

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Minutes

School Board Minutes

April 14, 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 Pritchard, seconded by Nelson, minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on March 10, 2014, were unanimously approved.
- V. Announcements and Recognitions
 - For the 20th year, Northfield German students participated in the National German Exam Competition. Competing this year were 35 students, levels 2, 3, 4 and 5. Congratulations to the following students, who achieved the Bronze Award, by scoring at or above the 70th percentile nationwide: Nick Raveling and Danica Simonet. Students receiving the Silver Award by scoring at or above the 80th percentile nationwide are: Christof Zweifel, Evan Pak, Noah Klein, Alison Langston, Dmitri Beeby and Martha Barth. The Gold Award is given for placing above the 90th percentile, and advances the students to the Prize level competition. This involves writing a short essay in German and an oral interview, also conducted in German. Gold Award students this year are Andrea Thurnheer, Kurtis Bobert, Cecilia Kryzda, and Elizabeth Cloherty.
 - Northfield High School's Mock Trial team, coached by Stephen Cade, and the Knowledge Bowl team, coached by Troy Cohrs, both qualified and participated at their state tournaments. Also NHS had 5 speech students qualify and participate at the State Speech meet. The Speech team is coached by Jody Saxton West.
 - Several Northfield students took home top awards in the Spring Chess Tournament on March 22, sponsored by South Central Service Cooperative and Mankato Community Education/Recreation. Peter Hillmann and Collin Thomas-Green, both students at Sibley, finished first and tied for second, respectively, in the Middle Division. Peter placed first, and Collin placed second and Saxon Egge, also a student at Sibley, finished tied for fourth place in the grade four level. NHS students Jasper Egge and Gus Ohnesorge both finished tied for second place and Jackson Hillmann, a ninth grader, finished tied for third. Jackson was tied for first in grade 9 and Jasper and Gus tied for first place in grade 10.
 - The Middle School Bookstore, The Tattered Pages, will be hosting its Fifth Annual Mothers Day Sale during the week of May 5. At this sale, students "purchase" Mothers Day gifts using Tattered Pages coupons that they have earned throughout the school year..
 - Congratulations to Beth Berry, former director of the TORCH program, for being awarded a BestPrep Teacher of Excellence Award. BestPrep is one of the state's leaders in connecting business professionals with students.
 - Sixth grade teacher Rhea Mehrkens and her student, Bella Smith, were both winners in the 2014 Sidewalk Poetry Competition, sponsored by the Northfield Arts and Culture Commission and the Friends and Foundation of the Northfield Public Library.
 - Maple attended "Evening of the Arts" at Greenvale Park on April 10. It was excellent!
 - Pritchard attended "Hairspray" at Northfield Middle School and said it was an amazing performance. Pritchard also thanked the Northfield Arts Guild for the All School Art Show.

VI. Items for Discussion and / or Reports

1. Teacher Evaluation Update.

Director of Administrative Services Matt Hillmann shared an update on the Northfield School District's teacher development and evaluation plan, collaboratively developed by the District and the Northfield Education Association. During the 2011 session, the legislature voted to implement new requirements for teacher evaluation. The law requires the local Association and the school district to come to a joint agreement on a plan or accept the State plan. The Northfield Education Association voted to enter into a joint agreement. The local plan was developed by a group of staff and is focused on developing consistent feedback loops that support reflective practitioners. Training for principals and staff begins this summer/fall.

2. Anti-Bullying Bill and Other Pending Legislation.

Superintendent Richardson provided an overview of the recently passed anti-bullying bill and discussed the current status of other education bills moving through the Legislature. Richardson explained that the Safe and Supportive Schools Act had been significantly modified by the Senate to provide greater clarity to the definition of bullying and provide more reasonable expectations for staff and administrators as they respond to incidents of bullying and cyber bullying. He also provided information about bills currently going to conference committee, including the Health Insurance Transparency Act and the Omnibus Supplemental Appropriations Bill. The House and Senate versions of both bills are significantly different and will continue to be watched throughout the remainder of the session.

VII. Superintendent's Report

A. Items for Individual Action

1. District Youth Council (DYC) Proposal.

On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Maple, the Board unanimously approved the formation of a District Youth Council.

2. Approval of Capital Facilities Bond Bid.

On a motion by Nelson, seconded by Hardy, the Board unanimously accepted PFM's recommendation to award the bid for Capital Facilities Bonds at a true interest rate of 1.82% based on the favorable bond market and the District's outstanding "AA+" rating from Standard and Poor's Ratings Service to Robert W. Baird. The Board also unanimously approved the Resolution Awarding the Sale, Determining the Form and Details, Authorizing the Execution, Delivery, and Registration, and Providing for the Payment of \$1,525,000 General Obligation Capital Facilities Bonds, Series 2014A. Voting 'yes' was Fossum, Maple, Pritchard, Nelson, Hardy, Stratmoen and Iverson. No one voted 'no.' The proceeds from these bonds will be used this summer to replace the roofs on the High School D and M wings and the Girls Locker Room, as well as the Greenvale Park tuck pointing project.

B. Items for Consent Grouping

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

1. Capital Roofing Bids for Greenvale Park and Northfield High School and Tuck Pointing at Greenvale Park.

The District received nine bids for roofing projects at Greenvale Park (GVP) and the M and D Wings at Northfield High School (NHS). The District also received nine bids for the tuck pointing project at Greenvale Park. The bond for these projects was approved by the Board at its February 10th meeting. The lowest bids were: Central Roofing (\$545,480) for NHS's M and D Wings, Interstate Roofing (\$846,278) for GVP's roof, and A & M Construction (\$109,500) for the tuck pointing at GVP. The total of the recommended projects is \$1,501,258. The amount available from the bond for the projects is \$1,475,000. The remaining \$26,258 will be covered by the deferred maintenance fund balance. The work will be completed this summer. The Board accepted the bids from Central Roofing (\$545,480) for NHS's M and D Wings, Interstate Roofing (\$846,278) for GVP's roof, and A & M Construction (\$109,500) for the tuck pointing at GVP.

Revised Recommendation for Capital Roofing Bids for Greenvale Park and Northfield High School and Tuck Pointing at Greenvale Park.

Due to the favorable results of the capital facilities bond bids, a lower portion of the overall bond will need to be spent on interest. This allows the District to amend Director of Buildings and Grounds Paul Bell's recommendation provided in the Board packet to include Northfield High School girls' locker room roof project. The total recommended projects total \$1,564,718. The District's deferred maintenance fund balance will be required to cover only \$8,293.90, rather than the \$26,258 originally projected.

2. Grant Requests.

- To the Northfield Area United Way:
 - ✓ Community Services – PRIMETIME Kindergarten through 8th grade – is requesting \$32,000 from the United Way to help provide after school and summer enrichment to over 600 Northfield children beginning in July 2014 through June 2015.
 - ✓ Community Services – Bridges to Kindergarten – is requesting \$10,000 from the United Way to support this three week program at each elementary building.
- To WINGS:
 - ✓ Community Services – the Connected Kids Mentoring Program – is requesting \$5,400 from WINGS to provide continued on-site support and supervision for the after school mentoring matches at the three elementary schools.
 - ✓ Community Services – Northfield Middle School Youth Center Young Chef's Club – is requesting \$2,700 from WINGS to help middle school youth develop cooking skills and explore potential careers in the culinary arts field.
 - ✓ Community Services – School Readiness/Hand in Hand Preschool – is requesting \$5,000 from WINGS to support services for children qualifying for School Readiness services during the school year.
 - ✓ Community Services – Early Childhood Family Education – is requesting \$3,500 from WINGS to support ECFE's outreach program, Lunch and Learning.
 - ✓ Northfield Area Learning Center – BWCA Wilderness Experience – is requesting \$500 from WINGS to help pay the outfitting fees, which are approximately \$900.
- To Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF):
 - ✓ Community Services – School Readiness programs and ECFE – is requesting to renew their three year AmeriCorps Leap agreement. This program provides a full-time member to connect with and work with the most at-risk students and their families to provide them the extra support they need to have a successful start to school.
 - ✓ Northfield ECIC – is requesting 750 books for their LINK free book shelf in both Spanish and English.
- To Southeast Minnesota Arts Council (SEMAC):
 - ✓ Community Services – Early Childhood Initiative Coalition – is requesting \$3,000 to support the summer entertainment series, Books & Stars, to expose the community to a variety of live entertainment, enhance literacy opportunities, create community and family connectedness, and offer experiential learning as a tool to make a connection to the arts.

3. Personnel Items.

- a. Appointments*
 1. Martha Donahoe, Office Generalist at Longfellow/CS beginning 04/15/2014 for 179 work days/year at 4 hours/day (20 hours/week); Class II, Step 1; \$15.56/hour.
 2. Jacqueline DuLac, Accounting Generalist in the District Office beginning 04/01/2014; Class IV, Step 3; \$17.67/hour.
 3. Aimee Gerdesmeier, KidVentures Long-Term Substitute Site Leader at Sibley KidVentures for 5.5 hours/day beginning 04/08/2014 – 07/18/2014; Step 3, \$14.61/hour.
 4. Erica Hubers, Special Education Educational Assistant-PCA at Bridgewater Elementary for 6.75 hours/day beginning 04/09/2014 – 06/06/2014; Class I, Step 2 for .5 hours/day, \$12.95/hour and Class IV, Step 2 for 6.25 hours/day, \$14.00/hour.

5. Bonnie Johnson, Special Education Educational Assistant-PCA (Class I .27 hours/day; Class IV 6.75 hours/day) at Sibley for 6.92 hours/day beginning 04/01/2014 – 06/06/2014; Class I, Step 6, \$14.31/hour; Class IV, Step 6, \$15.39/hour.
 6. Peggy Mills, KidVentures Long-Term Substitute Site Assistant at Sibley/CS beginning 04/14/2014 – 07/18/2014 for 3.5 hours/day; Step 1, \$11.25/hour.
 7. Jennifer A. Severson, Special Education Educational Assistant-PCA (Class IV) at Greenvale Park for 1 hour/day on various days on a monthly basis and for 2 hours/day on student days beginning 04/02/2014 – 06/06/2014; Class IV, Step 1 -- \$13.49/hour.
 8. Jamie Wiebe, 1.0 FTE School Social Worker at Bridgewater Elementary beginning 08/25/2014; MA, Step 3.
 9. Event Workers – Activities: Janet Burger, Stephen Fox, Kathleen Kopseng, John Mahal, Katy Schuerman, Jerry Smith, Arnold William Nelson II and Rhea Mehrkens.
- b. Increase/Decrease/Change in Assignment
1. Scott Stanina, High School yearbook co-advisor, dropping position for 2013-2014 school year.
 2. Autumn Fabricant, Targeted Services Teacher, extended time from April 24th to May 8, 2014.
- c. Leaves of Absence
1. Kevin Dahle, Social Studies Teacher at the High School, 1.0 FTE Legislative Leave of Absence beginning 01/05/2015 – 06/05/2015.
 2. Christa Danielson, Elementary Teacher at Bridgewater, Family/Medical Leave of Absence beginning on or about 08/25/2014 for 8 work weeks.
 3. Anne Erickson, Elementary Teacher at Sibley, 1.0 FTE Unpaid Leave of Absence for the 2014-2015 school-year.
 4. Craig Johnson, Science Teacher at the High School, 1.0 FTE Unpaid Leave of Absence for the 2014-2015 school -year.
 5. Dan Kust, 6th Grade Science Teacher at the Middle School, 1.0 FTE Unpaid Leave of Absence for the 2014-2015 school-year.
 6. Reggie McDonald, Math Teacher at the High School, 1.0 FTE Unpaid Leave of Absence for the 2014-2015 school -year.
 7. Michelle Morales, ESL Teacher at Greenvale Park, 1.0 FTE Unpaid Leave of Absence for the 2014-2015 school-year.
 8. Anne Morrissey, Elementary Teacher at Greenvale Park, 1.0 FTE Unpaid Leave of Absence for the 2014-2015 school-year.
 9. Allison Otti, Kindergarten Teacher at Sibley Elementary, 1.0 FTE Unpaid Leave of Absence for the 2014-2015 school-year.
 10. Katie Parks, Elementary Teacher at Sibley Elementary, 1.0 FTE Unpaid Leave of Absence for the 2014-2015 school-year.
 11. Jeff Pesta, Middle School Principal, Unpaid Leave of Absence beginning 07/01/2014 – 07/01/2015.
 12. Marnie Thompson, HS Assistant Principal, Family/Medical Leave of Absence beginning 03/31/2014 for up to 12 work weeks.
 13. Kasha Zeman, Special Education Teacher at Sibley, 1.0 FTE Unpaid Leave of Absence for 2014-2015 school-year.
 14. Ann Ackerman, Speech/Language Teacher at Greenvale Park, Family/Medical Leave of Absence beginning on or about 09/27/2014 and returning to work on 01/05/2015.
 15. Dana Holden, Elementary Teacher at Bridgewater, .5 FTE Unpaid Leave of Absence for the 2014-2015 school year.
 16. Deborah Winkelman, HS/MS German Teacher, .2 FTE Unpaid Leave of Absence for the 2014-2015 school year; maintaining .2 FTE at the MS and .6 FTE at the HS.
- d. Resignations/Retirements
1. Bryce Barry, Head Boys Hockey Coach, resignation effective 3/20/2014.

2. LuCinda DeCramer, Kitchen Manager at the High School, resignation effective 04/22/2014.
3. Jessica Grisim, Educational Assistant at Bridgewater, resignation effective 3/28/2014.
4. Roger Jenni, Elementary Band Instructor and District Assessment Coordinator, retirement effective the end of the 2013-2014 school year.
5. Connie Nelson, RTI Coach at Bridgewater, retirement effective the end of the 2013-2014 school year.
6. Jessica Jessen, Assistant Dance Team Coach at the High School, resignation effective 04/10/2014.

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

VIII. Items for Information

1. Spring Parent-Teacher Conferences.

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
High School	31%	44%
Middle School (6 th grade)	99%	99%*
(7 th grade)	98%	92%*
(8 th grade)	99%	30%*
Bridgewater	91%	93%
Greenvale Park	97%	97%
Sibley	98%	99%

* 2013 – Middle School

6th grade student led conferences by appointment – 99%;
 7th grade student led conferences by appointment – 92%;
 8th grade had team conferences by appointment one night and arena/
 walk-in style conferences the second night – 30%.

2. Enrollment Report – April 2014.

A corrected enrollment report for April 2014 was enclosed in the Table File. The sixth grade class was inadvertently omitted from the total enrollment figure for the Middle School.

IX. Future Meetings

Monday, April 28, 2014, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting, Northfield High School Media Center
 Monday, May 12, 2014, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting, Northfield High School Media Center

X. On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Nelson, the Board adjourned at 8:33 PM.

Noel Stratmoen
 School Board Clerk