

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Minutes

March 28, 2022

District Office Boardroom

1. Call to Order

Board Chair Claudia Gonzalez-George called the Regular meeting of the Northfield Board of Education of Independent School District No. 659 to order at 6:00 p.m. Present: Baraniak, Gonzalez-George, Goerwitz, Pritchard, Stratmoen, and Quinnell. Absent: Butler. 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 public comment.

4. Announcements and Recognitions

- Greenvale Park Geckos have been participating in a STEAM experience led by St. Olaf physics students and professors. Each class participates in hands-on experiments between March 17 and April 14th. A team of Greenvale Park teachers, Robert Garcia, Betsy McLaughlin, Ada Leaphart and Kelly Johnson, collaborated with professor Eric Hazlett to organize this effort.
- Rock'n Roll Revival was fantastic!

5. Items for Discussion and Reports

- a. American Indian Parent Advisory Committee. Superintendent Hillmann provided an update on the American Indian Parent Advisory Committee meeting held on Monday, March 21, 2022. This committee meets three times each school year and we have approximately 10-12 families that identify as American Indian. The committee affirmed a vote of concurrence for this school year.
- b. Superintendent Operations and COVID-19 Update. Dr. Hillmann shared the latest COVID-19 data, provided information about the latest racial equity training for teachers, and provided an update on the Northfield High School facility task force. COVID-19 positivity rates and ILI rate have dropped dramatically. The district continues its monthly PLC work through our partnership with Equity Alliance MN. The high school task force has met one time, and has been directed to consider recommendations for addressing the maintenance, efficiency, and educational adequacy issues through renovation and additions to the existing school. Rock'n Roll Revival completed its run on March 26 and involved approximately 130 students.
- c. Budget Prioritization Update. Dr. Hillmann and Director Mertesdorf provided an update on the budget prioritization process. The purpose of the budget prioritization process is to adjust Northfield Public Schools expenditures to align with reduced revenue resulting from a projected decline in enrollment of 400 students over the next ten years, and lack of inflationary adjustments from the legislature over the years.. Three teams, an elementary, a secondary, and a district services team, are making recommendations for a budget plan that includes an expenditure reduction of \$4.5 million over two years. The board will receive a budget plan report that includes proposed reductions at the April 11, 2022 board meeting.
- d. Legislative Update. Superintendent Hillmann provided a legislative update, focusing on a concerted effort to have the legislature provide enough funds to eliminate the special education cross subsidy, and the tax equalization bill. The latest legislative recaps from SEE and MASA were briefly reviewed.

6. Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

7. Consent Agenda

On a motion by Goerwitz, seconded by Baraniak, the board approved the consent agenda.

a. Minutes

- Minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on February 28, 2022
- Minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on March 14, 2022

b. Gift Agreements

- \$3,000.00 from Dakota Electric Association for Dakota Electric Fund Scholarship
- \$5,000.00 from Apple Autos Scholarship Fund of the Minneapolis Foundation for two scholarships
- \$14,287.51 from Lucille Duesterhoeft Scholarship Fund of the Saint Paul and Minnesota Foundation for scholarships
- \$5,012.95 from Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation for TORCH Scholarship
- \$5,000.00 from College City Beverage, Inc. for Tom Blaisdell Scholarship
- \$4,094.40 from Thomas Blaisdell Scholarship Fund of the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation for Tom Blaisdell and Skip Boyum Scholarships
- \$5,726.37 from Wayne R. Stickley and Jennifer A. Tuma Memorial Scholarship Fund of the Saint Paul and Minnesota Foundation for scholarships
- \$1,000.00 from Jana Hirsch for NMS student council cancer fundraiser

c. Personnel Items

i. Appointments

1. Correction: Daniel Foley, 1.0 FTE Long Term Substitute Second Grade Companion Teacher at Spring Creek, beginning 3/15/2022-6/9/2022; MA20, Step 10
2. Rebecca Hollister, .4 Assistant Girls Lacrosse Coach for 2 hours/day for 3 days/week at the High School, beginning 4/4/2022; Level 3 Assistant-\$1,593 .4 FTE
3. Sam Richardson, Recreation Building Supervisor with Community Ed, beginning 4/9/2022-5/31/2022; \$17.41/hr.
4. Alicia Sheehy, Summer Targeted Services PLUS Teacher for up to 6.5 hours/day Mon.-Thurs. at Greenvale Park, beginning 7/5/2022-8/11/2022; MA30, Step 6
5. Landon Shroyer, Recreation Building Supervisor with Community Education, beginning 4/2/2022-5/31/2022; \$17.41/hr.

ii. Increase/Decrease/Change in Assignment

1. Adriana Bermudez, ECFE EA for 15.5 hours/week at the NCEC, change to ECFE EA for 15 hours/week at the NCEC, effective 3/28/2022.
2. Scott Broughton, Teacher at the High School, add Assistant Track Coach for 2 hours/day at the Middle School, effective 4/1/2022. \$2,489-stipend
3. Natalie Deane, Teacher at Bridgewater, add Summer Targeted Services PLUS Teacher for up to 6.5 hours/day Mon.-Thurs. at Greenvale Park, effective 7/5/2022-8/11/2022; Lane/step
4. Mariah Grisim, Gen Ed EA for 4 hours/day for 5 days/week at Bridgewater, change to Gen Ed EA for 5.50 hours/day for 2 days/week at Bridgewater, effective 3/21/2022-6/9/2022.
5. Denise Halvorson, Teacher at the High School, add MSYC Teacher for up to 6 hours/week at the Middle School, effective 3/23/2022-5/5/2022; Year 2-\$27.11/hr.
6. Jenelle Mullin, CNA III at the High School, add Summer CNA for up to 5 hours/day Mon.-Thurs. at the High School, effective 7/6/2022-8/11/2022; \$19.28/hr.**
7. Diane Nagy, Teacher at Bridgewater, add Summer Targeted Services PLUS Teacher for up to 6.5 hours/day as needed Mon.-Thurs. at Greenvale Park, effective 7/5/2022-8/11/2022; Lane/step
8. Dawn O'Neill, Long Term Substitute Art Teacher at Greenvale Park, change start date from 4/4/2022-6/9/2022 to 4/18/2022-6/9/2022.
9. Andrea Redder, ECFE Sib Care EA for 8 hours/week at the NCEC, change to ECFE Sib Care EA for 10 hours/week at the NCEC, effective 3/28/2022.
10. Deb Russell, Teacher at Greenvale Park, add Summer Targeted Services PLUS Teacher for up to 6.5 hours/day Mon.-Thurs. at Greenvale Park, effective 7/5/2022-8/11/2022; Lane/step
11. Anita Sasse, Third Grade Teacher at Spring Creek, add a 1/5 overload to teach Spanish for 30 minutes/day for Second Grade at Spring Creek, effective 3/15/2022-6/9/2022.

12. Paula Seeberg, Long Term Substitute Teacher at Spring Creek, add Summer Targeted Services PLUS Teacher for up to 6.5 hours/day Mon.-Thurs. at Greenvale Park, effective 7/5/2022-8/11/2022. Lane/step
13. Correction: Karleen Sherman, Teacher at Spring Creek, add Summer Targeted Services BLAST Teacher for up to 6.5 hours/day Mon.-Thurs. at the High School, effective 7/5/2022-8/11/2022; Lane/step
14. Allison Sweeney, Teacher at Spring Creek, add Summer Targeted Services BLAST Teacher for up to 7 hours/day Mon.-Thurs. at the High School, effective 6/20/2022-8/16/2022; Lane/step
15. Erik Swenson, Teacher at Bridgewater, add Summer Targeted Services PLUS Teacher for up to 6.5 hours/day Mon.-Thurs. at Greenvale Park, effective 7/5/2022-8/11/2022; Lane/step
16. Gina Swenson, Teacher at Spring Creek, add Summer Targeted Services PLUS Teacher for up to 6.5 hours/day Mon.-Thurs. at Greenvale Park, effective 7/5/2022-8/11/2022; Lane/step
17. LauraAnn Talbot Peterson, Teacher at the Middle School, add Summer Targeted Services PLUS Teacher for up to 6.5 hours/day Mon.-Thurs. at Greenvale Park, effective 7/5/2022-8/11/2022; Lane/step
18. Ellen Trotman, Teacher at the Middle School, add Assistant Track Coach for 2 hours/day at the Middle School, effective 4/1/2022. \$2,489-stipend
19. Cydney Ulvestad, EA at Greenvale Park, add Summer Targeted Services PLUS Site Assistant for up to 6 hours/day Mon.-Thurs. at Greenvale Park, effective 7/5/2022-8/11/2022; **Step 4-\$15.48/hr.
20. Nancy Veverka, 1.0 FTE Assistant Principal at the High School, change to .9 FTE Assistant Principal at the High School, effective for the 2022-2023 school year.
21. Megan Zwolenski, EA at Greenvale Park, add Summer Targeted Services PLUS Site Assistant for up to 6.5 hours/day Mon.-Thurs. at Greenvale Park, effective 7/5/2022-8/11/2022; **Step 2-\$14.48/hr.
22. Community Education Summer 2022 Brochure Instructors- see attached.

iii. Leave of Absence

1. Joanne Gilbert, CNA at the High School, Updated Leave of Absence, effective 2/16/2022-approximately 4/5/2022.
2. Deborah Rasmussen, Guidance Counselor at the High School, Family/Medical Leave of Absence beginning 4/20/2022-6/1/2022.
3. Kim Slegers, Teacher at the High School, Family/Medical Leave of Absence beginning 3/22/2022 and continue on an intermittent basis for up to 60 work days.
4. Taylor Strelow, Community School Coordinator, Family/Medical Leave of Absence beginning 3/17/2022-3/25/2022.

iv. Retirements/Resignations/Terminations

1. Kim Briske, Director of Technology, resignation effective 4/1/2022.
2. Bea Chang, Early Ventures Site Assistant with Community Education, resignation effective 3/25/2022.
3. Mark Johnson, Teacher at the Middle School, retirement effective 7/19/2022.
4. Sydney Larson, Teacher at the High School, resignation effective 6/9/2022.
5. Anna Rubin, Teacher at Bridgewater, resignation effective at the end of the 2021-2022 school year.

8. Items for Individual Action

- a. Resolution in Support of the Congressional IDEA Full Funding Act. On a motion by Pritchard, seconded by Goerwitz, the board approved the Resolution in Support of the Congressional IDEA Full Funding Act. Minnesota School Boards Association (MSBA) suggested schools take a resolution advocating that Congress fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Full funding of the promised 40% of total special education costs from the federal government will reduce the burden on states to address the special education cross subsidy. On a roll call vote, voting 'yes' were Baraniak, Goerwitz, Gonzalez-George, Pritchard, Quinnell and Stratmoen. No one voted 'no'. Absent: Butler.
- b. 2022-2025 Achievement and Integration Plan. On a motion by Baraniak, seconded by Pritchard, the board approved the 2022-2025 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. Achievement and Integration revenue is not administered as a grant. It is a 70 percent aid, 30 percent levy appropriation. A&I aid payments are made to districts through the state's education IDEAS aid system. Northfield School District qualifies because we adjoin a racially isolated district (Faribault). Our first three-year plan was submitted in 2019. Each year A&I districts are required to hold a public meeting to report progress to local communities and seek feedback on the plan in alignment with local strategic planning under the World's Best Workforce.

- c. 2022 Resolution Establishing Combined Polling Places 03.28.2022. On a motion by Baraniak, seconded by Goerwitz, the board approved the 2022 Resolution Establishing Combined Polling Places 03.28.2022. The Minnesota Supreme Court appointed a special redistricting panel to hear and decide challenges to the validity of state legislative and congressional districts based on the 2020 census, and the congressional and legislative redistricting plans have been filed with the Office of the Secretary of State. Although there are no changes to the resolution establishing combined polling places this school board approved in November 2021, the latest information provided by the Secretary of State indicates that polling places “should” be reestablished after redistricting, updating the date of the resolution. On a roll call vote, voting ‘yes’ were Baraniak, Goerwitz, Gonzalez-George, Pritchard, Quinnell and Stratmoen. No one voted ‘no’. Absent: Butler.

9. Items for Information

- a. Enrollment Report. Dr. Hillmann reviewed the March 2022 enrollment report.
- b. School Board Work Sessions. There are several work sessions scheduled for the board. On either April 5 or April 6, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., the board work session will focus on budget prioritization. Two work sessions will be scheduled regarding the high school master plan. The board will determine a date in early June to discuss recommendations. Recommendations will be finalized at a work session on June 13, 4:00 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. prior to the regular board meeting.

10. Future Meetings

- a. Tuesday, April 5 or Wednesday, April 6, 5:00 p.m., Work Session, DO Boardroom
- b. Monday, April 11, 2022, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom
- c. Monday, April 25, 2022, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom
- d. Monday, May 9, 2022, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom

11. Adjournment

On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Goerwitz, the board adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Noel Stratmoen
School Board Clerk