

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Minutes

February 8, 2021

District Office Boardroom

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: Baraniak, Butler, Goerwitz, Gonzalez-George, Pritchard, Quinnell and Stratmoen. In accordance with Governor Walz's Stay Safe Plan, this meeting was set up in accordance with the plan's social distancing guidelines. In addition, all those present wore face coverings the duration of the meeting. Present at this meeting was Dr. Matt Hillmann, Superintendent. Present via video conference was Anita Aase, Executive Administrative Assistant; Erin Bailey, Director of Community Education; Val Mertesdorf, Director of Finance; and Jim Kulseth, Director of Buildings & Grounds. This meeting was live-streamed and recorded, and access to the recording was posted to the school district website.

II. Agenda Approval/Table File

On a motion by Quinnell, seconded by Goerwitz, the Board approved the agenda.

III. Public Comment

To accommodate the public comment portion of our meeting, members of the public were invited via the school district website to submit feedback to the Board via email by 5:00 p.m. on February 8, 2021. All submissions that followed the district policy regarding public comment were read by Chair Pritchard. There were public comments from Sarah Dennet, 1611 Quie Lane, Northfield; Dawn Tommerdahl, 401 Manitou Street, Northfield; Julia Uleberg swanson, Carleton College, Northfield; Dorothea Hrossowyc, 8620 90th Street East, Northfield; Jane Rinehart, 10666 First Timberlane Drive, Northfield; Katherine Sandberg, 3721 Culver Trail, Faribault; Margaret Youngquist, 1311 Cannon Valley Drive, Northfield; Gina Washburn, 1910 Roosevelt Drive, Northfield; Corinne Smith, 505 College Street, Northfield; Rob Hardy, 305 Fifth Street East, Northfield regarding the renaming of Sibley Elementary School.

IV. Announcements and Recognitions

There were no announcements or recognitions.

V. Items for Discussion and Reports

A. Proposed Sale of District Property

Superintendent Hillmann and Director Mertesdorf reviewed a proposal from Rebound Real Estate, LLC to purchase a small piece of school district property across Lincoln Parkway from Greenvale Park Elementary. The legal description of the property is Outlot B, in Greenvale School Plat, in the City of Northfield, Rice County, Minnesota; except that part of said Outlot B lying within the Plat of Green Meadows, in the City of Northfield, Rice County, Minnesota. The property was appraised in 2019 at a value of \$19,800 and Rebound Real Estate, LLC has offered the District \$20,000. There is an expiration date on the option agreement and the offer is contingent upon approval of the development by the City of Northfield. This will be an item for individual action at the next Board meeting.

B. Proposed 2021-2022 Operating Capital and Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Budget

Val Mertesdorf, Director of Finance, presented the 2021-2022 Operating Capital Budget and Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Plan. Jim Kulseth, Director of Buildings & Grounds, was available for questions. The Board will be asked to adopt this budget at the May 10, 2021 Board meeting.

C. Policy Committee Recommendations

Dr. Hillmann presented the policy committee's recommendations on Policies 424 and 425. The committee also reviewed policies 426 and 427 and found no substantive changes. The approval of updates to Policies 424 and 425 will be an item for individual action at the next Board meeting.

D. COVID-19 Response and Operations Update

Superintendent Hillmann informed the board all students in PreK-12th grade have returned to campus. PreK-5th grades are in person every day. Students in grades 6-12 are using the hybrid learning model; students are on campus two days per week and learning remotely three days per week. We continue to see a gradual decrease in week-over-week COVID-19 infections in Rice County, and the District continues to emphasize following the MDH guidelines and safety protocols. Our staff continue to be vaccinated or are on waitlists for vaccination through a local partnership with Northfield Hospital+Clinics, partnership with Rice County Public Health, and through the statewide pilot program for educators.

On February 15, District teaching staff will participate in a professional development workshop with Equity Alliance of Minnesota. The District is also collaborating with the City of Northfield and Northfield Healthy Community Initiative (HCI) to bring a coalition of businesses, local non-profits, Rice County, St. Olaf, Carleton, and Northfield Hospital+Clinic together to discuss topics of race and equity within our community. This group, called the Northfield Racial & Ethnic Equity Collaborative, is modeled after the Northfield Promise collective impact model. It will focus on systems changes that emphasize equity and inclusion in our community.

E. Rename Sibley Elementary School

Superintendent Hillmann updated the Board on the process for renaming Sibley Elementary School to bring us in compliance with Policy 809. The public was invited to submit proposed school names via a Google form. There were 46 submissions with 36 unique names offered. The Sibley renaming committee engaged in a power voting process followed by a ranked choice voting process to select the final three names for the Board's consideration: Maple Hill Elementary, Maple Hills Elementary, and Spring Creek Elementary. This will be an item for individual action at the next Board meeting.

VI. Consent Agenda

On a motion by Quinnell, seconded by Butler, the Board approved the consent agenda.

A. Minutes

- Minutes of the Special Closed School Board meeting held on January 25, 2021
- Minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on January 25, 2021

B. Personnel

a) Appointments

1. Diana Camargo, Custodian at Northfield High School, effective 2/10/2021; Custodian-Step 2-\$18.31/hour.
2. Michael Garlitz, Community School Club Leader at Greenvale Park Elementary, for up to 2 hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays, effective 2/8/2021 through 6/10/2021; \$22.27/hour.
3. Eustacio Lazaro Chavez, On Call Substitute Custodian for the district, effective 2/22/2021; \$15.99/hour.
4. Linda Rosas Balvin, Community School Evening Site Assistant at Greenvale Park Elementary, for up to 3 hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays, effective 2/9/2021 through 6/10/2021; Step 4 - \$14.98/hour.
5. Alexander VanDyke, 1.0 LTS Grade 6 Social Studies Teacher, effective 2/4/2021 through 2/26/2021; BA 40, Step 1.
6. Teagan Waycaster, Community Services Spring Recreation Staff, for 4 hours on Saturdays, effective 2/6/2021 through 5/31/2021; \$10.08/hour.
7. Karsten Clay, Community Services Recreation Staff on Sundays, effective 11/15/2020 through 5/31/2021; \$10.25/hour.
8. Sydney Heil, LTS Kindergarten Teacher at Sibley Elementary, effective 2/8/2021 through 3/19/2021, BA-Step 1.
9. Tammy Iszler-Johnson, Licensed Occupational Therapist-District Wide, effective 2/16/2021-6/10/2021; BA, Step 10.
10. Michael Lehmkuhl, Event Worker for Boys Swim and Dive at Northfield High School, effective 2/8/2021; \$14.00/hour.
11. Elena Mayrhofer, SpEd Educational Assistant-PCA at Sibley Elementary, 6.75 hours SpEd, .25 hours supervisory, effective 2/16/2021; SpEd-Step 1-\$16.05/hour, General Ed-Step 1-\$15.45/hour.

b) Increase/Decrease/Change in Assignment

1. Anna Bae, On Call Kid Ventures Student Site Assistant at Bridgewater Elementary, change to Kid Ventures Student Site Assistant at Bridgewater Elementary , up to 15 hours/week, effective 2/1/2021; \$10.08/hour.
 2. Johan Ponciano Conde, Educational Assistant at Northfield High School, add Targeted Services Plus Site Leader for up to 1.5 hours, Monday-Thursday: Step 1-\$16.85/hour.
 3. Doug Davis, Teacher at Northfield High School and .5 Boys Swim and Dive Coach, change to Teacher at Northfield High School and .3 Boys Swim and Dive Coach effective 1/29/2021.
 4. Claire Edwards, On Call Kid Ventures Site Assistant at Sibley Elementary, change to Kid Ventures Site Assistant at Sibley Elementary, up to 26 hours/week, effective 2/1/2021; \$13.65/hour.
 5. Meckinzy Futhey, On Call Kid Ventures Student Site Assistant at Sibley Elementary, change to Kid Ventures Student Site Assistant at Sibley Elementary effective 2/1/2021; \$10.08/hour.
 6. Gabbi Grant, Community Services Spring Recreation Staff, effective 1/26/2021 through 5/31/2021; \$10.08/hour.
 7. Marie Kylo, Child Nutrition Associate II at Northfield Middle School for 6.25 hours/day change to Child Nutrition Associate II at Northfield Middle School for 7.6 hours/day average, effective 2/1/2021.
 8. Kim Medin, Teacher at Bridgewater Elementary, add Targeted Services Plus Teacher at Bridgewater Elementary for up to 1.5 hours/day, Monday through Thursday, effective 2/8/2021 through 4/28/2021; Year I-\$27.11/hour.
 9. Mohamed Nur, Technology Specialist, change salary to 2020-2021 salary agreement of \$60,038.00 + Step 2-effective 1/25/2021 through 6/30/2021.
 10. Gabby Roman Pownell, On Call Kid Ventures Student Site Assistant at Sibley Elementary, change to Kid Ventures Student Site Assistant at Sibley Elementary, 2 hours/week, effective 2/1/2021; \$10.08/hour.
 11. Krista Sorenson, Media Center Educational Assistant at Sibley Elementary for 12 hours/week, change to Media Center Educational Assistant at Sibley Elementary for 17.5 hours/week, effective 2/3/2021.
 12. Pilar Sullivan, Educational Assistant/Lunch Supervisor at Greenvale Park Elementary for 5 hours/day, change to Educational Assistant/Lunch Supervisor for 5.5 hours/day effective 2/1/2021.
 13. Joquan Williams, On Call Kid Ventures Site Assistant at Greenvale Park Elementary, change to Kid Ventures Site Assistant at Greenvale Park Elementary, effective 2/16/2021; \$14.01/hour.
 14. Lisa Williams, On Call Kid Ventures Site Assistant at Greenvale Park Elementary, change to Kid Ventures Site Assistant at Greenvale Park Elementary, 8.5 hours/week, effective 1/19/2021; \$14.98/hour.
 15. Stephen Cade, Spanish Teacher at Northfield High School, overload in lieu of supervision, effective 2/1/2021 through 6/10/2021.
 16. Hildeliza Lopez, Child Nutrition Associate I at Northfield Middle School, change to Child Nutrition Associate II at the Middle School for 6.25 hours/day, effective 2/8/2021; \$19.81/hour.
 17. Melvin Miller, Community Services Recreation Staff, Building Supervisor, on Saturdays and Sundays, effective 11/15/2020 through 5/31/2021; 16.85/hour.
- c) Leave of Absence
1. Rebecca Lorang, Teacher at Northfield Middle School, Family/Medical Leave of Absence beginning on 3/5/2021 through the end of the 2020-2021 school year.
 2. Cheryl Mathison, Teacher at ALC, Family/Medical Leave of Absence effective on our about 2/8/2021 for up to 60 work days.
 3. Maren Matson, Kindergarten Teacher at Sibley Elementary, Family/Medical Leave of Absence beginning 8/30/2021 through 1/2/2022.
 4. Brent Rauk, Teacher at Northfield Middle School, Family/Medical Leave of Absence beginning on 2/1/2021 through 2/17/2021.
 5. Tiffany Ryan, Teacher at Bridgewater Elementary, extend Family Medical Leave Act Leave of Absence through 2/26/2021.
 6. Gina Swenson, Teacher at Sibley Elementary, extend Family Medical Leave Act Leave of Absence through 2/12/2021.
 7. Cindy Keogh, Portage Literacy Support Educational Assistant, Leave of Absence effective 2/8/2021 through 4/5/2021,
 8. Amanda Sieger, Kindergarten Teacher at Sibley Elementary, Family/Medical Leave of Absence, effective 2/8/2021 through 3/19/2021.
 9. Shelley Stulken, 5th Grade Teacher at Sibley Elementary, Family/Medical Leave of Absence, effective 2/8/2021 for up to 60 work days.
- d) Retirements/Resignations/Terminations
1. Amy McBroom, Volunteer Coordinator at Northfield Middle School, resignation effective 1/27/2021.
 2. Diana Camargo, unable to accept Custodian position at Northfield High School, effective 2/4/2021.
 3. Kim Slegers, Assistant Track and Field Coach at Northfield High School, resignation effective 2/5/2021.

VII. Superintendent's Report

A. Items for Individual Action

1. Rename Longfellow School Building. On a motion by Butler, seconded by Gonzalez-George, and in accordance with Policy 809, the Board approved the Longfellow School Building be renamed Northfield School District Office and Area Learning Center effective immediately.
2. Legislative Action Committee. On a motion by Baraniak, seconded by Goerwitz, the Board approved the formation of the Legislative Action Committee (LAC) and appointed Corey Butler, Claudia Gonzalez-George, and Julie Pritchard to serve on this committee in 2021.
3. Policies 103, 417, 420 and 422. On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Butler, the Board approved Policies 103, 417, 420 and 422 as presented.

VIII. Items for Information

- A. Enrollment Report. Superintendent Hillmann reviewed the February 2021 Enrollment Report.
- B. Building Open Houses. The District has tentatively scheduled Thursday, September 23, 2021, 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. to hold open houses at the new Greenvale Park Elementary School and the renovated Northfield Community Education Center, Sibley Elementary, Bridgewater Elementary and District Offices.

IX. Future Meetings

- A. Monday, February 22, 2021, 6:00 p.m., Special Closed Board Meeting, Conference Room 105 in the Northfield District Office.
- B. Monday, February 22, 2021, 7:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Boardroom in the Northfield District Office.
- C. Monday, March 8, 2021, 7:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Boardroom in the Northfield District Office.

X. Adjournment

On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Quinnell, the Board adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Noel Stratmoen
School Board Clerk