

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Minutes

April 6, 2026
District Office Board Room

1. Call to Order

School Board Chair Claudia Gonzalez-George called the special meeting of the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 659 to order at 5:15 p.m. Present: Butler, Epstein, Goerwitz, Gonzalez-George, Miller, Nelson, and Quinnell. Absent: None. This meeting was open to the public, live-streamed and recorded, and access to the recording was posted on the school district website.

2. Agenda Approval

On a motion by Quinnell, seconded by Butler, the board unanimously approved the agenda.

3. Items for Individual Action

- a. Bids for NHS Reimagine Project. Sal Bagley with Wold Architects and Josh Cooper with Knutson Construction discussed the outcome of the bidding process for the Reimagine Northfield High School project. On a motion by Butler, seconded by Epstein the board unanimously approved four of 23 trade package contracts, as listed below, for a total contract award of \$26,523,160.00.

Low Bid Contracts:

3A - Structural Concrete, Thompson Construction of Princeton, in the amount of \$3,878,878.00.

3F - Precast Concrete, Taracon Precast, in the amount of \$7,088,282.00.

7A - Roofing, Jackson & Associates LLC, in the amount of \$4,980,000.00.

Best Value Contract:

31A - Site Demolition, Earthwork and Utilities, Edge Contracting, in the amount of \$10,576,000.00.

4. Items for Discussion and Reports

a. Financial Forecast Follow Up

- i. Potential Budget Restorations. Superintendent Hillmann and Director of Finance Val Mertesdorf proposed budget restorations and administrative restructuring for the 2026-27 school year. This proposal will be an item for individual action at the April 13, 2026 regular board meeting.

On a motion by Gonzalez-George, seconded by Butler, the board unanimously approved to recess for five-minutes at 6:33 p.m.

b. Superintendent Search

- i. Review and discuss Northfield Public Survey Report. Amy Jordan, associate director of leadership development and executive search with MSBA, provided an overview of the Northfield Public Survey Report, compared the results to the board's survey results, and discussed common responses.
- ii. Discuss options and decide on community and/or staff interview input. The board reviewed public input options for the superintendent interview process and decided to invite individuals to provide feedback through an online audience input form during the final round of interviews on Wednesday, April 29.

On a motion by Gonzalez-George, seconded by Epstein, the board unanimously approved to recess for five minutes at 7:58 p.m.

- iii. MSBA interview training. The board received interview training from MSBA for the superintendent search.
- iv. Review draft round one interview questions and schedule. The board reviewed MSBA's recommended interview questions and schedule and identified questions to ask during round one of the superintendent

interviews, to be held on Friday, April 24 and Saturday, April 25, 2026.

On a motion by Gonzalez-George, seconded by Goerwitz, the board approved to extend the meeting past 9:00 p.m.

5. Future Meetings

- a. Monday, April 13, 2026, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom
- b. April 16, 2026, 6:00 p.m., Special Board Meeting, determine superintendent finalists, Northfield DO Boardroom
- c. April 24, 2026, 4:00 p.m., Special Board Meeting, superintendent first round interviews, Northfield DO Boardroom
- d. April 25, 2026, 3:00 p.m., Special Board Meeting, superintendent first round interviews, Northfield DO Boardroom
- e. Monday, April 27, 2026, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom
- f. Wednesday, April 29, 2026, 4:00 p.m., Special Board Meeting, superintendent final round interviews, Northfield DO Boardroom
- g. Monday, May 4, 5:15 p.m., Special Board Meeting, approve superintendent's contract, Northfield DO Boardroom

6. Adjournment

On a motion by Quinnell, seconded by Nelson, the board unanimously approved to adjourn the special board meeting at 9:15 p.m.



Maggie Epstein
School Board Clerk