

# **NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

## **School Board Minutes**

March 10, 2025  
District Office Board Room

1. Call to Order

School Board Vice-Chair Corey Butler called the regular meeting of the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 659 to order at 6:00 p.m. Present: Butler, Epstein, Goerwitz, Miller, Nelson, and Quinnell. Absent: Gonzalez-George. 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 Caley Graber and Ella Pagel, who both claimed state titles at the Minnesota State Wrestling tournament. Zane Engels placed fourth, and Keith Harner and Owen Murphy both secured sixth-place finishes.
- Congratulations to the boys hockey team, who competed at the state tournament last week and finished in fifth place. The New York Times wrote an article this past weekend about the tournament, specifically about “hockey hair.” Northfield High School’s Will Cashin appeared in the piece.
- Congratulations to the Olympic weightlifting team, who sent 15 athletes to the state competition this past weekend and finished second as a team.
- Congratulations to the boys swim and dive team, who finished second as a team at the state tournament. One individual and two relay teams were named state champions: Will Redetzke was the state champion in the 500 yard freestyle; Peyton Truman, Nick Schegłowski, Odin Bergs and Will Redetzke won the state title in the 200 yard relay; and Will Redetzke, Nick Schegłowski, Will Udelhofen and Josh Kraby earned the champion title in the 400 yard relay.
- Two of the three NHS knowledge bowl teams have qualified for state and will compete in April. Congratulations to Team Northfield Beige, Corrie Demas, Eden Coudron, Jenny Dietiker, Theodore Murphy and William Flannery, who took first place at regions; and to Team Northfield Pedestrian Yellow, Andy Elliott, Annika Reister, Audrey Hinman, Danica Sorem and Steva Thorstensson, who took second place.
- The NHS Speech team placed third as a team in the large school division at the Owatonna tournament this past weekend and will be hosting 27 teams at their home invitational at Northfield High School on Saturday, March 15.
- Katherine Norrie, NHS Visual Arts teacher, has been selected as one of 31 semifinalists for the 2025 Minnesota Teacher of the Year award. The list will be narrowed to 10 finalists before the winner is announced during a recognition banquet on Sunday, May 4.
- Greenvale Park had a successful I Love to Read month. Pam Charlton, ADSIS Reading Intervention teacher, led the organization of activities and hosted a guest author. Students had mystery passages, BINGO games and special dress up days, and Post donated cereal for a special camping-themed reading day.
- On March 6, the St. Olaf physics department, led by Eric Hazlett, brought hands-on physics activities to the Greenvale Park Flex Lab. Grades 1-5 participated in the activities during the day.
- Seven people from Northfield attended the MSBA/MASA Day at the Capitol on March 10. The group included four students, Superintendent Hillmann, School Board Clerk Goerwitz, and Arcadia Executive Director Laura Stelter. During their visit, they met with Rep. Drew Roach, Sen. Bill Lieske and Rep. Kristi Pursell and learned how the legislature works. They also had the opportunity to hear from Gov. Tim Walz.
- Advocacy doesn’t just happen at the capitol. Seventeen (17) people participated in the Legislative Action Committee on Saturday.

5. Items for Discussion and Reports

- a. Priority-Based Budget Reduction Process Updates. Superintendent Hillmann and Director of Finance Val Mertesdorf updated the board about the priority-based budget reduction process.
- b. District Committees Update: Superintendent Hillmann reviewed all district advisory committee meetings held on March 3, 2025.
- c. Policy Committee Recommendations. Dr. Hillmann presented the policy committee's recommended changes to policies 411, 412, 415, 417, 423, and 903.

7. Consent Agenda

Quinnell requested the Student Citizenship Handbook be removed from the consent agenda for separate consideration. On a motion by Quinnell, seconded by Miller, the board approved the consent agenda with the removal of the Student Citizenship Handbook for separate consideration.

- a. Minutes. Minutes of the regular school board meeting held on February 24, 2025.
- b. Gift Agreements. Gift agreements included in the board packet.
- c. Personnel Items.
  - i. Appointments
    1. Ivy Ainsworth, AP Proctor at the High School, beginning 3/10/2025-5/30/2025. Licensed sub rate of pay.
    2. Joe Baggot, AP Proctor at the High School, beginning 3/10/2025-5/30/2025. Licensed sub rate of pay.
    3. Kathleen Clark, AP Proctor at the High School, beginning 3/10/2025-5/30/2025. Licensed sub rate of pay.
    4. Nicole Drexler, General Ed EA for 2 hours/day at Greenvale Park, beginning 3/6/2025-6/6/2025. Step 4-\$19.86/hr.
    5. Jeffrey Eckhoff, AP Proctor at the High School, beginning 3/10/2025-5/30/2025. Licensed sub rate of pay.
    6. Rosemary Fink, AP Proctor at the High School, beginning 3/10/2025-5/30/2025. Licensed sub rate of pay.
    7. Thomas Graupmann, AP Proctor at the High School, beginning 3/10/2025-5/30/2025. Licensed sub rate of pay.
    8. Ruby Holman, Assistant Softball Coach at the High School, beginning 3/10/2025. \$5,544 stipend.
    9. Kathleen Kopseng, AP Proctor at the High School, beginning 3/10/2025-5/30/2025. Licensed sub rate of pay.
    10. Lynda Maus, AP Proctor at the High School, beginning 3/10/2025-5/30/2025. Licensed sub rate of pay.
    11. Brenda Niebuhr, AP Proctor at the High School, beginning 3/10/2025-5/30/2025. Licensed sub rate of pay.
    12. Nica Patterson, Long Term Substitute Building Nurse for 7 hours/day at the Middle School, beginning 3/3/2025-6/6/2025. BSN/RN Step 4-\$41.50/hr.
    13. Cynthia Peterson, Long Term Substitute Nurse at Greenvale Park, beginning on or about 5/10/2025-6/6/2025. LTS BSN/RN Step 4-\$41.50/hr.
    14. Heidi Peterson, AP Proctor at the High School, beginning 3/10/2025-5/30/2025. Licensed sub rate of pay.
    15. Holly Schoenbauer, AP Proctor at the High School, beginning 3/10/2025-5/30/2025. Licensed sub rate of pay.
    16. Robert Thompson, Assistant Track Coach at the Middle School, beginning 4/1/2025. \$2,772 Stipend plus step 8.
    17. Earl Weinmann, AP Proctor at the High School, beginning 3/10/2025-5/30/2025. Licensed sub rate of pay.
    18. Regina Zakrajsek, AP Proctor at the High School, beginning 3/10/2025-5/30/2025. Licensed sub rate of pay.
    19. Jess Hathaway, Softball/Basketball Official with Community Ed Recreation, beginning 5/5/2025-8/31/2025. \$30/game.
    20. Maria Hegland, Instructor or Swim Assistant with Community Ed Recreation, beginning 4/1/2025-5/31/2025. Step 2-\$14.76/hr.
    21. Jay Kuivinen, Lifeguard with Community Ed Recreation, beginning 4/19/2025-5/31/2025. Step 6-\$15.80/hr.
    22. Samantha Samuel, 1.0 FTE Custodian at the High School, beginning 3/14/2025. Step 5-\$22.58/hr.
    23. Carrie Zupfer-Rice, .568 FTE Long Term Substitute Early Childhood Special Ed Teacher for 2 days/week, Mondays and Tuesdays only, at the NCEC, beginning on or about 3/31/2025-5/23/2025. MA+40, Step 10.
  - ii. Increase/Decrease/Change in Assignment
    1. Mark Auge, Teacher at the High School, add ALC Summer School Teacher for up to 5 hours/day at the ALC, effective 6/9/2025-7/24/2025. Lane/step
    2. Michelle Bauer, Instructional Coach at the District Office, add ALC Summer School Teacher for up to 5 hours/day at the ALC, effective 6/9/2025-7/24/2025. Lane/step
    3. Doug Bengston, Drivers Ed Instructor with Community Education, add AP Proctor at the High School, effective 3/10/2025-5/30/2025. Licensed Sub Rate of Pay

4. Paul Bernhard, Teacher at Bridgewater, add Assistant Golf Coach at the Middle School, effective 4/1/2025. \$2,772 stipend plus step 10.
  5. Carrie Duba, Instructional Coach at the District Office, add High School ACT Accommodations Coordination for up to 25 hours/variable at the High School, effective 1/2/2025-6/6/2025. \$40/hr.
  6. Mary Franz, 9th grade Assistant Softball Coach at the High School, change to 1.0 Assistant Coach at the High School, effective 3/10/2025. \$5,544 stipend step 4.
  7. Cara Holland, Teacher at the Middle School, add ALC Summer School Teacher for up to 5 hours/day at the ALC, effective 6/9/2025-7/24/2025. Lane/step
  8. Ruby Holman, Assistant Softball Coach at the High School, change to .50 9th grade /.50 Assistant Softball Coach at the High School, effective 3/10/2025. \$4,989.50 stipend for both positions.
  9. Jessica Jasper, Special Ed EA PCA for 6.50 hours/day and General Ed EA for .50 hours/day at the High School, change to Special Ed EA PCA for 6.75 hours/day at the Middle School, effective 3/10/2025.
  10. Marie Kylo, Child Nutrition Manager I at Bridgewater, add Child Nutrition Summer Lead for up to 6 hours/day at Bridgewater, effective 6/12/2025-8/15/2025. Pay Rate through 6/30/25 - \$26.34/hr. Starting 7/1/2025 - \$27.71/hr.
  11. Jill Lauritzen-Kohel, Teacher at the High School, add ALC Summer School Teacher for up to 5 hours/day at the ALC, effective 6/9/2025-7/24/2025. Lane/step
  12. Vicki McKay, Child Nutrition Manager II at the Middle School, add Child Nutrition Summer Lead for up to 6 hours/day at the Middle School, effective 7/2/2025-8/8/2025. \$27.71/hr.
  13. Darrell Sawyer, Teacher at the Middle School, add ALC Summer School Teacher for up to 5 hours/day at the ALC, effective 6/9/2025-7/24/2025. Lane/step
  14. Ann Schmidt, Child Nutrition II and III at the High School, add Child Nutrition Summer Lead for up to 6 hours/day at Greenvale Park, effective 6/12/2025-8/15/2025. Pay rate Through 6/30/25 \$26.34/hr. Starting 7/1/25 \$27.71/hr.
  15. Eric Swan McDonald, Teacher at the ALC, add ALC Summer School Teacher for up to 5 hours/day at the ALC, effective 6/9/2025-7/24/2025. Lane/step
  16. Sarah Swan McDonald, Teacher at the High School, add ALC Summer School Teacher for up to 5 hours/day at the ALC, effective 6/9/2025-7/24/2025. Lane/step
  17. Laura Talbot Peterson, Teacher at the High School, add ALC Summer School Teacher for up to 5 hours/day at the ALC, effective 6/9/2025-7/24/2025. \$40/hr.
  18. Mark Thornton, Teacher (LOA) at the High School, add AP Proctor at the High School, effective 3/10/2025-5/30/2025. Licensed Sub Rate Pay
  19. Nancy Veverka, ABE Teacher with Community Education, add AP Proctor at the High School, effective 3/10/2025-5/30/2025. Licensed Sub Rate Pay
  20. Deb Wagner, Educational Assistant at Bridgewater, add Assistant Track and Field Coach at the Middle School, effective 4/1/2025. \$2,772 stipend step 9.
  21. Rafael Estrella, Teacher at the Middle School, add MSYC Teacher as needed Mon.-Thurs. at the Middle School, effective 3/12/2025-5/15/2025. \$40/hr.
  22. Rachel Morrison, .90 Assistant Girls Lacrosse Coach at the High School, change to 1.0 Assistant Girls Lacrosse Coach at the High School, effective 3/31/2025. \$4,435 stipend.
  23. Melissa Spitzack, Teacher at Spring Creek, add Summer Raider Fitness Instructor with Community Ed Recreation, effective 7/7/2025-8/31/2025. \$55/participant.
- iii. Leave of Absence
1. Lauren Wadzinski, Teacher at Greenvale Park, FMLA Leave of Absence beginning on or about 5/18/2025 and continue for 12 work weeks.
  2. Tammy Izzler-Johnson, FMLA Leave of absence from 12/9/2024-3/12/2025. Leave of Absence effective from 3/13/2025 and will continue through the end of the 2024-2025 school year.
- iv. Retirements/Resignations/Terminations
1. Bob Gregory-Bjorklund, Fall Play Director at the High School, resignation effective 2/28/2025.
  2. Paige Haley, Head Girls Hockey Coach at the High School, resignation effective 2/28/2025.
  3. Emilia Rosas-Riley, Custodian at Greenvale Park Elementary, resignation effective 3/3/2025.
  4. Tegan Underdahl, Dance Team Coach at the High School, resignation effective 3/4/2025.

#### 8. Items for Individual Action

- a. 2026-2028 Achievement and Integration Plan. On a motion by Butler, seconded by Epstein, the board approved the 2026-2028 Achievement and Integration Plan. The Achievement and Integration (A&I) program was established to increase racial and economic integration of students and to increase student academic achievement by reducing academic disparities based on students' diverse racial, ethnic, and economic backgrounds.

- b. Student Citizenship Handbook update. On a motion by Quinnell, seconded by Goerwitz, the board approved updating the nondiscrimination statement on page 8 of the Student Citizenship Handbook to reference the Minnesota Human Rights Act and eliminate the reference to the district's Title IX policy, creating the appropriate statutory alignment.
9. Items for Information
  - a. 2024-25 Superintendent Focus Area Update No. 2. Superintendent Hillmann provided an update on his 2024-25 focus areas.
  - b. Construction Update No. 7. Superintendent Hillmann provided an update on the NHS construction project.
  - c. Enrollment Report. Superintendent Hillmann reviewed the March 2025 enrollment report.
10. Future Meetings
  - a. Thursday, April 3, 2025, 6:00 p.m., Priority Based Budget Process Public Input Meeting, NMS Auditorium
  - b. Monday, April 14, 2025, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom
  - c. Monday, April 28, 2025, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom
  - d. Monday, May 12, 2025, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom
11. Adjournment

On a motion by Quinnell, seconded by Nelson, the board approved to adjourn at 7:46 p.m.



Amy Goerwitz  
School Board Clerk