

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Minutes

January 9, 2023

District Office Boardroom

1. Call to Order

Board Chair Claudia Gonzalez-George called the Regular meeting of the Northfield Board of Education of Independent School District No. 659 to order at 6:15 p.m. Present: Butler, Goerwitz, Gonzalez-George, Miller, Nelson and Quinnell. Absent: None. This meeting was open to the public, live-streamed and recorded, and access to the recording was posted to the school district website.

2. Agenda Approval/Table File

On a motion by Butler, seconded by Nelson, the board unanimously approved the agenda and realigned the order of items for individual action.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. Announcements and Recognitions

- The Duck Cup Memorial is a nonprofit organization that is dedicated to providing resources for mental health awareness and suicide prevention. Students in grades 6-8 will have an opportunity to listen to Mallory, a mental health advocate sponsored by The Duck Cup Memorial, on February 9, 2023.
- Northfield Police Department Interagency Crisis Event Training hosted an event on Saturday, Jan. 7, 2023. Joint services (local EMTs, fire, rescue, and law enforcement agencies) attended the event. These agencies practiced responding to crisis events, including active shooter situations. NMS was closed during the training.
- Dr. Hillmann is one of four finalists for the 2023 National Superintendent of the Year. He will have an opportunity to meet the national education community during a press conference on Thursday, Jan. 12, 2023, at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. The 2023 National Superintendent of the Year® will be announced during AASA's National Conference on Education, Feb. 16, 2023, in San Antonio, Texas.

5. Items for Discussion and Reports

- a. Prairie Creek Community School & Arcadia Charter School Annual Reports. Simon Tyler, Director of Prairie Creek Community School, and Laura Stelter, Director of Arcadia Charter School, reported on the programs being provided in their two charter schools. Prairie Creek is in its 20th year of operation as a charter school under the sponsorship of Northfield Public Schools. Arcadia is in its 19th year of operation. These reviews and written reports fulfill state requirements for annual reporting as well as our district's request that each charter school authorized by Northfield Public Schools present an annual report to the school board.
- b. Dissolution of Girls Hockey Cooperative Sponsorship. Superintendent Hillmann recommended the dissolution of the girls hockey cooperative sponsorship with Randolph Independent School District 195 beginning with the 2023-2024 school year. The governing boards of each participating school must jointly make an application for dissolution of cooperative sponsorship to the Minnesota State High School League. Approval of this dissolution will be an item for individual action at the next board meeting.

The district is also considering the long-term viability of the boys hockey cooperative sponsorship with Randolph. Both cooperative sponsorships are being considered for dissolution because of the low participation from Randolph and its impact on our team's Minnesota State High School League competitive section placement.

- c. Policy Committee Recommendation. Dr. Hillmann presented the recommended updates to policy 801. This will be an item for individual action at the next board meeting.

- d. Superintendent Operations Update. Dr. Hillmann provided an update about district operations and examples of work underway to achieve the district's vision, strategic commitments, and benchmarks. He reported on the special education Dec. 1 child count, the district's top priorities for the 2023 legislature, and the district's perishable food donation to the food shelf when there is a snow day.

6. Consent Agenda

On a motion by Butler, seconded by Goerwitz, the board unanimously approved the consent agenda.

a. Minutes

- Minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on December 12, 2022
- Minutes of the Special School Board meeting held on December 28, 2022

b. Personnel Items

i. Appointments

1. Saxon Egge, Speech Judge as needed at the High School, beginning 2/2/2023. \$77/event
2. James Hoffman, 1.0 FTE Head Custodian at the High School, beginning 1/9/2023. Step 6-\$29.17/hr. + stipends
3. Lauren Johnson, Special Ed EA PCA for 6.75 hours/day at the High School, beginning 2/6/2023-6/9/2023. Step 2-\$16.70/hr. + pro rated PCA Stipend.
4. Anne Larson, 1.0 FTE Long Term Substitute Third Grade Companeros Teacher at the Greenvale Park, beginning 1/3/2023-2/3/2023. MA30, Step 10-for 23 days.
5. Brenda Lau Toilolo, CNA I for 3 hours/day at the High School, beginning 1/9/2023. \$20.05/hr.
6. Benjamin Siegel, Speech Judge as needed at the High School, beginning 2/4/2023. \$77/event
7. Joshua Spitzack, Head Boys Baseball Coach at the high school, beginning 3/20/2023. \$6,601, step 10
8. Lynn Ziegler, Special Ed EA PCA for 6.75 hours/day at Bridgewater, beginning 1/9/2023. Step 1-\$16.33/hr. + pro rated PCA Stipend.
9. Jolee Harris, .5 Assistant Gymnastics Coach at the High School, beginning 1/10/2023. 50% Stipend prorated is \$1,142.50
10. Benjamin Siegel, Targeted Services MSYC Site Assistant for up to 5 hours/day on Tuesdays and up to 2 hours/day on Thursdays at the Middle School, beginning 1/30/2023-5/26/2023. Step 2-\$14.88/hr.

ii. Increase/Decrease/Change in Assignment

1. Erin Blanck, ECFE EA for 18 hours/week at the NCEC, add ECFE Special Event EA for 8 hours/week at the NCEC, effective 1/9/2023.
2. Amelia Brandt, KidVentures Site Assistant for up to 17.5 hours/week at Bridgewater, change to KidVentures Site Assistant for up to 21 hours/week at Bridgewater, effective 1/9/2023.
3. Vicky Chlan, Teacher at the High School, add Ski and Snowboard Club Chaperone with Community Services Recreation, effective 1/9/2023-5/31/2023. \$500 stipend
4. Peggy Christensen, CNA I at Bridgewater, add Community School Club Leader for up to 2 hours/day at Bridgewater, effective 1/3/2023-5/26/2023. \$23.65/hr.
5. Claire Edwards, KidVentures Site Assistant for 24.75 hours/week at Bridgewater and Spring Creek, change to KidVentures Site Assistant for 10 hours/week at Spring Creek, effective 1/9/2023.
6. Claire Edwards, KidVentures Site Assistant for 10 hours/week at Spring Creek, add Special Ed EA PCA for 6 hours/day at Spring Creek, effective 1/9/2023-6/9/2023. Step 4-\$17.70/hr.
7. Daniel Foley, LTS 4th Grade Teacher at Spring Creek with an end date of 12/22/22, extending end date to 1/27/2023.
8. Erin Hall, Teacher at Bridgewater, add Community School Teacher for up to 2 hours/day at Bridgewater, effective 1/3/2023-5/26/2023. year 7-\$27.73/hr.
9. Candy Hard, Long Term Substitute Teacher at Bridgewater with an end date of 12/14/2022, extending end date to 1/25/2023.
10. Cara Holland, Teacher at the Middle School, add Spelling Bee Advisor at the Middle School, effective 12/15/2022. \$551 stipend
11. Craig Johnson, Teacher at the High School, add Bass Fishing Coordinator with Community Services Recreation, effective 12/13/2022-8/31/2023. \$85/registrant
12. Melissa Reed, School Psychologist at Spring Creek, add a ½ overload - 46 days at Greenvale Park, effective 1/17/2023-3/24/2023.
13. John Rieber Paulson, Event Worker at the High School add Ski and Snowboard Club Chaperone with Community Services Recreation, effective 12/19/2022-5/31/2023. \$500 stipend

14. Alexis Sanborn, Special Ed EA PCA at the High School, add Special Ed EA PCA-Bus afternoon route for an additional 40 minutes with the District, effective 11/1/2022-6/9/2023.
 15. Amanda Sieger, Teacher at Spring Creek, add Yoga Instructor with Community Services Recreation, effective 12/19/2022-5/31/2023.
 16. Sarah Smith, Special Ed EA PCA for 6.75 hrs/day and Gen Ed EA for .50 hrs/day at Greenvale Park, change to Special Ed EA PCA for 6.75 hrs/day and Gen Ed EA for .25 hrs/day at Greenvale Park, effective 9/6/2022.
 17. Cynthia Thomas, Special Ed EA PCA at the High School, add Special Ed EA PCA, Extracurricular/Non academic activities with the District, effective 1/4/2023-6/9/2023.
 18. Dianne Wolbeck, CNA II for 7.25 hrs/day at the High School, change to CNA II for 7.50 hrs/day at the High School, effective 12/15/2022-6/9/2023.
 19. Mary Boyum, Special Ed EA PCA at Spring Creek, add Special Ed EA PCA, Extracurricular/Non academic activities with the District, effective 12/12/2022-6/9/2023.
 20. Tracy Closson, District Grounds Coordinator, add Summit Ski Instructor, beginning 1/9/2023, \$100 per registrant.
 21. Rafael Estrella, Teacher at the Middle School, add MSYC Teacher for up to 8 hours/week Mon.-Thurs. at the Middle School, effective 1/9/2023-5/26/2023. Yr. 2-\$27.11/hr.
 22. Joe Greenwood, Temporary Head Custodian at the High School, change to Day Custodian Engineer at the High School, effective 1/9/2023.
 23. Quinn Line, EA Substitute, add KidVentures Site Assistant Substitute at BW, SC, and GVP, effective 1/9/2023.
 24. Deb Pack, Special Ed EA Bus for 1 hr/day Mon.-Thurs. with the District, add 1.25 hrs/day Mon.-Thurs. with the District, effective 1/5/2023-6/9/2023.
 25. Kerry Sexton, 1.0 FTE Night Engineer at the Middle School, change to 1.0 FTE Head Custodian at the NCEC, effective 1/11/2023; Head custodian rate-prorated.
- iii. Leave of Absence
1. Charlie Alvarez, Grade 3 Teacher at Greenvale Park Elementary, change in FMLA leave dates. Leave begins on 12/15/2022 and will go through 2/3/2023.
 2. Michelle Bauer, Instructional Coach with the District, FMLA leave beginning 12/5/2022 and continue on an intermittent basis for up to 60 work days.
 3. Renee Brunham, Teacher at the ALC, FMLA leave beginning 11/30/2022 and continue on an intermittent basis for up to 60 work days.
 4. Ann Hehr, Teacher at Spring Creek Elementary, FMLA leave of absence beginning 1/5/2023 and extending for up to 60 work days.
 5. Jennifer Streefland, Guidance Counselor at the Middle School, intermittent FMLA leave beginning 12/21/2022 for up to 60 work days.
- iv. Retirements/Resignations/Terminations
1. Jennifer Borchers, Assistant Gymnastics Coach at the High School resignation effective 12/27/2022.
 2. Oscar Gaspar, EL Educational Assistant at the High School, resignation effective 1/18/2023.
 3. Mark Harder, Head Custodian at the Northfield Community Resource Center, retirement effective 1/13/2023.
 4. Shelby Miller, Substitute Nurse with the District, resignation effective 1/1/2023.
 5. David Piper, Special Education Teacher at the Middle School, retirement effective 6/9/2023.
 6. Kathy Wiertsema-Miller, Counselor at the High School, retirement effective 2/1/2023.
 7. Brisa Zubia, Community School Coordinator at Greenvale Park, resignation effective 1/3/2023.
 8. Nancy Becker, Nurse at the Middle School, retirement effective 1/6/2023.
 9. Tim Torstenson, Head Volleyball Coach at the High School, resignation effective 1/5/2023.
 10. Justin Wagner, Assistant Volleyball Coach at the High School, resignation effective 1/5/2023.

On a motion by Gonzalez-George, seconded by Goerwitz, the board took a ten minute recess at 7:28 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 7:38 p.m.

7. Items for Individual Action

- a. Resolution of School Board Supporting Form B1 Application to Minnesota State High School League Foundation. On motion by Nelson, seconded by Goerwitz, the board unanimously approved by roll call vote, the Resolution of School Board Supporting Form B1 Application to Minnesota State High School League Foundation. Voting 'yes' was Butler, Goerwitz, Gonzalez-George, Miller, Nelson and Quinnell. No one voted 'no'.

- b. Nominations and Appointment of Board Member: At the Dec. 12, 2022 regular school board meeting, the board approved by roll call vote, the Resolution Declaring a School Board Vacancy Caused by Illness or Prolonged Absence effective December 12, 2022 for board member Noel Stratmoen. Pursuant to Minnesota Statute 123B09, subd. 4, the board was requested to nominate and appoint a school board member to fill the seat until Mr. Stratmoen is again able to resume his duties as a board member or for the remainder of the unexpired term, whichever date is earliest. The district invited eligible residents to submit their interest in the seat via an online form. Seven people completed the interest form by the deadline and one person withdrew prior to the Jan. 9, 2023 board meeting. Chair Gonzalez-George reviewed the process for nominating and appointing a board member.

Quinnell explained his perspective about the process used in 2016 to seat a board member when there was a resignation and permanent vacancy. Twice Quinnell began to make a motion to form a subcommittee that would report back to the board by Jan. 23, and twice before completing the motion Quinnell withdrew the motion.

Candidates Paige Anderson Bowen, Dr. Ralph Brauer, Robert Coleman, Victoriya Lemke, Rodney Oto and Emily Zimmer completed interest forms and were viable candidates for this vacancy. All candidates, with the exception of Lemke, were present at the board meeting and were given two minutes to address the board. Lemke could not be present and had provided a written statement to Dr. Hillmann and asked him to read it on her behalf.

Gonzalez-George opened nominations for the board vacancy. Quinnell nominated Lemke. Goerwitz nominated Coleman. Nelson nominated Oto. Butler nominated Zimmer. Hearing no further nominations, nominations for the board vacancy seat were closed. Following the nominations the board members had an opportunity for discussion. Following discussion the board conducted a roll call vote for nominees in the order in which they were nominated.

Lemke: Voting 'yes' was Quinnell. Voting 'no' was Butler, Goerwitz, Gonzalez-George, Miller and Nelson. The nomination of Victoriya Lemke did not pass 1/5.

Coleman: Voting 'yes' was Butler, Goerwitz, Gonzalez-George and Miller. Voting 'no' was Nelson and Quinnell. The nomination of Robert Coleman passed 4/2. Having received a majority vote, Coleman signed the Acceptance of Office and Oath of Office document, recited the Oath of Office, and was seated on the school board until Mr. Stratmoen is again able to resume duties as a member of the board or for the remainder of Mr. Stratmoen's term, whichever date is earliest.

8. Items for Information

- a. Enrollment Report. Dr. Hillmann reviewed the January 2023 enrollment report.
- b. Board Workshop. The board will hold a workshop on Saturday, February 4, 2023, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in the Northfield DO Boardroom.

9. Future Meetings

- a. Monday, January 23, 2023, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom
- b. Saturday, February 4, 2023, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Board Workshop, Northfield DO Boardroom
- c. Monday, February 13, 2023, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom
- d. Monday, February 27, 2023, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Quinnell, seconded by Miller, the board adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Amy Goerwitz
School Board Clerk