goehring, ALC Educational Assistant (Class II) at Longfellow, change to ALC Office Generalist (Class II) at Longfellow beginning 02/17/2014, Class II, Step 4; \$16.51/hour.
10. Katherine Klein, Long-Term Substitute Life Science Teacher at the Middle School, add three additional days beginning 02/21/2014 – 02/26/2014.
11. Jane Morrison, Child Nutrition Associate 1 at the High School, change start date to 2/24/2014.

c. Resignations

1. Paul Bernard, Middle School Track & Field School, resignation effective 2/13/2014.
2. Jennifer Josephson, School Social worker, resignation effective at the end of the 2013-2014 school year.
3. Amanda George (Rezac) KidVentures Site Assistant at Sibley Elementary, resignation effective 02/24/2014.

d. Leave of Absence

1. Briana Bulfer, FMLA Leave of Absence beginning 8/25/2014 – 01/04/2015.

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

VIII. Items for Information

1. Guaranteed Lunch.

Superintendent Richardson reviewed the district's position on serving lunch to students with a negative balance in their individual lunch account.

2. Closed Negotiations Strategy Session following the Board Meeting on March 10, 2014.

3. Weather-related School Closures.

Dr. Richardson explained to the Board how a decision is made to close school. He and Benjamin Bus check the roads and look at multiple forecasts. He always tries to make a decision before 5:00 AM. Unfortunately, the community has come to expect closure decisions to be made one day or more in advance based on Governor Dayton's decision to close all MN schools the Friday before the actual closure on Monday, January 6. Superintendent Richardson prefers to wait and consult the best and most up to date forecasts before making a decision.

IX. Future Meetings

Monday, March 10, 2014, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting, Northfield High School Media Center  
Monday, April 14, 2014, 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 9:20 PM.

Noel Stratmoen  
School Board Clerk