

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Office of the Superintendent
Memorandum

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Matt Hillmann Ed.D., Superintendent
RE: Table File Items for January 11, 2021, Regular School Board Meeting

V. Items for Discussion and Reports

B. Arcadia Charter School Annual Report.

Attached is the narrative for Director Stelter's Arcadia Charter School report.

VI. Consent Agenda

C. Personnel Items

a) Appointments

b) Increase/Decrease/Change in Assignment

10. Jordan Harrell, Basketball Official with Community Education, add Program Supervisor at Community Education, effective 2/6/2021 through 5/31/2021; \$12.89/hour.

11. Bridgette Tisdale, teacher at Greenvale Park Elementary, add Targeted Services PLUS Teacher, effective 2/8/2021 through 6/10/2021; \$27.73/hour.

c) Leave of Absence

5. Lori Gunderson, CNA at the High School, unpaid leave of absence effective 1/11/2021 through 2/5/2021.

d) Retirements/Resignations/Terminations

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to give Northfield Public School, our Authorizer, an overview of Arcadia's 2019-2020 annual report.

Summary

Student Achievement

Arcadia met the World's Best Workforce goals that we could measure without MCA data (our "College and Career Ready" and "All Students Graduate" goals). Related to our College and Career Ready goal, and in keeping with our mission, all students in the 8th grade and senior classes designed, completed, and presented honors projects last year, despite the challenges with COVID. This is a requirement for seniors to graduate from Arcadia. Our graduation rate was 100% in the 2019-2020 school year. Two of our 2020 graduates received honors in the National Merit Scholarship competition, one receiving a National Merit Scholarship to attend the University of Minnesota, and the other receiving a commendation.

Enrollment

Arcadia's enrollment decreased in the 2019-2020 school year, from an average daily membership of 112.21 in FY19 to 107.58 in FY20. Students enrolled in PSEO (four students) did not count significantly toward our average daily membership in FY20, which had a notable impact. The shift to distance learning also resulted in a handful of families choosing to homeschool their children, or to move to a fully online school.

Financial Management

Despite decreasing enrollment, Arcadia continues to be financially stable and maintain a healthy cash flow.

Arcadia's FY20 audit showed our total general fund revenue at \$1,955,182.00 and expenses at \$1,961,400.00, exceeding our revenues by \$6,218.00. An additional \$3,320.00 was transferred to the food service special revenue fund.

At the end of FY20, the fund balance of the general fund was \$260,504, decreasing \$9,538.00 from FY19, which represents 13.3 percent of general fund expenditures. This is a slight decrease from FY19, in which our fund balance was 13.8 percent of general fund expenditures. The Board has adopted a policy to continue increasing the fund balance, but recognizes that the challenges of this year and last mean that we will likely fall short of that goal.

Future Plans

We continue to work on educating the community about the school's mission and further exploring what it means to be a progressive school. Especially in the time of COVID, we are working to build in social-emotional learning opportunities throughout the curriculum and to keep students engaged. The school has a solid foundation upon which to build its program, and we are striving to integrate project-based learning into all classes while continuing the independent project work that has always been a hallmark of the school. The Board is currently developing a rubric, in conjunction with staff, students, and families, to measure our movement toward our mission.