

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Minutes

January 10, 2022

District Office Boardroom

1. Call to Order

Board Chair Claudia Gonzalez-Goerge called the Regular meeting of the Northfield Board of Education of Independent School District No. 659 to order at 6:18 p.m. Present: Baraniak, Butler, Gonzalez-George, Goerwitz, Pritchard, Quinnell and Stratmoen. 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 Quinnell, seconded by Goerwitz, the board approved the agenda.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. Announcements and Recognitions

- Congratulations to Zach Edwards and Ella Pribyl, MSHSL Arts, Academics and Athletics Award winners for Northfield High School. Triple 'A' Award, honors high school seniors throughout the state who have a 3.0 or higher-grade point average and who participate in league-sponsored athletic and fine arts activities.
- Dr. Hillmann is receiving the Human Rights Award from the City of Northfield's Human Rights Commission on Monday, January 17.

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 19th year of operation as a charter school under the sponsorship of Northfield Public Schools. Arcadia is in its 18th 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. Policy Committee Recommendation. Dr. Hillmann presented the policy committee's recommendation to adopt Policy 460 Remote Work. This will be an item for individual action at the next board meeting.
- c. Superintendent Operations and COVID-19 Update. The district is partnering with Wold Architects and Engineers, and Knutson Construction to complete an analysis of facility needs at Northfield High School. This analysis will include a review of all systems and spaces by Wold and a series of focus groups with a broad segment of stakeholders. The study is focused on how renovation and/or additions could improve educational adequacy and building infrastructure. There is an opportunity for a potential bond referendum that would limit the tax impact for property taxpayers because previous bonds will be retired in 2024 and 2025.

The district has 16 teachers who have been accepted for training in the Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling program, and the district has been officially renewed as a charter school authorizer by MDE for the next five years.

The county COVID-19 rate has dramatically increased since December. We distributed 1,800 BD Veritor tests over winter break to district families. The district is experiencing staffing challenges and we are reallocating staff as we can. We've purchased 37,000 KN95 masks and will offer them to students and staff who want them. The Test to Stay program will start this week and we will implement a change to quarantine and

isolation guidance as recommended by the CDC and MDH. The board will be asked to approve the COVID-19 safety protocols exit criteria at the Jan. 24 board meeting. The district continues to prioritize uninterrupted in person learning.

6. Consent Agenda

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

a. Minutes

Minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on December 13, 2021

Minutes of the Special School Board meeting held on December 22, 2021

b. Gift Agreements

- \$7,800.00 donation from Northfield Volleyball Club fundraiser to volleyball activity account
- \$2,102.36 from Dean & Lynne Lamp for the grade 5-12 band program
- \$1,500.00 from G. Comer and Ida May Bates Charitable Fund for TORCH scholarship

c. Overnight Field Trip

Activities Director Joel Olson and Wrestling Coach Geoff Staab requested board approval for NHS varsity wrestling team overnight trip January 14-15, 2022.

d. Personnel Items

i. Appointments

1. Josephine Beacom, KidVentures Site Assistant for 23.5 hours/week at Greenvale Park and Spring Creek, beginning 12/27/2021; Step 2-\$14.48/hr.
2. Maya Deschamp, Program Supervisor with Community Education Recreation, beginning 1/4/2022-5/31/2022; \$10.89/hr.
3. William Heywood, KidVentures Site Assistant for up to 15 hours/week at Greenvale Park, beginning 1/10/2022-6/9/2022. Step 2-\$14.48/hr.
4. Brittney Hubbard, .5 Assistant Girls Hockey Coach for 1 hour/day for 4 days/week at the High School, beginning 12/21/2021; Level 1, Step 4
5. Kathleen Innes, Special Ed EA PCA for 6.75 hours/day at the High School, beginning 1/6/2022; Step 1-\$16.17/hr.
6. Cindy Keogh, General Ed EA-Supervisory for 6.50 hours/day at the High School, beginning 1/3/2022-6/9/2022; Step 4-\$16.92/hr.
7. Michele Knutson, Long Term Substitute Administrative Support Assistant Class IV for 3.5 hours/day at the ALC, beginning 1/3/2022-3/25/2022; \$21.42/hr.
8. Jane Ludwig, Long Term Substitute Administrative Support Assistant Class IV for 3.5 hours/day at the ALC, beginning 1/3/2022-3/25/2022; \$21.42/hr.
9. Bob Pagel, Assistant Wrestling Coach for 2 hours/day at the Middle School, beginning 12/6/2021; Level 2-prorated
10. Martha Schultz, 1.0 FTE Long Term Substitute Third Grade Teacher at Greenvale Park, beginning 1/3/2022-6/9/2022; MA, Step 2
11. Joey Silknitter, Targeted Services Club Leader for up to 1.5 hours/day M-Th at BW, GVP and SC, beginning 1/10/2022-4/28/2022; \$23.01/hr.
12. Laura Turek, EA Health Aide for up to 8 hours/week at the District Office, beginning 1/10/2022-6/9/2022; Step 4-\$17.52/hr.
13. Frank Bioh, Community School Site Assistant for up to 4.5 hours/day for 4 days/week at Greenvale Park, beginning 1/18/2022-6/3/2022; Step 1-\$14.11/hr.
14. Sean Finger, Assistant Boys Basketball Coach for 2 hours/day at the High School, beginning 11/22/2021; Paid by Booster club \$3,983
15. Gunner Mattson, Special Ed EA PCA for 6.75 hours/day at the High School, beginning 1/13/2022; Step 1-\$16.17/hr.
16. Elena Pierson, Speech Judge at the High School, beginning 1/12/2022; \$14.00/hr.

ii. Increase/Decrease/Change in Assignment

1. Carley Amys Roe, Gen Ed EA for 6 hours/day at the High School, change to Gen Ed EA for 6.5 hours/day at Bridgewater, effective 12/20/2021-6/9/2022.

2. Sheila Atkinson, Special Ed EA PCA for 6.75 hours/day at Bridgewater, change to Special Ed EA PCA for 6.92 hours/day at Bridgewater, effective 12/15/2021-6/9/2022.
 3. Ritva Barsness, CNA III for 7 hours/day at Greenvale Park, change to CNA Manager I for 8 hours/day at Greenvale Park, effective 12/15/2021-12/20/2021.
 4. Brooke Bulfer, Office Specialist at Greenvale Park, add Ski & Snowboard Club Chaperone with Community Education Recreation, effective 1/4/2022-5/31/2022; \$56.25/night stipend
 5. Lynnsey Carlsen, Special Ed EA PCA for 3.375 hours/day and Gen Ed EA for 2 hours/day at Bridgewater, change to Special Ed EA PCA for 4 hours/day and Gen Ed EA for 2 hours/day at Bridgewater, effective 10/17/2021-6/9/2022.
 6. Vicky Chlan, Teacher at the High School, add Ski & Snowboard Club Chaperone with Community Education Recreation, effective 1/4/2022-5/31/2022; \$450.00 stipend
 7. Noreen Cooney, 1.0 FTE School Social Worker at Spring Creek, change to .25 FTE General Ed Social Worker and .75 FTE Special Ed Social Worker at Spring Creek, effective 11/1/2021.
 8. Carrie Duba, Instructional Coach with the District, add ACT Sped Coordination for up to 20 hours at the High School, effective 12/16/2021-6/9/2022; \$35.00/hr.
 9. Mara Hessian, Special Ed EA PCA for 6.75 hours/day at Bridgewater, change to Special Ed EA PCA for 6.92 hours/day at Bridgewater, effective 12/20/2021-6/9/2022.
 10. Isaac Lager, KidVentures Site Assistant for 15 hours/week at Greenvale Park, change to KidVentures Substitute, effective 1/3/2022.
 11. Rita Lattimore, Night Custodian M-F 3-11 p.m. at the Middle School, change to Night Custodian M-F 12-8 p.m. at the Middle School, effective 12/16/2021.
 12. Catherine Lovrien, Teacher at the Middle School, add Speech Judge at the High School, effective 1/8/2022.
 13. David Miller, Jazz Band Director at the High School, add Pit Musician for fall play at the High School, effective 12/18/2021.
 14. Ryan Oden, EL EA for 7 hours/day at the Middle School, change to EL EA for 6 hours/day at the Middle School, effective 1/3/2022.
 15. Joy Serie-Amunrud, 1.0 FTE School Social Worker at Greenvale Park, change to .25 FTE General Ed Social Worker and .75 FTE Special Ed Social Worker at Greenvale Park, effective 11/1/2021.
 16. Sandra Soto-Perez, CNA I for 3.75 hours/day at Greenvale Park, change to CNA III for 7 hours/day at Greenvale Park, effective 12/15/2021-12/20/2021.
 17. Jamie Wiebe, 1.0 FTE School Social Worker at Bridgewater, change to .25 FTE General Ed Social Worker and .75 FTE Special Ed Social Worker at Bridgewater, effective 11/1/2021
 18. Joquan Williams, KidVentures Site Assistant for 10.5 hours/week at Greenvale Park, change to Substitute for KidVentures, effective 1/10/2022.
- iii. Leave of Absence
1. Ann Hehr, Teacher at Spring Creek, Family/Medical Leave of Absence, effective 12/14/2021 and continues on an intermittent basis for up to 60 work days.
 2. Nick Mertesdorf, EA at the High School, Leave of Absence, effective 1/10/2022-1/31/2022.
 3. Steve Rinderknecht, custodian at Bridgewater Elementary, FMLA leave start date changed from 12/27/21 to 1/28/22.
 4. Mary Beth Youngblut, Teacher at Greenvale Park, Family/Medical Leave of Absence, effective 1/3/2022-6/9/2022.
- iv. Retirements/Resignations/Terminations
1. Lisa Battaglia, Teacher at the High School, retirement effective 6/9/2022.
 2. Mallory Fuchs, Assistant Dance Coach at the High School, resignation effective 12/22/2021.
 3. Les Hayden EA and Assistant Wrestling Coach at the Middle School, resignation effective 12/15/2021.
 4. Pat Rogne, ECFE Teacher at the NCEC, resignation effective 12/22/2021. Will continue as a substitute with the district.
 5. Caroline Sjoberg, Softball Coach at the High School, resignation effective 12/20/2021.
 6. Abbie Geiger, Softball Coach at the High School, resignation effective 1/5/2022.

7. Items for Individual Action

- a. Resolution Supporting Safe Routes to School Grant Application. On a motion by Quinnell, seconded by Pritchard, the board approved the Resolution Supporting Safe Routes to School Grant Application. The City of Northfield is requesting a grant for the Safe Routes to School Project for 2022. The city is processing the grant, however, the application requires a resolution indicating the governing body of the school district supports the project. The city will build a sidewalk on the east side of Maple Street from Birch Lane to the Methodist Church entrance, adjacent to Spring Creek Elementary School and also a trail on the east side of

TH 246 from the roundabout to the new crossing near the high school TH 246 entrance in 2023. The district is not responsible for or required to commit any construction funds to the project, however, there may be costs incurred by the district to complete some of the required surveys/programs that are mentioned in the project evaluation and implementing the 6E strategies. The city's grant application is due January 14, 2022 and must include this resolution approved by the board. On a roll call vote, voting 'yes' was Baraniak, Butler, Goerwitz, Gonzalez-George, Pritchard, Quinnell, and Stratmoen. No one voted 'no'.

- b. Approve Policy 491. On a motion by Goerwitz, seconded by Baraniak, the board approved Policy 491 COVID-19 Vaccination Reporting, Testing, and Face Coverings. This policy was recommended to ensure the district complies with the Federal OSHA emergency temporary standard to safeguard the health of employees from the hazard of COVID-19.
- c. Approve Revised LTFM 10-Year Plan. On a motion by Goerwitz, seconded by Pritchard, the board approved the Resolution Revising the Ten-Year Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Plan as presented. On a roll call vote, voting 'yes' was Baraniak, Butler, Goerwitz, Gonzalez-George, Pritchard, Quinnell, and Stratmoen. No one voted 'no'.
- d. Approve Bid for Middle School Roof. On a motion by Baraniak, seconded by Goerwitz, the board approved to award the bid to Schwickerts/Tecta America for the 2022 Northfield Middle School all roof sections improvements project Base Bid Line Item #1 with a net project total cost of \$3,294,800.00. On a roll call vote, voting 'yes' was Baraniak, Butler, Goerwitz, Gonzalez-George, Pritchard, Quinnell, and Stratmoen. No one voted 'no'.

8. Items for Information

- a. Enrollment Report. Superintendent Hillmann reviewed the January 2022 enrollment report.

9. Future Meetings

- a. Monday, January 24, 2022, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom
- b. Monday, February 14, 2022, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom
- c. Monday, February 28, 2022, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Quinnell, the board adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Noel Stratmoen
School Board Clerk