

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Office of the Superintendent
Memorandum

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Matt Hillmann Ed.D., Superintendent
RE: Table File Items for February 22, 2021, Regular School Board Meeting

VI. Committee Reports

Julie Pritchard will provide an update on the Legislative Action Committee and Tom Baraniak will provide an update on Northfield Forward.

VII. Consent Agenda

B. Gift Agreement

- \$3,000.00 from Dakota Electric Association for Dakota Electric Fund Scholarship

D. Personnel

a) Appointments

b) Increase/Decrease/Change in Assignment

9. Thomas Dickerson, Teacher at the High School, add Assistant Track Coach at the High School, effective 3/29/2021; Level F, Step 5
10. Kristin Nesseth, Tennis Coach-Girls at the Middle School, add Tennis Coach-Boys at the Middle School, effective 4/1/2021-6/11/2021; Level I, Step 2
11. Brynne Stellner, Teacher at the High School, add Assistant Track Coach at the High School, effective 3/29/2021; Level F, Step 2
12. Christina Suhsen, EA PCA for 18 hours/week Mon-Thurs. at the NCEC, add 2 hours on Fridays at the NCEC, effective 3/5/2021-6/10/2021.
13. Alexander Van Dyke, LTS 6th Grade Teacher at the Middle School, extending position to 3/5/2021, effective 3/1/2021-3/5/2021.
14. Laura Vind, Teacher at the High School, add an overload in lieu of prep, effective 2/22/2021-6/10/2021.

c) Leave of Absence

6. Nives Bakic, EA PCA at the Middle School, Family/Medical Leave of Absence effective 3/9/2021 for 6 weeks.
7. Kristy Malecha, Special Education EA at Greenvale Park Elementary, FMLA leave of absence beginning 2/26/2021-3/5/2021.

d) Retirements/Resignations/Terminations

1. James Clinton, Office Generalist at the High School, resignation effective 2/26/2021.
2. Becky Gainey, Teacher at Sibley, retirement effective at the end of the 2020-2021 school year.
3. Kathryn Schuman, EarlyVenture Teacher at NCEC, resignation effective 3/5/2021.

Name: Tom Baraniak **Committee:** Northfield Forward

Date Submitted: 2/21/2021 19:44:10

Northfield Forward met Monday February 15. Four teachers spoke about their experiences as teachers during a pandemic

Julie Wolner and Theresa Wilson from Business Education spoke first. They described how business courses have always been fluid depending on current events, and content and curriculum requirements. This flexibility over the years allows them to adapt to teaching in the pandemic.

Their takeaways include:

- It is difficult to build strong relationships and connections with students via zoom.
- it is difficult using zoom to help struggling students.
- The grade goal of C- or better has not been achievable under distance learning.
- Individual or small group presentations are not possible even in hybrid mode. Presenting to the teacher over zoom was done instead. The students were still required to prepare and present in a professional manner.
- The Business Student of the Month award has not been done.
- Outside speakers over zoom are considered just another zoom meeting.
- Students do not like to talk in zoom meetings. This was emphasized a bit.
- Field trips were canceled.
- Content was reduced and there was less opportunity to apply what they learned.
- Keyboarding /word processing was difficult. For students who didn't have regular keyboards at home one was provided along with an adapter to allow its use with an iPad. EduTyping software proved to be an excellent program for at home learning.

DECA also suffered. Membership was down to 22 students instead of the usual 50-70. All meetings and competitions were virtual. No opportunities to interact with other students with the DECA Store or at competitions with students from other schools.

Pat Riley discussed the difficulties teaching Chemistry. While in school students did labs to get hands on experience. Presentations were eliminated. Instruction time while in person was given priority.

His takeaways include:

- Record everything. Enables the opportunity to view over or at the student's convenience. Also provides a record for the instructor.
- He and other science teachers looked at the curriculum and the labs to see what they needed to do and why. For example, they determined a lab that was done in middle school did not need to be repeated.
- He and the other teachers determined to teach chemistry without requiring memorization.
- Pivot Interactives Software for labs works well. One concern was whether it could read the text aloud for those with reading difficulties.

The final presentation was by Erik Burton. He works with EL Portage students. His varied background gives him a broad spectrum of resources and ideas to work with.

His takeaways:

- Relationships are hard to build.
- Following up and checking in is important. The use of instant communications like texting is valuable.
- Different students have different backgrounds that need to be considered.
- Though some students might have strong conversational English, reading comprehension may not follow.
- Portage has higher reading level expectations.
- Odysseyware is rigorous but customizable.
- Motivation is difficult to find making building relationships so important.
- It is important to reconsider what is done out of habit.
- As is so often stressed, relationships and connections are so important.

NORTHFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT GIFT AGREEMENT

This agreement made this 18th day of February, 2021, by and between Dakota Electric Association (DCTC Foundation), hereinafter the "Donor", and Independent School District No. 659, Northfield, Minnesota, pursuant to the District's policy for receiving gifts and donations, as follows:

TERMS

\$3,000.00 for Dakota Electric Fund Scholarship, check # 5142.

Dakota Electric Association (DCTC Foundation)
Donor

By: Received in District Office

Approved by resolution of the School Board on the _____ day of _____, _____.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 659

By: _____

Clerk

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING DONATIONS

The following resolution was moved by _____ and seconded by _____:

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes 123B.02, Sub. 6 provides: "The board may receive, for the benefit of the district, bequests, donations, or gifts for any proper purpose and apply the same to the purpose designated. In that behalf, the board may act as trustee of any trust created for the benefit of the district, or for the benefit of pupils thereof, including trusts created to provide pupils of the district with advanced education after completion of high school, in the advancement of education."; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes 465.03 provides: "Any city, county, school district or town may accept a grant or devise of real or personal property and maintain such property for the benefit of its citizens in accordance with the terms prescribed by the donor. Nothing herein shall authorize such acceptance or use for religious or sectarian purposes. Every such acceptance shall be by resolution of the governing body adopted by a two-thirds majority of its members, expressing such terms in full."; and

WHEREAS, every such acceptance shall be by resolution of the governing body adopted by a two-thirds majority of its members, expressing such terms in full;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the School Board of Northfield Public Schools, ISD 659, gratefully accepts the following donations as identified below:

Donor	Item	Designated Purpose (if any)
Apple Autos Scholarship Fund of the Mpls Foundation	\$5,000.00	Scholarships
Dakota Electric Association	\$3,000.00	Dakota Electric Fund Scholarship

The vote on adoption of the Resolution was as follows:

Aye:

Nay:

Absent:

Whereupon, said Resolution was declared duly adopted.

By: Julie Pritchard, Chair

By: Noel Stratmoen, Clerk