

# NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## School Board Minutes

January 28, 2019

Northfield High School Media Center

### I. Call to Order

Board Chair Julie Pritchard called the Regular meeting of the Northfield Board of Education of Independent School District 659 to order at 7:00 p.m. Present: Goerwitz, Stratmoen, Quinnell, Baraniak, Iverson, and Pritchard. Absent: Hardy.

### II. Agenda Changes / Table File

Table File items were added.

### III. Public Comment

There was public comment from Mar Valdecantos and Larry Fowler from the Human Rights Commission regarding the climate surrounding school and community racial inequities.

### IV. Announcements and Recognitions

- Northfield Middle School had three Veteran of Foreign Wars (VFW) Patriot's Pen contest winners. Sixth graders Allison Mathews (1st prize), Lola McCarty, and Ella Pagel, each wrote a short essay on the subject "Why I Honor The American Flag". On January 9th, these students accepted their awards and read their essays.
- Three Northfield High School Students competed in the VFW Voice of Democracy Essay and Speech competition. Sophomore Meadow Vrtis placed 3rd, Junior Grace Muth placed 2nd, and Sophomore Annie Frank won 1st place, not only here in Northfield but also in the first district.
- Twenty-five students qualified for DECA State to be held in March. A special congratulations goes to the following students who qualified in 3 events: Irvin Corona, Allison Goodell, Maxwell Gorden Mercer, Darcy Kornkven, and Jason Woitalla. The rest of the qualifiers are: Alex Baraniak, Greta Foster, Mikhail Geissler, Luke Johnson, Wes Lideen, Grace McDonald, Teague Nelson, Claire Nielson, Grace Neuger, Angelo Perez, Sidney Peterson, Faithe Quick, Brian Rodriguez, Grant Roney, Reed Roney, Ella Schmidt, Will Schuerman, Andre Simonet, Gracie Svien, and Jenna Woitalla.
- Flexible Learning Days will be implemented with the third school day closure which is scheduled Wednesday, January 30. Superintendent Hillmann reviewed the Flexible Learning Days matrix and how it will work.

### V. Items for Discussion and Reports

#### A. FFA Presentation

FFA Randolph Alumni Chapter Board members and Northfield High School alumni Tasha Evans, John Peterson and Derek Estrem, along with Randolph High School Ag teacher Ed Terry, shared information about the agricultural education program for Randolph and Northfield High School students. The Randolph and Northfield districts have collaborated on this program since 1994.

#### B. Financial Forecast and 2019-2020 General Fund Budget Plan

Director of Finance Val Mertesdorf presented the financial forecast and preliminary budget plan parameters and timeline for the 2019-20 school year. The presentation included discussion of the assumptions used for development of the three-year financial forecast.

#### C. Technology Services Update

Kim Briske, Director of Technology Services, presented an update on current technology projects in the district including the process of selecting the next student devices. At this time the main focus of the technology staff is on continuous improvement in their service to all district stakeholders and improved timeliness. Capital allocations have been approved for next year and the technology team is focused on preparing to implement these changes. A focus group of district staff was formed to identify the needs for

student devices moving forward. This group has reviewed the licensed staff survey responses and will participate in vendor presentations. The recommendations of this focus group will be presented at the March 11, 2019 Board meeting.

D. Request to Hire Additional Licensed and Non-Licensed Special Education Staff at Greenvale Park

Director of Special Services Cheryl Hall presented a proposal to the Board to consider approval for a 0.5 FTE Licensed Special Education resource room teacher and one 6.75 hours/day special education assistant/ PCA at Greenvale Park Elementary. These positions are required to provide special education instruction and services to support individual student needs as determined by the Individual Education Program Plans (IEP) until the end of the school year. The total projected cost of salary and benefits for the 0.5 FTE Teacher is \$18,933 with approximately 55% of the salary reimbursed through special education revenue for a net cost of \$8,520. The total projected cost of salary and benefits for the 6.75 hr/day EA is \$9,227 with approximately 55% of the salary reimbursed through special education revenue for a net cost of \$4,152. This will be an item for individual action at the next Board meeting.

E. Proposed 2020-2021 School Calendar

Superintendent Hillmann presented the proposed 2020-21 school year calendar. The 2020-21 calendar assumes we will be moving to the Flexible Learning Days Plan. This will be an item for individual action at the next Board meeting.

VI. Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

VII. Consent Agenda

On a motion by Quinnell, seconded by Goerwitz, the Board approved the following Consent Agenda items:

A. Minutes. Minutes of the Organizational and the Regular School Board meetings held on January 14, 2019.

B. Personnel Items

a) Appointments

1. Margaret Fink, 1.0 FTE Long Term Substitute Special Ed Teacher at the Middle School, beginning 01/29/2019-03/11/2019; BA+30, Step 15
2. Jayne Overstreet, Rock N Roll Revival-Hairdresser for 2 hours/day at the High School, beginning 01/25/2019; \$30.00 per show.
3. Deborah Russell, 1.0 FTE Long Term Substitute EL Teacher at Sibley, beginning 02/27/2019-06/07/2019; MA, Step 1.

b) Increase/Decrease/Change in Assignment

1. Lori Berg, CNA I for 3.75 hours/day at the High School, change to CNA II for 6.25 hours/day at the High School, effective 03/14/2019 for approximately 6 weeks.
2. Christopher Fatze, 1.0 FTE Special Ed Teacher at the Middle School, change to .5 FTE Special Ed Teacher at the Middle School and .5 FTE Special Ed Teacher at Greenvale Park, effective 01/28/2019-06/07/2019.
3. Mackenzie Glassing, KidVentures Student Site Assistant, add Rock N Roll Revival Student Assistant at the High School, effective 01/22/2019; \$500 Stipend
4. Christopher Gustilo, .60 FTE Business Ed Teacher at the High School, change from MA, Step 1 to MA, Step 4, effective 01/28/2019-06/07/2019.
5. Steven Harner, 1.0 FTE Industrial Technology Teacher at the High School, change from BA, Step 1 to BA, Step 7 once Tier 1 license is obtained, effective 01/28/2019-06/07/2019.
6. Mary Magnuson, Special Ed Teacher at the High School, add Student Support for extracurricular activities according to IEP, effective 01/18/2019-06/07/2019.
7. Sofie Nelson, KidVentures Student Site Assistant, add Rock N Roll Revival Student Assistant at the High School, effective 01/22/2019; \$500 Stipend
8. Paul Putt, Long Term Substitute Special Ed Teacher for first semester at the High School, change end date to 1/11/2019.
9. Melissa Reuvers, Substitute Site Assistant at Bridgewater, change to Targeted Services PLUS Site Assistant for up to 1.5 hours/day at Bridgewater, effective 01/17/2019-03/21/2019; Step 2-\$13.22/hr.

10. James Schreffler, Temporary Special Ed EA-PCA at the ALC, change to Special Ed EA-PCA at the ALC, effective 01/15/2019-06/07/2019.

c) Leave of Absence

1. Rose Brison, CNA at the High School, Leave of Absence effective 03/14/2019-04/25/2019.
2. Kari Prestemon, Special Ed Social Worker at the High School, Leave of Absence effective 02/19/2019-03/31/2019.
3. Rhonda Stanley, Special Ed EA at Greenvale Park, Family/Medical Leave of Absence, extended through the end of the 2018-19 School year.
4. Updated-Lori Witt Macrae, Special Ed EA at Sibley, FMLA/Medical Leave of Absence, effective on 01/02/2019-02/11/2019.

d) Retirements/Resignations/Terminations

1. Kim Bardwell, Media Center EA at the Middle School, resignation effective 01/31/2019.
2. Meghan Kuechenmeister, Special Ed DCD Teacher at the High School, resignation effective at the end of the 2018-2019 school year. Will return to Special Ed EA-PCA for 6.75 hours/day at the High School for the 2019-2020 school year.

C. Grant Application Approval

Marnie Thompson, Northfield High School Assistant Principal, requested School Board approval of a \$30,000 grant request from Rice County Family Services Collaborative (RCFSC). If received, this grant will support professional development for teachers on trauma informed practices and an AmeriCorps Promise Fellow at the secondary level to help support Check and Connect, an evidence based chronic absenteeism model, for the 2019-2020 school year.

VIII. Superintendent's Report

A. Items for Individual Action

1. Resolution of School Board Supporting FORM B Application to Minnesota State High School League Foundation. On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Iverson, the Board approved the request made by Director of Student Activities Joel Olson of the Resolution Supporting the District's Application to the Minnesota State High School League Foundation for a FORM B Grant seeking funding for student/coach leadership opportunities in the WHY WE PLAY initiative. Voting 'yes' was Goerwitz, Stratmoen, Quinnell, Baraniak, Iverson, and Pritchard. No one voted 'no'. Motion carried.

IX. Items for Information

- A. School Board Committee Appointments. The list of School Board Committee appointments for 2019 was distributed to the Board.
- B. Construction Update. Superintendent Hillmann provided Construction Update #2 which included an overview the January 22, 2019 Greenvale Park core planning team elementary school tours, the core team meeting schedule, and invitations to the Bridgewater core planning team have been sent.

X. Future Meetings

- A. Monday, February 11, 2019, 7:00 PM, Regular Board Meeting, NHS Media Center
- B. Monday, February 25, 2019, 7:00 PM, Regular Board Meeting, NHS Media Center
- C. Monday, March 11, 2019, 7:00 PM, Regular Board Meeting, NHS Media Center

XI. Adjournment

On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Goerwitz, the Board adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Noel Stratmoen  
School Board Clerk

*Closed session for Labor Negotiations Strategy followed this meeting. Closed session for Potential Land Purchase followed this meeting.*